



ASSESSMENT OF COMPETENCES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

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Abstract

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania is a state governance body that changes every four years. Good state governance is also essential for politicians to gain the trust of the citizens living in the country. The importance of state governance is critical because it depends on the well-functioning functions of government. Since the beginning of the restoration of independence, seventeen governments have completed their terms, and the eighteenth government is currently in power. The paper analyses the composition of the last ten governments in Lithuania (1999-2022) and the appointment of individuals to ministerial positions, categorising them as either politicians or specialists in their respective fields. Out of the ten governments analysed, it was discovered that eight consisted of politicians serving as ministers, while the other two had specialised ministers. The 17th government of Saulius Skvernelis had the highest number of specialist ministers. The majority of ministers in the 9th to 15th governments had backgrounds in law or economics. Political ministers are the dominant type in Lithuania and can be considered more stable and successful. These ministers are capable of withstanding political pressure, engaging with the public, and handling a variety of diplomatic situations. Specialist ministers, on the other hand, excel in their specific fields but are better suited for lower levels of government to support political ministers. These ministers tend to be less stable, experiencing more frequent changes during their tenure. Professional specialists face challenges in political work, as effectively identifying societal and workplace issues becomes more difficult due to factors such as communication, public interaction, reform drafting, and decision-making. The 15th government led by Andrius Kubilius was the most successful in terms of stability and duration in office.

KEY WORDS: Government of the Republic of Lithuania, specialist ministers, politicians ministers, state governance.

Introduction

The government, as part of the executive branch, is responsible for administering the country. Good state governance is vital, as it directly impacts the government's performance. Ensuring national security, targeted budget implementation, and lawmaking are crucial steps towards achieving good governance, and a strong group of ministers is essential. K. Thomas B. Swanton and Alex Blaszcynski (2019) argue that government actions, particularly in law enforcement and technology, can lead to modernization and significant changes in various sectors. However, relying solely on a robust cabinet may not always guarantee the proper functioning of the government. The success of the executive branch in governing a country can be influenced by the types and models of government, as well as the political culture and traditions.

A democratic government plays a crucial role in the state governance of a state and the practice of democracy. The Prime Minister holds significant importance within the government, often occupying the highest position in the country's governance, as seen in Germany (Dostal M., 2017). In many cases, the Prime Minister assumes the responsibilities of a head of state, particularly evident in the United Kingdom (Dowding K., 2013). The governments of Canada, New Zealand, and Malta also highlight the significance of the Prime Minister (Jalalzai F., 2011). However, different regions of the world operate with distinct models and types of government. France, for instance, has a relatively weak government in terms of power balance, where the

President nominates the Prime Minister according to the French Constitution (French Constitution TITTLE II, TITTLE III). Nonetheless, in democratic systems, the government plays a vital role in governing the state and providing guidance for its operations. Governments exhibit various patterns and structures. There are different models such as coalition governments, majority governments, minority governments, as well as governments composed of professionals or politicians, as explained by A. Krupavičius and A. Lukošius (2004). They also have different compositions, which are apparent in each of the models. This shows just how complex the state governance is. It is important to note that the success of a government in power does not solely rely on the model or composition, but also on the political culture of the country. A democratic government is a component of the executive branch, consisting of ministers and a head of government, namely the Prime Minister. The government often possesses significant authority within the state's governing apparatus, operating within its own structures and models. In some democracies, the Prime Minister is at the heart of government. Challenging periods, such as unexpected pandemics or global economic crises, serve as indicators of a government's competence. It is worth mentioning that each government in Lithuania had a unique composition and functioned under different circumstances. Differences also arise in the approach to the qualifications and competencies of ministers. Throughout the country's independence, governments have been evaluated based on professionalism versus policy (Krupavičius, Lukošaitis, 2004).

The activities of the government are defined in the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania. According to the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, the government is responsible for national affairs, safeguarding the integrity and security of the territory; it executes laws, parliamentary resolutions, and presidential decrees, while coordinating the activities of ministries and other government bodies; preparing and enacting the state budget, developing draft laws for parliamentary consideration, establishing diplomatic relations with other nations, and fulfilling other responsibilities outlined by the Constitution and other laws and orders established by the Government (Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 94).

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania serves as the governing body of the country, with a change in leadership occurring every four years. Since the restoration of independence, a total of 17 governments have completed their terms in Lithuania, with the 18th government assuming office in 2020. It is worth noting that there have been different types of governments, with the 17th Government of the Republic of Lithuania being composed solely of professional ministers in their respective fields (Programme of the 17th Government, 2016). However, governments led by politicians often include professionals in lower-level positions to assist with the government's operations (Alexander D. Lewis M. Considine M., 2010). This is an under-researched topic, which is why it is so important to analyse it. Given the limited research on this topic, it is crucial to analyse and understand the characteristics of these two types of governments, determine their prevalence in the government of the Republic of Lithuania, and assess their effectiveness.

This study aims to examine the composition of the governments of the Republic of Lithuania between 1999 and 2022 in terms of ministerial specialists and/or ministerial politicians.

The focus of the study is the composition of ministers in the government of the Republic of Lithuania based on their competencies, distinguishing between specialist ministers and political ministers.

Objectives of the research:

1. The study emphasises the importance of managerial and professional skills for ministers within governments from a theoretical perspective.

2. It seeks to analyse the differences and duration of work between ministerial politicians and ministerial specialists in the Lithuanian government.

3. Additionally, the study aims to assess the composition of the most successful government in terms of specialist ministers and ministerial politicians.

The research methodology involves a systematic analysis of scientific literature, comparative analysis of documents, and summarisation. The research carried out can be defined as applied.

The analysis focuses on ten different governments of the Republic of Lithuania from 1999 to 2022, starting with the ninth government led by Rolandas Paksas and including the current eighteenth government. In total, ten different governments of the Republic of Lithuania are analysed. The comparative analysis utilises government composition data from the official website of the

Government of the Republic of Lithuania, as well as legislation based on specific government programmes. These documents serve as valuable resources for identifying government formation characteristics.

Theoretical background

While examining the ministers and their abilities in the Lithuanian government, it is important to also analyze the concept of democratic governance itself. J. M. Dostal (2017) studied the authorities of the German Federal Chancellor, the process of election, specifically focusing on A. Merkel. F. Jalalaza (2011) delved deeper into the significance of women as figures in positions of state power. Additionally, different models of state governance that exhibit an increase or decrease in government or presidential power are identified. These models have influenced the approach of the German Federal Chancellor towards the role of the state. J. Dowding (2013) analysed the behaviour and competences of the British Prime Minister. E. O'Malley (2007) discussed the powers of prime ministers and argued that the prime minister holds the most political influence in Canada. The author developed an index to measure the power of the selected Prime Ministers in their respective countries. In his publication, Pennings (2000) acknowledged the impact of parliament on the executive's work. A. Krupavičius and A. Lukošaitis (2004) studied government models and analysed the importance of majority governments. A. Jungar (2002) referred to the formation of a coalition government in his analysis. The author also described the methods employed to establish a majority government. Hazel and Paun (2009) analysed the characteristics of the minority government model, which was also examined by L. B. Stehpenon, L. B. Aldrich and A. Blais (2013). The formation of professional governments was studied by K. Rasmussen (2014) and V. Radcliffe (2012), who emphasised the significance of professionals within the political structure. D. Alexander, J. M. Lewis, and M. Considine (2010) discussed the interaction between professionals and politicians in the context of politicians' governance. The introduction of innovation in policymaking by non-experts in the field was addressed by V. Radcliffe (2012).

Kohn (2014) outlined the government's role not only in budgeting but also in ensuring equal rights for individuals. The topic of decentralisation was mentioned in the work of D. Allain-Dupre (2018), who described it as a popular concept and referred to it as a silent revolution. L. Paškevičienė (2022) focused on the government and legislation, specifically discussing the challenges faced by the Lithuanian government during a pandemic and the difficulties of working within the legislative framework. The modernisation of government and the importance of e-government were highlighted by C.M. Shea and G.D. Garson (2019). These authors analysed the increasing prevalence of state governance and the shift towards e-government. Estonian voting ID cards have also been discussed in relation to this topic (Official website of Estonian e-ID). In particular, K. Vassil, M. Slovak, P. Vinkel, A. H. Trechsel and M. Alvarez (2016) have provided insights on the topic of

Estonian e-elections. The analysis of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania has focused on examining the competences of the government across various scientific and regulatory aspects of its functioning. H. Šinkūnas (2003) has contributed to a better understanding of the principle of the separation of powers.

The evaluation of the competences and qualifications of the governments of the Republic of Lithuania was based on the research conducted by A. Krupavičius and A. Lukošius (2004) regarding majority governments. T. Birmontienė, E. Jarašiūnas, E. Kūris, and other authors (2012) discuss specific competences of the government, including regulatory aspects. For detailed insights into government formation, refer to the works of T. Bergman, G. Ilonszki, and W. C. Muller (2019). The Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania serves as a basis for examining specific legislation that regulates the competences of the government. This includes the Law on the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, the Rules of Procedure of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, and government programmes. These laws outline the specific competences of the government and its members. The authors J. Martinkienė, M. Vaikšnoras (2019) point out the importance of empowering leaders, empowerment is a process started by a leader that starts with understanding the goals, leads to certain activities and ends with the successful execution of the results within the organisation. Employee empowerment should be an ongoing process within an organization, influenced by the leader's role in management and the resources, information, training, and autonomy provided to employees. The main responsibilities of the government include law enforcement, coordination of government agencies and companies, and budget provision. Kohn (2014) highlights that while the government manages the budget through taxes and social services, its role extends beyond that to ensuring equal human rights. Decentralization, as analyzed by D. Alain-Dupre (2018), reflects the devolution of government powers to lower administrative units. During emergencies like pandemics, the competences and skills of government members become particularly crucial (Paškevičienė, 2022). State management during a crisis demonstrates their ability to navigate through challenges when existing laws may not adequately address emerging issues, requiring compliance with various regulations. Modernizing the entire government apparatus and expanding e-government have become important competences in the present era. The increasing digitization of activities necessitates the modernization of state governance. However, the primary role of the government in Lithuania is to implement decisions made by the legislators. (Birmontienė T. Jarašiūnas E. Kūris E.

et al. 2009, 752 p.). The competences of the government highlight its position in the governance structure, which is why various regulations define the specific responsibilities of this institution. The competences of the government are primarily defined by four key regulations: the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, the Law on the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, the Rules of Procedure of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, and government programmes. These documents provide an overview of the competences and objectives of both current and previous governments. Different situations can emphasize the advantages of possessing certain competences, particularly the ability to function effectively in various circumstances.

It is important to analyze specific government cabinets and categorize them as either composed of professionals or politicians. The professional government model consists of a government composed of professionals in their respective fields. K. Rasmussen (2014) argues that certain government positions, such as deputy ministers, are often occupied by career civil servants who remain politically neutral. This allows for the formation of a government comprising specialists in their fields, such as a former medical doctor serving as the Minister of Health. Vigi V. Radcliffe (2012) suggests that professionals in their fields engaging in politics can have both advantages and disadvantages. The author highlights that political detachment can be beneficial in making unbiased decisions. This can also be observed in government formation, where individuals from outside politics contribute to the advancement of their profession and its modernization. The politician-government model is characterized by ministerial cabinets filled by politicians who may have little connection to their respective backgrounds or fields of work. However, the interaction between politicians and practitioners at lower institutional levels holds particular importance (Alexander D., Lewis JM. Considine M. 2010). V. Radcliffe (2012) argues that while specialists in a field may not always bring innovation to their domain, individuals who have no direct connection to a specific job may bring fresh perspectives and innovation. This viewpoint suggests that practitioners within a field tend to focus more on the problems they encounter, whereas politicians can introduce innovative approaches.

Assessing the effectiveness of these government models is challenging, as different countries employ various models, and the success of a particular model may vary from one country to another. Nevertheless, the fundamental characteristics of each model are summarized in the table below (see Table 1).

Table 1. Key aspects of government models

Name of government model	Main characteristics
Coalition government	The government is formed by a coalition of multiple parties. It can also involve a rainbow government comprising parties with diverse ideologies or perspectives.
Majority	The government consists primarily of representatives from a single political party who hold complete

government	control over the country's governance.
Minority government	In contrast, a minority government is formed when the governing party has fewer seats in Parliament. Such a government often faces challenges in exerting control and achieving its objectives.
Government of professionals	A professional government is comprised of experts in their respective fields, typically with limited political background or involvement.
Government of politicians	On the other hand, a politician-led government is composed of politicians who may lack expertise in the areas they oversee.

Source: A. Krupavičius, A. Lukošius (2004). A. Jungar (2002), R. Hazell, A. Paun (2009), L. Hooghe, G. Marks (2012). V. Radcliffe (2012), K. Rasmussen (2014), D. Alexander, J.M. Lewis, M. Considine (2010), L. B. Stephenson, J. H. Aldrich and A. Blais (2018)

Coalition and majority governments exhibit similarities, and the formation of a majority government often involves a coalition approach. Hybrid options can also exist, where a coalition majority government is formed solely by politicians. However, significant differences can be observed among these types of governments. A coalition government can sometimes lead to a minority government due to disagreements or the inability to establish common goals. These factors contribute to a weak government with limited executive power (Hazell R., Paun A., 2009).

It is worth noting that a majority government can be strong if it consists of professionals or solely politicians, depending on the political culture and governance traditions of the state. To further analyze these models, the following sections will outline their main structural characteristics. Each model is distinguished by its composition. Hooghe and Marks (2012) argue that the structure of government depends on two systems: whether the country has a unitary or federal system. In a federal system, governance involves both a central government and regional governments. In contrast, a unitary state concentrates decision-making power either centrally or in a decentralized manner, with the final

decision-making authority residing in the central government.

Research Results

Examining the composition of the last ten governments of the Republic of Lithuania, the analysis begins with the 9th Government. Prime Minister Rolandas Paksas, who was a popular mayor in Vilnius at the time, formed this government. However, it proved to be unstable and short-lived. The 9th government formed by Rolandas Paksas, according to Matontytė and Voblevičius (2014), was a minority government. Its tenure lasted only five months, as Rolandas Paksas publicly refused to sign the Mažeikiai oil privatization agreement. Analyzing the government's composition reveals that it primarily comprised politicians serving as ministers. Most ministers held positions unrelated to their educational backgrounds. An additional noteworthy factor is that the 9th government consisted mostly of doctors and physicists. This government can be characterized as a government led by ministerial politicians.

Table 2. Composition of the 9th government

First name, Last name	Ministry	EDUCATION
Rolandas Paksas (P)	Prime Minister	Pilot
Raimundas Alekna	Minister of Health	Psychiatrist
Gintaras Balčiūnas	Minister Justice	Lawyer
Arūnas Bėkšta (P)	Minister of Culture	Physicist
Česlovas Blažys (P)	Minister of the Interior	Lawyer
Irena Degutienė (P)	Minister Social Security and Labour	Doctor
Rimantas Didžiokas (P)	Minister of Transport and Communications	Food Industry and Machinery Engineer
Sigitas Kaktys (P)	Minister of Governance Reform and Local Government	Doctor
Jonas Lionginas	Minister of Finance	Economist
Danius Lygis	Minister the Environment	Physicist, Biologist, Ecologist
Edvardas Makelis	Minister of Agriculture	Agronomist
Eugenijus Maldeikis (P)	Minister of Economy	Economist, Doctor of Social Sciences
Kornelijus Platelis (P)	Minister of Education and Science	Engineer
Algirdas Saudargas (P)	Minister of Foreign Affairs	Biophysicist
Česlovas Vytautas Stankevičius (P)	Minister of National Defence	Construction Technician

*P indicates a mismatch between education and the relevant ministry.

Source: Website of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, I. Matontytė, V. Voblevičius (2014).

Andrius Kubilius served as Prime Minister from November 1999 until the next Seimas elections in October 2000. After the change in Prime Minister, the 10th government, also known as the Andrius Kubilius government, assumed office. It is worth noting that both the 9th and 10th governments were formed by the same party, the Patriotic Union, which held a majority in the Seimas at the time. (Matontytė I., Voblevičius V. 2014).

Additionally, it is important to highlight that the Ministry of Governance Reforms and Municipal Affairs no longer exists. The government led by Andrius Kubilius could be considered a minority or marginal government. This government remained in power for almost eleven months, from November 11, 1999, to October 8, 2000. The composition of the 10th Andrius Kubilius government is presented below (see Table 3).

Table 3. Composition of the 10th government

First name, Last name	Ministry	EDUCATION
Andrius Kubilius (P)	Prime Minister	Physicist
Raimundas Alekna	Minister of Health	Psychiatrist
Gintaras Balčiūnas	Minister of Justice	Lawyer
Arūnas Bėkšta (P)	Minister of Culture	Physicist
Česlovas Blažys (P)	Minister of the Interior	Lawyer
Irena Degutienė (P)	Minister of Social Security and Labour	Doctor
Rimantas Didžiokas (P)	Minister of Transport and Communications	Food Industry and Machinery Engineer
Vytautas Dudėnas	Minister of Finance	Humanities, Finance
Danius Lygis	Minister of the Environment	Physicist, Biologist, Ecologist
Edvardas Makelis	Minister of Agriculture	Agronomist
Valentinas Milaknis (P)	Minister of Economy	Radio Engineer
Kornelijus Platelis (P)	Minister of Education and Science	Engineer
Algirdas Saudargas (P)	Minister of Foreign Affairs	Biophysicist
Česlovas Vytautas Stankevičius (P)	Minister of National Defence	Construction Technician

*P indicates a mismatch between education and the relevant ministry.

Source: Website of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, I. Matontytė, V. Voblevičius (2014).

The second government of Rolandas Paksas, the 11th government of the Republic of Lithuania, was the first to have specialist ministers. After the Seimas elections, Rolandas Paksas became Prime Minister for the second time, representing the Liberal Union. His government, formed with the New Union (Social Liberals), lasted seven months before collapsing due to disagreements within the coalition. This government was formed in collaboration with the newly established Liberal Union Party. The 11th government, which consisted of specialist ministers, experienced significant instability. Within a short period, the government had to replace ministers in three ministries. One example was the replacement of the Minister of Transport, who was a specialist, with a politician. Despite these attempts, the failed coalition government was unable to become the first government composed solely of specialist ministers

in Lithuania. It is important to note that there was no official announcement indicating that this government was formed with a specific focus on appointing professionals in their respective fields as ministers. Although many ministers did not directly align their ministry with their area of expertise, it should be acknowledged that most ministers had educational or professional backgrounds relevant to their respective ministries. According to Andrius Navickas (2017), the essence of this party was to support Rolandas Paksas' candidacy for the Head of State election. However, the 11th government, another unsuccessful tenure of Rolandas Paksas, lasted for nearly eight months before the coalition dissolved due to internal disagreements. eight months before the coalition dissolved due to internal disagreements.

Table 4. 11-osios vyriausybės sudėtis

First name, Last name	Ministry	EDUCATION
Rolandas Paksas (P)	Prime Minister	Pilot
1. Vinsas Janušonis 2. Konstantinas Romualdas Dobrovolskis	Minister of Health	1. Doctor 2. Doctor
Gintautas Bartkus	Minister of Justice	Lawyer

Gintautas Kėvišas	Minister of Culture	Pianist
Vytautas Markevičius (P)	Minister the Interior	Lawyer
Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (P)	Minister of Social Security and Labour	Lawyer
1. Gintaras Striaukas 2. Dailis Alfonsas Barakauskas (P)	Minister of Transport and Communications	1. Road Engineer 2. Engineer, economist
Jonas Rudalevičius (P)	Minister of Governance Reform and Local Government	Economist
Jonas Lionginas	Minister of Finance	Economist
Danius Lygis	Minister of the Environment	Physicist, Biologist, Ecologist
Henrikas Žukauskas (P)	Minister of Agriculture	Architect, Engineer
1. Eugenijus Maldeikis (P) 2. Eugenijus Gentvilas (P)	Minister of Economy	1. Economist, Doctor of Social Sciences 2. Geographer
Algirdas Monkevičius	Minister of Education and Science	Physicist, Mathematician
Antanas Valionis	Minister of Foreign Affairs	Mechanical Engineer, PhD in Social and Political Sciences
Linas Linkevičius (P)	Minister of National Defence	Electrical Engineer

*P indicates a mismatch between education and the relevant ministry.

Source: Website of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, I. Matontytė, V. Voblevičius (2014).

Another government that exhibited characteristics of ministerial politicians was the 12th government, the first government of Algirdas Mykolas Brazauskas. This government remained in power throughout the parliamentary term, replacing four ministers. The trend that emerges is that three ministers, who were initially appointed as specialists, had to be replaced by other ministers, while only one of the thirteen ministries led by a politician was substituted by another individual. The government led by Algirdas Mykolas Brazauskas remained relatively stable, experiencing no significant changes in its composition. The 12th Cabinet is characterized by a considerable presence of lawyers and economists among its ministers. After the end of their term, a new government was formed, known as the 13th government of the Republic of Lithuania, also led by

Algirdas Mykolas Brazauskas. This government was formed through a coalition agreement, initially displaying stability (Lukošaitis, 2008). However, it eventually faced failure and was unable to maintain its composition throughout its term. Scandalous ministerial appointments made by one of the coalition parties, coupled with allegations of political corruption, led to conflicts within the coalition. Consequently, a vote of no-confidence in the government was initiated by the then Head of State, V. Adamkus (Lukošaitis, 2008). As a result, Prime Minister Algirdas Mykolas Brazauskas and the entire government resigned.

Following the resignation of the 13th government of the Republic of Lithuania, the 14th government, led by Gediminas Kirkilas, assumed office.

Table 5. Composition of the 14th government

First name, Last name	Ministry	EDUCATION
Gediminas Kirkilas	Prime Minister	Lithuanian Language, Literature, Political Science
1. Rimvydas Turčinskas 2. Gediminas Černiauskas (P)	Minister of Health	1. Doctor 2. Economist
Petras Baguška	Minister of Justice	Lawyer
Jonas Jučas	Minister of Culture	Choir Conductor
1. Raimondas Šukys (P) 2. Regimantas Čiupaila (P)	Minister of the Interior	1. Lawyer 2. Mathematician, Engineer
Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (P)	Minister of Social Security and Labour	Lawyer
Algirdas Butkevičius (P)	Minister of Transport and Communications	Engineer Economist
1. Zigmantas Balčytis 2. Rimantas Šadžius (P)	Minister of Finance	1. Economist 2. Chemist
1. Arūnas Kundrotas (P)	Minister of the Environment	1. Economist

2. Artūras Paulauskas (P)		2. Lawyer
Kazimira Danutė Prunskienė (P)	Minister of Agriculture	Economist
Vytas Navickas (P)	Minister of Economy	Mathematician
1. Roma Žakaitienė (P) 2. Algirdas Monkevičius	Minister of Education and Science	1. Lawyer 2. Physicist, Mathematician, Teacher
Petras Vaitiekūnas (P)	Minister of Foreign Affairs	Physicist
Juozas Olekas (P)	Minister of National Defence	Microsurgeon

*P indicates a mismatch between education and the relevant ministry.

Source: Website of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

The government of the 14th Republic of Lithuania can be classified as a ministerial politician government. It is worth noting that the addition of a new party to the coalition, which was granted certain ministries, contributed to the government's instability. In political governments, there tends to be a prevalence of lawyers and economists as ministers. While previous governments predominantly appointed doctors as heads of the Ministry of Health, in Gediminas Kirkilas' government, R. Čiupaila became the first minister in that field without specialized expertise.

Andrius Kubilius, after three terms as a Social Democrat, forms his second government, known as the 15th government of the Republic of Lithuania. Under this government, a new Ministry of Energy is established. Similar to the 14th government, the 15th government is of the ministerial politician type, with the majority of ministers not experts in their respective fields. There is also an emerging trend towards economists as ministers and lawyers. Notably, this government holds the distinction of being the first in the Republic of Lithuania to serve a full term in office (Barcevičius, Nakrošius, 2015). However, E. Barcevičius and V. Nakrošius (2015) criticize the limited scope of reforms carried out by this government, deeming its progressiveness insufficiently advanced due to the narrow scope of reforms. This government is made up of ministerial politicians. The 15th government shares

similarities in composition with the previous 14th government, demonstrating a notable dominance of politicians.

Following the 2012 elections, the 16th government of the Republic of Lithuania, led by Algirdas Butkevičius, assumes power. The majority in the Seimas was formed through a coalition of four parties. This government, like its predecessors, serves a full term in office. However, due to changes in the coalition, numerous ministerial changes occur during the government's tenure. During Algirdas Butkevičius' government, there is a tendency to replace specialist ministers with political ministers while they are in office. This pattern was particularly noticeable in the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of the Interior. On the other hand, ministries with ministerial policies tend to have more stability. Throughout their term, a total of 11 ministers were substituted. As a result, it can be considered one of the least stable governments with ministerial policies.

The first government to claim itself as a professional government was established under Saulius Skvernelis. Both the 17th government and the chairman of the ruling majority party, R. Karbauskis, have publicly announced that they have formed a government consisting of professional ministers who are specialists in their respective fields (Budriūnaitė, 2016).

Table 6. Composition of the 17th government

First name, Last name	Ministry	EDUCATION
Saulius Skvernelis (P)	Prime Minister	Lawyer
Aurelijus Veryga	Minister of Health	Psychiatrist
1. Milda Vainiutė 2. Elvinas Jankevičius (P)	Minister of Justice	1. Lawyer 2. Economist
1. Liana Ruokytė-Jonsson 2. Mindaugas Kvietkauskas	Minister of Culture	1. Event Planner 2. Doctor of Humanities
1. Eimutis Misiūnas 2. Rita Tamašunienė (P)	Minister of the Interior	1. Lawyer 2. Teacher
Linas Kukuraitis	Minister for Social Security and Labour	Bachelor of Social Work
1. Rokas Masiulis(P) 2. Jaroslav Narkevič	Minister of Transport and Communications	1. Economist 2. Master of Public Administration
Vilius Šapoka	Minister of Finance	Economist
1. Kęstutis Navickas (P) 2. Kęstutis Mažeika	Minister for the Environment	1. Historian, MA in Sustainable Development Management and Administration 2. Doctor of Agriculture

1. Bronius Markauskas 2. Giedrius Surplys (P) 3. Andrius Palionis (P)	Minister of Agriculture	1. Engineer 2. Master of International Studies 3. Financier
1. Mindaugas Sinkevičius 2. Virginijus Sinkevičius 3. Rimantas Sinkevičius (P)	Minister for Economy/Economy and Innovation	1. Lawyer, Master's Degree in Marketing and Management 2. BA in Economics and International Relations, MA in European Politics 3. Chemical Engineer, Inorganic Materials and Fertilisers
1. Jurgita Petrauskienė 2. Algirdas Monkevičius	Minister of Education and Science	1. Teacher 2. Physicist, Mathematician
Linas Antanas Linkevičius (P)	Minister of Foreign Affairs	Electrical Engineer
Raimundas Karoblis (P)	Minister of National Defence	Lawyer
Žygimantas Vaičiūnas (P)	Energy	Political Scientist

*P indicates a mismatch between education and the relevant ministry.

Source: Website of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, I. Matontytė, V. Voblevičius (2014).

When examining the composition of Saulius Skvernelis' 17th government, it becomes evident that the entire makeup of the government aligns with the characteristics of a professional government. Notably, many ministries have been replacing professionals in their respective fields with politicians. This has resulted in a significant number of changes within the government, primarily due to poorly executed reforms by professional ministers. One particular reform, the salary scale adjustment for educational staff, has led the government to a crisis point. Jurgita Petrauskienė, the then Minister of Education, received unfavourable reviews from teachers themselves on the occasion of the Language Teachers' Day. Even a third of the way through the school year, some schools are uncertain about how to remunerate teachers, and teachers are

lacking proper contracts. To address the issues, the Minister of Education and Science personally visits schools, but she is met with whistles from teachers during a festive concert (Miliūtė, 2018). In response to the failed reform and the communication breakdown, Head of Government Saulius Skvernelis dismissed the Minister. The lack of effective communication and ill-prepared reforms further contributed to changes in the government's composition. One can argue that the government of the Republic of Lithuania is highly unstable and frequently replaces field-specific ministers with politicians. During its term, more than half of the 17th government had to be replaced.

Moving on to the examination of the last government of politicians, the 18th government of the Republic of Lithuania, led by Ingrida Šimonytė.

Table 7. Composition of the 18th government

First name, Last name	Ministry	EDUCATION
Ingrida Šimonytė	Prime Minister	Economist, Political Scientist
Arūnas Dulkys (P)	Minister of Health	Finance and Credit Specialist
Evelina Dobrovolska	Minister of Justice	Lawyer
Simonas Kairys (P)	Minister of Culture	Political Scientist
Agnė Bilotaitė (P)	Minister of the Interior	Public Administration
Monika Navickienė	Minister of Social Security and Labour	Philosopher, Master in Tax Administration
Marius Skuodis (P)	Minister of Transport and Communications	Political Scientist, Master's Degree in Public Economic Policy and Administration
Gintarė Skaistė	Minister of Finance	Economist
Simonas Gentvilas (P)	Minister of the Environment	Sociologist
Kęstutis Navickas (P)	Minister of Agriculture	Historian, MA in Sustainable Development Management and Administration
Aušrinė Armonaitė (P)	Minister of Economy and Innovation	Political Scientist
Jurgita Šiugždiniene (P)	Minister of Education and Science	Doctor of Social Sciences
Gabrielius Landsbergis	Minister of Foreign Affairs	Master of International Relations
Arvydas Anušauskas	Minister of National Defence	Historian, Military Officer
Dainius Kreivys (P)	Minister of Energy	Economist

*P indicates a mismatch between education and the relevant ministry.

Source: Website of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

The current government is predominantly comprised of economists and political scientists. There is a noticeable trend of political scientists replacing lawyers in ministerial positions. This government took office on

December 11, 2020, and since then, there have been no changes in its composition. Ingrida Šimonytė's government enjoys a relatively stable tenure. Additionally, this government includes a significant

number of women holding ministerial posts. The emerging trend for the type of ministerial politicians in this government is stability, with a composition primarily consisting of political scientists and economists.

Conclusions

The government plays a crucial role in the executive branch, governing the state and ensuring the functioning of democracy. As seen in countries like Canada, Germany, and Malta, the head of government often holds great importance in the country's political landscape. However, looking at the experiences of other countries, it becomes apparent that the government and its leader can sometimes hold little or no significance, as is evident in countries like Turkey and Croatia. An examination of the legal framework governing the government's activities reveals that the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania and the Law on the Government of the Republic of Lithuania serve as the main documents regulating the government's work. However, these documents provide a rather broad description of the government's functions and competencies, leaving much legislative discretion to other laws and regulations. Specific qualification requirements for individuals aspiring to become ministers are not outlined in the Constitution. As a result, ministers can be categorized into two groups: professional ministers and political ministers.

Those engaged in political affairs must possess expertise not only in their respective fields but also in a wide range of policy areas such as communications, diplomacy, and public relations. Analyzing ten different governments, it was observed that eight out of the ten governments consisted of political ministers, while the remaining two comprised specialist ministers. It is worth emphasizing that only one government, the 17th government formed by Saulius Skvernelis, can be considered a true specialist ministerial government. This particular government has emphasized its professionalism within ministries and various media platforms. A notable characteristic of ministerial policies in these governments is that a significant number of ministers in the 9th to 15th governments had backgrounds in law or economics. In subsequent governments, the trend shifted towards ministers with expertise in economics or political science. This dominant type of ministerial politician also tends to exhibit more stability. One of the major drawbacks associated with ministerial politicians is the occurrence of corruption cases and scandals. These negative aspects have been prominent within this group.

The study reveals that the dominant type of government in the Republic of Lithuania between 1999 and 2022 is that of ministerial politicians, with eight out of the ten selected governments falling into this category. Specialist ministerial governments, on the other hand, tend to face challenges and display a higher level of instability. In governments comprised of professional ministers, it is common to witness the replacement of professional ministers with political ministers. Another noticeable trend in political minister

governments is the prevalence of ministers who have backgrounds in law, economics, or political science.

An analysis of the Lithuanian government's composition and the competencies of ministers reveals a scarcity of specialist ministers in Lithuania. Such ministers often experience a lack of stability in their positions and are frequently rotated. This type of minister is not a common feature within the political culture of Lithuania. The infrequent presence of professional or specialist governments suggests that this particular government composition is challenging to adapt to in Lithuania. Ministers, in general, have relatively short tenures in their positions. It is worth highlighting that professional ministers face greater difficulties in dealing with political challenges compared to political ministers, especially in certain ministries. In summary, politicians constitute the dominant type of ministers in Lithuania, and can be considered more stable and successful. These ministers tend to withstand political pressure, engage in public communication, and handle diplomatic situations more effectively. Professional ministers, on the other hand, despite their expertise in their respective fields, are better suited for lower-level government roles and supporting the work of political ministers. Professional ministers often experience instability, and it is not uncommon to see three different ministers in a single term within a ministry.

The complexities of political work impose significant burdens on professionals in their fields, as they encounter difficulties in understanding and addressing societal and work-related issues due to factors like communication, public engagement, reform drafting, and decision-making.

The most successful government in terms of stability and duration in office was the 15th government led by Andrius Kubilius. The first government that exhibited the characteristics of a professional government was the 11th government of the Republic of Lithuania, formed under Rolandas Paksas. Saulius Skvernelis formed the first official professional ministerial government, which adhered to the principles and composition of a professional government. However, despite its alignment with the concept of a professional government, it has been one of the least stable governments with frequent changes in its composition. The government is currently facing a crisis due to inadequate reforms in the field of education, leading to a loss of trust from both the Head of State and the public. The most prevalent type of government formed in Lithuania is the minister-politician type, characterized by the following traits: ministers often have backgrounds in economics, political science, or law. - ministers in key areas such as health, education, and justice tend to possess expertise in their respective fields - common issues faced by such governments include coalition disagreements, political misconduct within the coalition, and various scandals. governments of this type tend to be more stable and have a higher likelihood of completing a full term in office.

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