



**Vilnius  
University**

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# **Issues of Scientific Transparency in Small- Language Countries**

# Recommendation of the Helsinki-Initiative

1. Support dissemination of research results for the full benefit of the society.
2. Protect national infrastructures for publishing locally relevant research.
3. Promote language diversity in research assessment, evaluation, and funding systems.



# The use of English as the language of science in small countries:

- ensures a transparent and objective peer-review process through the involvement of international experts, thereby avoiding potential conflicts of interest;
- promotes transparent and impartial research evaluation by including foreign experts in assessment procedures.

# Small country dilemma

English may seem like a solution—a way to ensure transparency and quality in science. However, such a solution also implies **significant challenges** in the academic field of that country.



# Fields that are negatively affected as English becomes the lingua franca of science:

- topics relevant only to local communities tend to be ignored;
- scientific communication may be restricted;
- it can hinder the development of citizen science;
- academic discourse in the national language remains underdeveloped;
- it may have a negative impact on public trust in science.

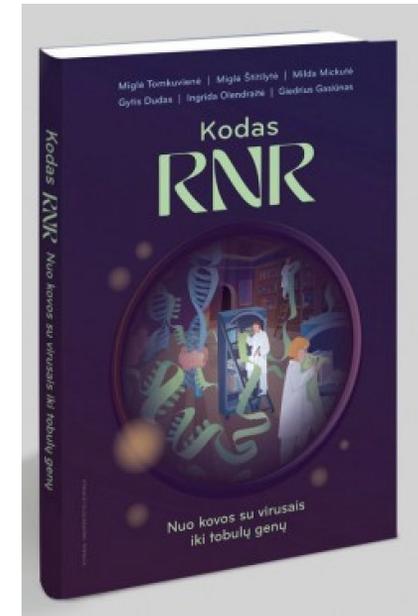
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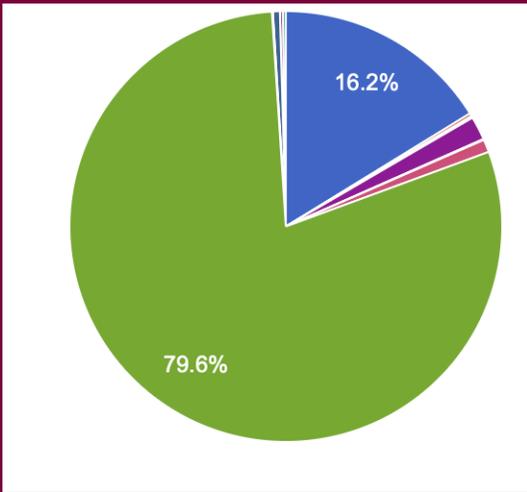
Is it possible for small countries to pursue the Helsinki Initiative's objectives regarding linguistic diversity in science while simultaneously maintaining high standards of scientific transparency?



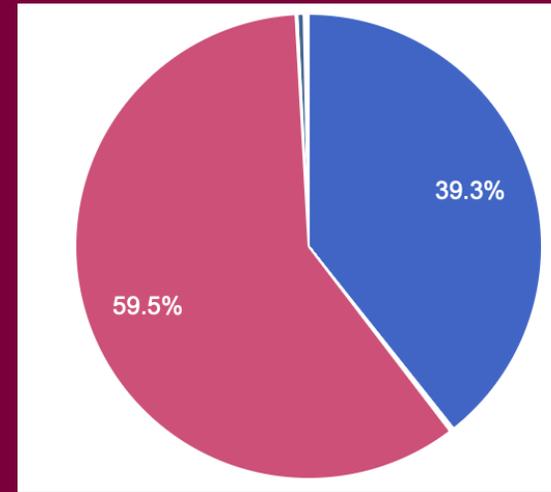
# Potential Strategies

1. Parallel language policy
2. Popular science publications
3. Detailed discussion of research evaluation criteria by field

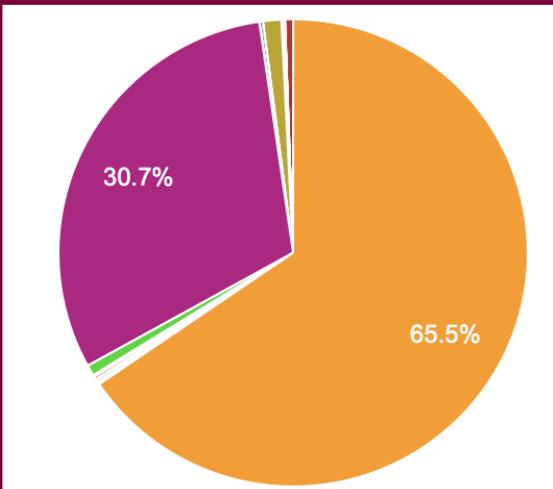




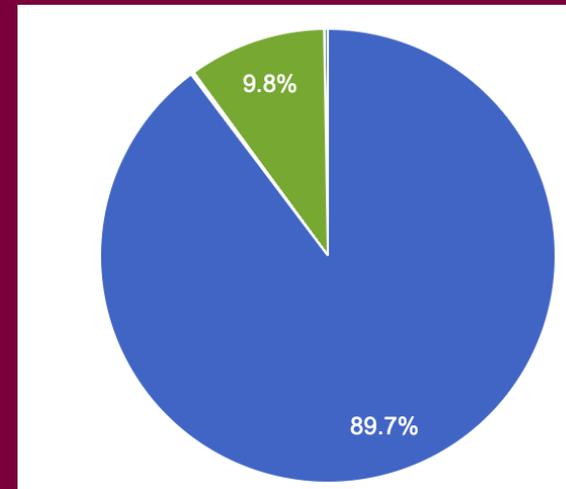
**Vilnius Academy of Arts**  
 (publications in Lithuanian - 79,6%,  
 publications in English - 16,2%)



**Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences**  
 (publications in Lithuanian - 59,5%,  
 publications in English - 39,3%)



**Vilnius University**  
 (publications in Lithuanian - 30,7%,  
 publications in English - 65,5%)



**Centre for Physical Sciences and Technology**  
 (publications in Lithuanian - 9,8%,  
 publications in English - 89,7%)

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