

Lithuanian University Women's Association (LUWA) Activity Report 2022–2025

By Dalia Poškienė, LUWA president

Background

The *Union of Lithuanian Women with Higher Education* (LBAMMS) was originally established in 1928. In 1929, it became a member of the *International Federation of University Women*. During the Soviet occupation of Lithuania (1940–1990), all non-governmental organizations, including LBAMMS, were dissolved.

Following the restoration of Lithuanian independence in 1990, many pre-war organizations were re-established. LBAMMS was revived under the name **Lithuanian University Women's Association (LUWA)** at Vilnius University in 1991. Since its re-establishment, LUWA has played a significant role in shaping the modern Lithuanian state and upholding democratic values. In 1992, LUWA renewed its membership in *Graduate Women International (GWI)*.

Activities 2022–2025

Throughout this triennium, LUWA (in Lith. *LUMA*) continued its mission to promote education, culture, gender equality, and social cohesion. Key areas of focus included advocacy for women's rights, poverty reduction, social inclusion, and the prevention of discrimination and violence.

Key initiatives and projects:

- Annual Project “Intersections of History and Cultures” (since 2022), partially funded by the Department of National Minorities under the Government of Lithuania.
- Ongoing Project “Harmony and Society”, offering lectures on legal and environmental topics.
- Partner and implementer of three major programs under the *Lithuanian Union of Political Prisoners and Deportees* (LPKTS) initiative “For a Safe and Sustainable Community” (funded by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour)

These included:

- Wellbeing programs
 - Art therapy sessions
 - Support provided to long-term care patients at Prienai Hospital.
 - Active collaboration with several local community centres.
 - Participation in various projects and events led by the *Lithuanian Women's Lobby Organization*.
 - Engagement in events hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Parliamentary Women's Group.
 - The LUMA West-American Branch (USA) established a *Friendship Garden* and organized events to celebrate Lithuanian national day and honour prominent Lithuanian figures.
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Conferences (2022–2025)

Hosted at the Lithuanian Parliament:

- “Sustainable Lithuania – Our Contribution to Nation Building”

- “*Lithuanian Women’s Organizations and their Contribution to a Sustainable Society: National and International Cooperation*”

National conferences:

- Held in collaboration with the M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum and Kaunas University of Technology (KTU), in partnership with the Third Age University (MČTAU). (topics centered around the achievements of notable Lithuanian women).
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Cultural and Educational Programs

- Exhibitions and book launches by LUWA members (10 publications)
 - Cultural excursions
 - Educational webinars
 - Participation in GWI and *University Women of Europe (UWE)* events
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Recognition

Several LUWA members received prestigious national honours, including 10 awards and two Presidential Medals “For Merit to Lithuania.”

Partners

LUWA maintains strong collaboration with the following institutions and organizations:

- Three Community centers in Kaunas
- M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art
- Europe Direct Kaunas
- Kaunas University of Technology (KTU)
- Vytautas Magnus University (VMU)
- KTU “Emeritus” Club
- Kaunas Third Age University
- Medardas Čobotas Third Age University (MČTAU)
- Lithuanian Union of Political Prisoners and Deportees