

## Teaching Lithuanian as a Foreign Language at the University in Poland

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### Abstract

At the beginning it is necessary to point that Lithuanian language is very small language and it still has not long traditions as a foreign language. Nevertheless at some Polish universities it was taught from early sixties, Lithuanian as very archaic language was interesting only for linguists, who made comparative studies on Indo-European languages.

After political changes in Lithuania in early nineties of the last century and especially then it became one of the Europe Union countries, the status of Lithuanian language in Poland has changed very deeply. It was percept not only from the linguistic point of view. To learn Lithuanian language were interested students from various departments (History, Cultural studies ect.) at the university. Lithuanian was one of foreign languages (between English, French, German, Spanish, Latin, Sweden and other) offered to learn by Foreign Languages Canter at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow.

The main problem is, that Lithuanian language teaching and learning methodology was and still is on a very low stage. There are very few methodological and teaching materials. Because of its quite complicated grammar, Lithuanian is not possible to learn using only communicative method. Student must know basic grammar constructions and to know how do they work. This is the reason, why ICT are so helpful not only for teachers, but for learners too. These are only examples of some ICT possibilities that could be used:

- power-point presentations
- web-sites
- podcasting
- on-line dictionaries
- forum
- e-mailing
- sending SMS
- CD/DVD

Small languages are more and more popular between language learners, who already know the big ones (English, German, French and other). Although the small language teachers have not such methodological grounding, they still can use the potential of ICT.