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The Activities of the Lithuanian Research Library Consortium (LMBA) – the View of a Small Country in the East

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Outline

- Lithuania: short data
- Lithuanian libraries: short data
- Life before the consortium
- How we started working together
- How we are working now
- Why it is important to have the consortium



Lithuania: short data



Area:
65.3 thous.
km²

Population:
3,4
million



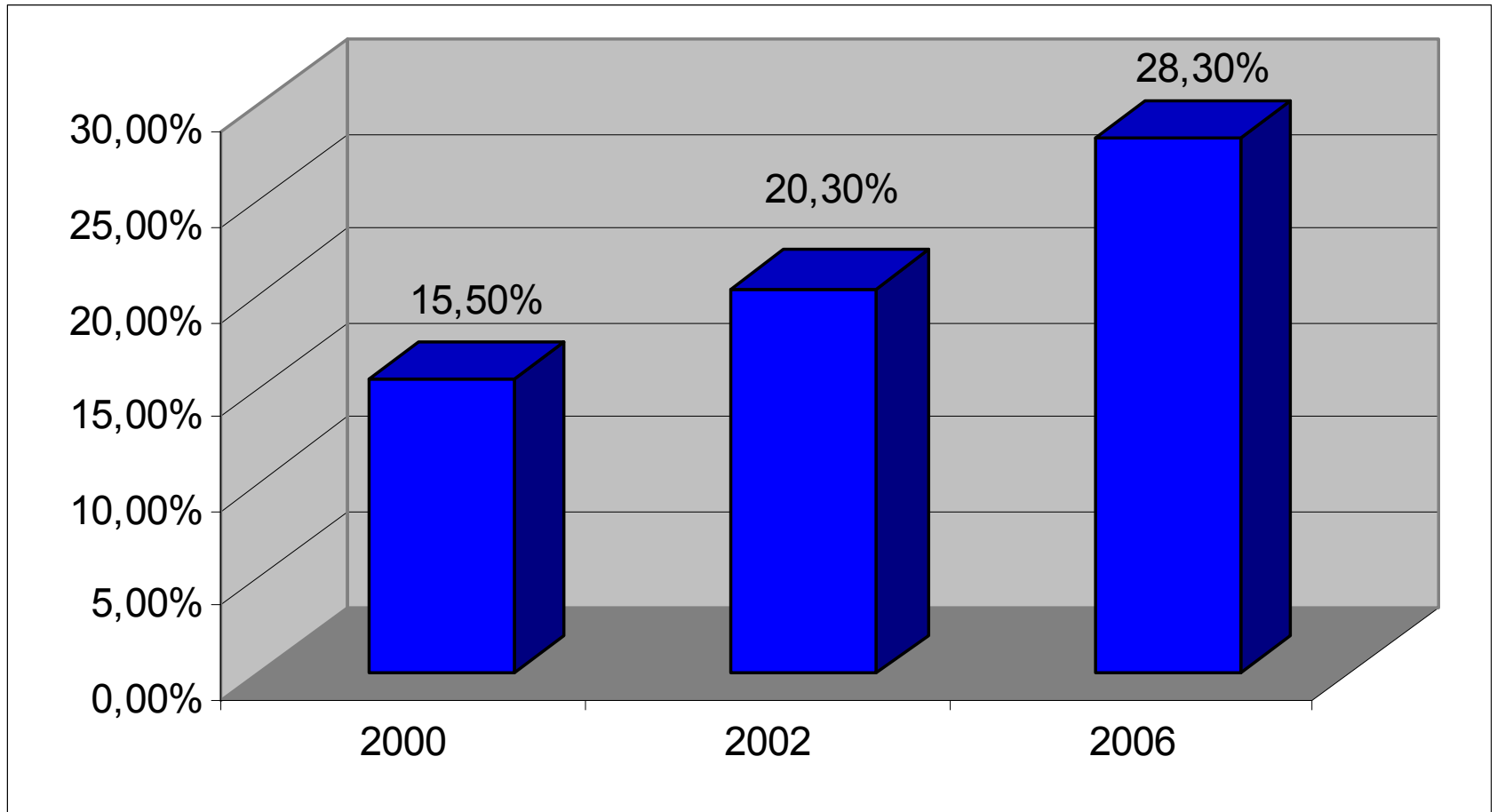
Lithuanian libraries: short data

2975 libraries in Lithuania (2006)

- 15 public universities
- 6 private universities
- 16 public colleges
- 12 private colleges
- Library of the Academy of Sciences
- National Library
- National subject libraries: medical, technical, agricultural
- 65 public libraries (with 1375 branches)



Internet usage in Lithuania



Source: ITU, <http://www.internetworldstats.com/eu/lt.htm>



Library Associations in Lithuania

- Lithuanian Librarians Association (LBD)
- Lithuanian Academic Library Association (LABA)
- Lithuanian Municipal Public Library Association
- Lithuanian County Public Library Association
- **Lithuanian Research Library Consortium (LMBA)**



Life before the consortium

- 1992-1994-1995-1999 years – start of e-resources
- Each library negotiated with publishers separately, no big deals, mostly gifts, “reduced/special” prices
- Most active libraries tested various databases, the others knew nothing about testing
- No planning, no coordination, no sharing
- OSI (Soros foundation in Lithuania) started the coordination activities with EBSCO package in 1999 [after the Library programme was closed, libraries had to overtake this initiative themselves]



How we started working together

- In 2001 established Lithuanian Research Library Consortium (LMBA)
- Big debate – who can be members (only academic, or National Library and other research and big public libraries also)
- 24 libraries - founders



The main objectives of the LMBA (1)

- promotion of the creation of virtual libraries, preparation and implementation of advanced technology and innovative projects in the libraries
- subscription to electronic databases for Consortium members and other libraries
- co-ordination of the acquisition of foreign periodicals among research libraries
- development of Interlibrary Loans among Consortium members



The main objectives of the LMBA (2)

- defending the freedom of reading and creation of the possibilities to the users to access information resources in libraries and remote databases without any restrictions
- encouragement of the professional development of librarians
- encouragement of the participation in the programmes and projects of the European Union (EU)
- co-operation with foreign and international library associations and other organisations with a relevant profile



The main activities of the LMBA

- Subscription to electronic databases for Consortium members and other libraries
- Advocacy:
 - Copyright issues
 - Open Access initiatives
- Knowledge sharing: trainings, distribution of the information via the internet and closed e-mail forum
- International co-operation



How we are working now: members

38 members (+ 2 on the waiting list):

- Academic (25)
- National library (1)
- County public libraries (5)
- Research institutes (2)
- Special libraries (5)



How we are working now: structure

- General meeting – highest body
(meetings 2-3/year)
- Elected President and the Board
(5 members)



How we are working now: staff

- Head of administration – part time
- Databases administrator – full time
- Book-keeper – part time
- Public tender procedures – part time



How we are working now: funding

- Joining fees ~ € 72
- Annual membership fees ~ € 128
- Database processing fees
- Grants for databases (government: Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Education and Science) – partial funding
- Projects (eIFL.net, OSI, British Council Lithuania, Ministry of Culture, EU)



How we are working now: office

Under the auspices of the National Library
of Lithuania

Official address:

Gedimino Ave. 51
LT-01504 Vilnius
Lithuania





How we are working now: communication

- LMBA forum (closed electronic list) + skype, telephone, fax, eye-to-eye conversations
- Meetings (minutes)
- Publications, promotion materials
- Training courses (train-the-trainer)
- LMBA web-site

www.lmba.lt



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CONSORTIUM**



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Subscription to licensed e-resources: the process

- Trials for all LMBA libraries
- Negotiations
- Tenders
- Payments. All libraries do pay at least part of the subscription fee (7 years)
- Promotion, trainings
- Usage surveys







Licensed databases (start year 1999-2005)

Start year	Database
1999	EBSCO Publishing package (10 DB) 
2002	Science Direct
2002	SpringerLINK (untill 2003)
2003	Cambridge Journals Online (untill 2006) 
2003	Oxford Reference Online 
2003	ProQuest (untill 2006) 
2005	Emerald Fulltext 
2005	Integrum - Techno 
2005	GALE 
2005	Oxford University Press 




Licensed databases (start year 2006)

Start year	Database
2006	Blackwell Publishing
2006	SpringerLINK + Kluwer
2006	AMP Package 
2006	American Institute of Physics
2006	American Physical Society
2006	Euromonitor International / GMID
2006	Institute of Physics 
2006	SAGE 
2006	Wiley 



Licensed databases (start year 2007)

Start year	Database
2007	Grove Music Online
2007	Grove Art Online
2007	Oxford English Dictionary 
2007	Annual Reviews
2007	Lippincott Williams & Wilkins Custom
2007	11 databases via EBSCO Publishing
2007	SpringerLINK E-Books
2007	... negotiations with new database providers

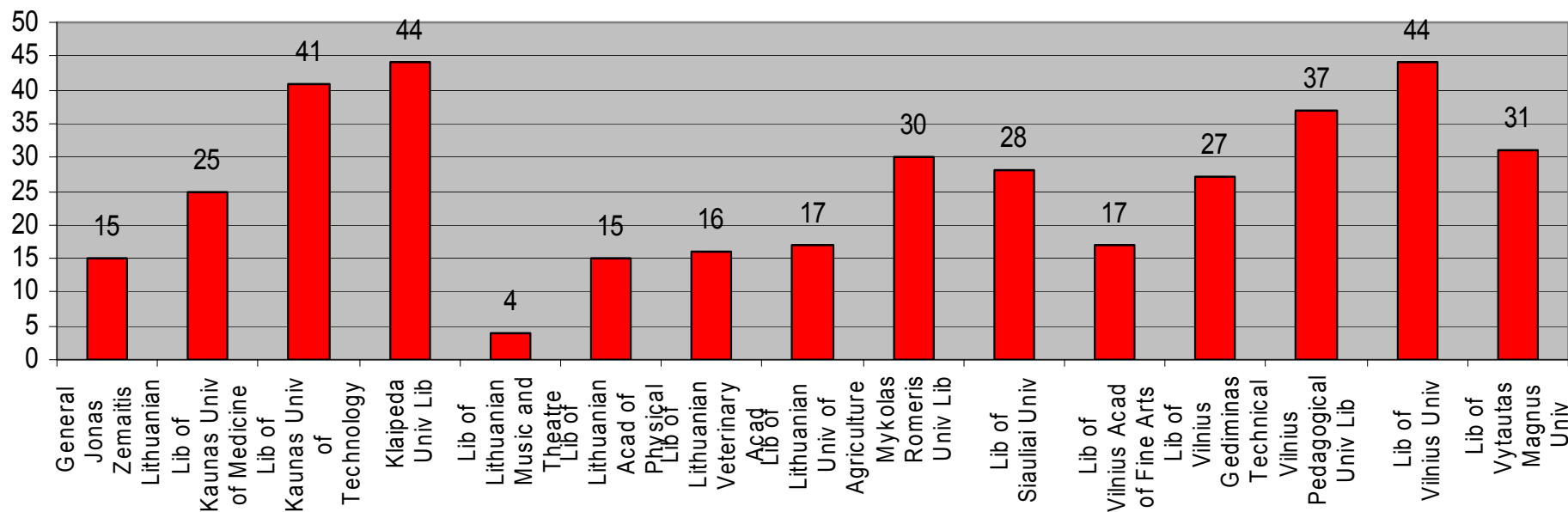


Some figures

- Member libraries subscribe to 65 databases via LMBA (not all are available to everybody):
http://www.lmba.it/XLS/LMBA_db_2007.xls
- 6 members (out of 38 members) do not subscribe to a single database
- 13 members (out of 38 members) subscribe to databases not only via LMBA
- 47 municipal public libraries (out of 65 non-members) subscribe to foreign databases via LMBA
- 18 municipal public libraries do not subscribe to foreign databases at all.



Number of DB subscribed by academic libraries



Who is paying?

- Open Society Fund-Lithuania – first promoter
- Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Education and Sciences
- Libraries

Costs saving:



Cost savings



- Participation in eFL.net project - since 1999
- Participation saves 90-99 % of actual DB price

Database	Number of institutions sharing the cost	Percentage Saved
AMP	3	95
IoP	5	96
CUP	10	98
OUP	19	99
ProQuest	21	99
APS	6	93
Gale	5	98
Sage	9	98
Wiley	15	99
Emerald	11	90
EBSCO	56	98

Support from the ministries (1)

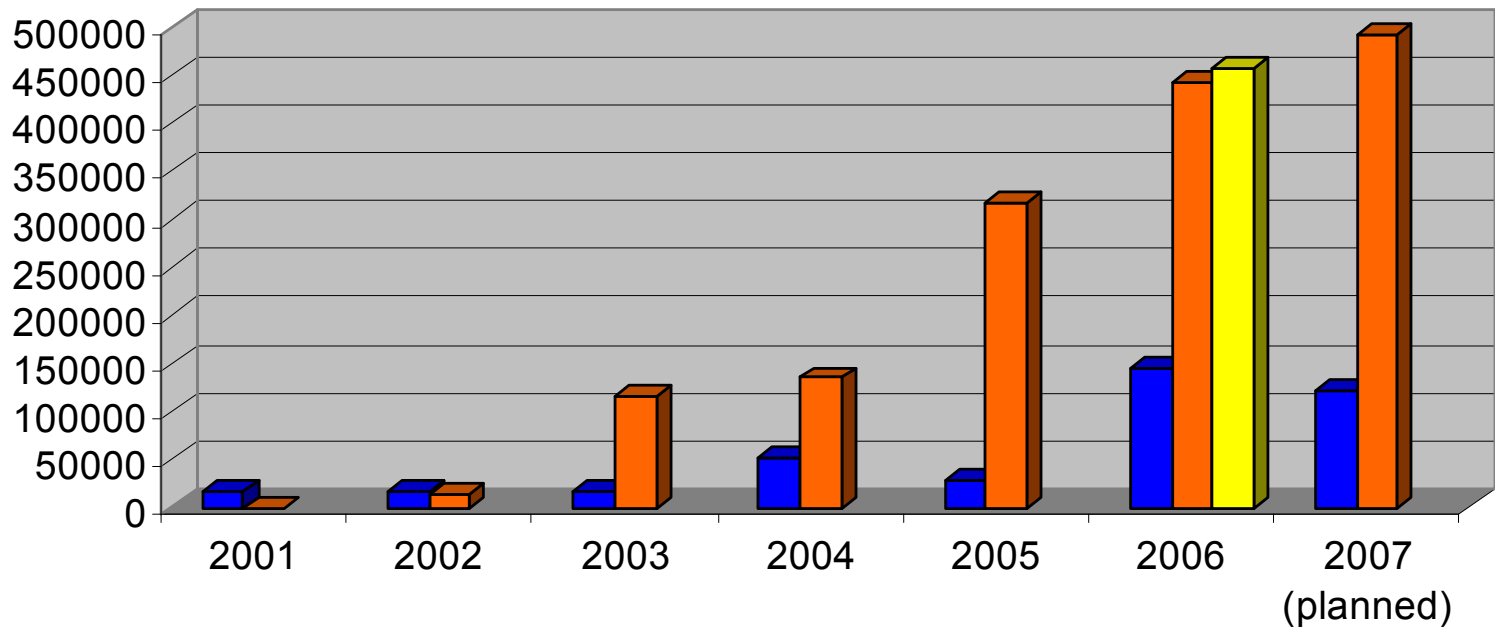
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (planned)
MC	€17377 60000Lt	€17377 60000Lt	€17377 60000Lt	€52131 180000Lt	€28962 10000Lt	€145527 502476Lt	€121061 418000Lt
MES	-	€13033 45000Lt	€115848 400000Lt	€134673 465000Lt	€317133 1095000Lt	€443119 1530000Lt	€492354 1700000Lt

- Only for the database subscription
- No funds for administration
- Libraries must cover part of the database cost





Support from the ministries in € (2)



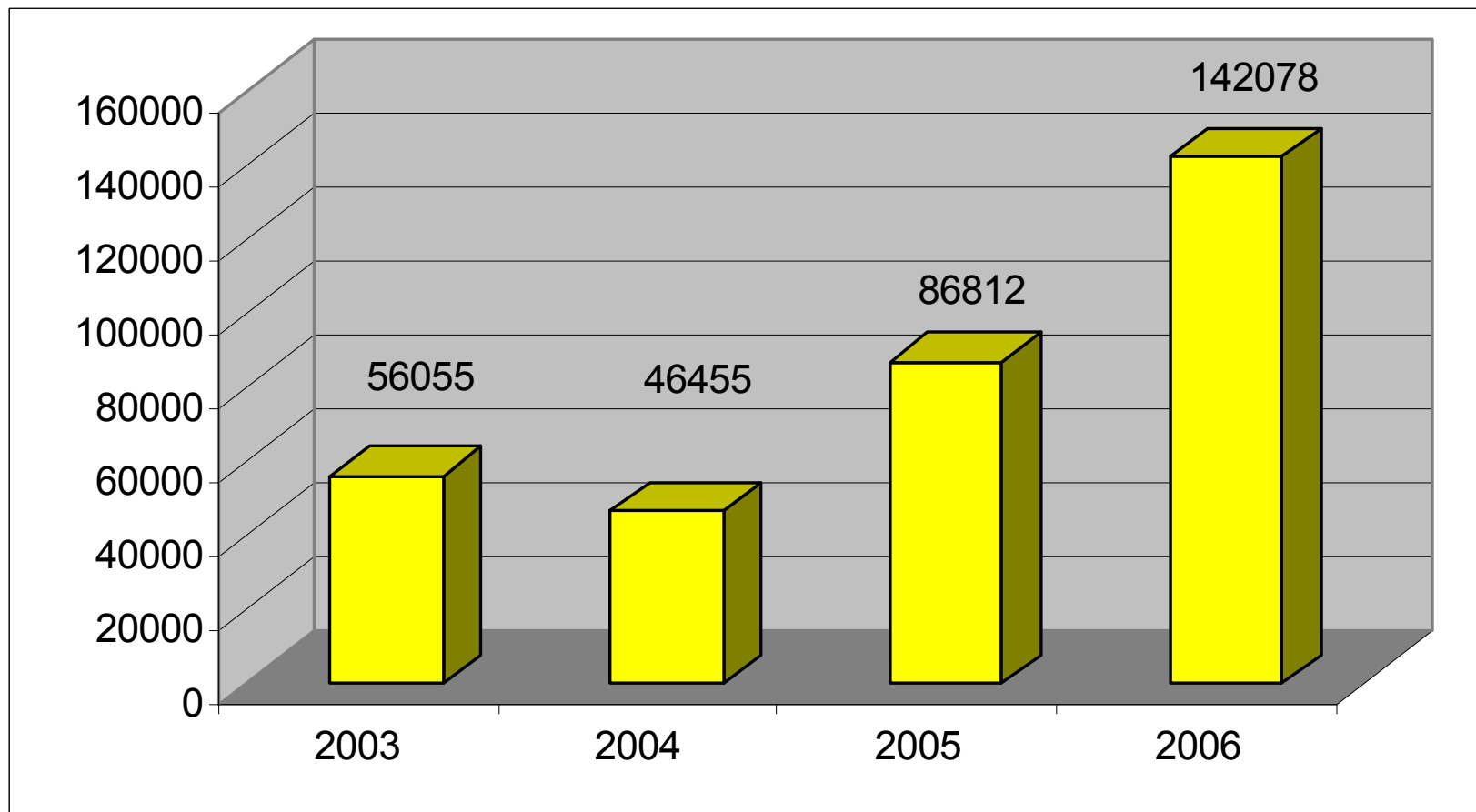
■ Ministry of Culture

■ Ministry of Education and Science

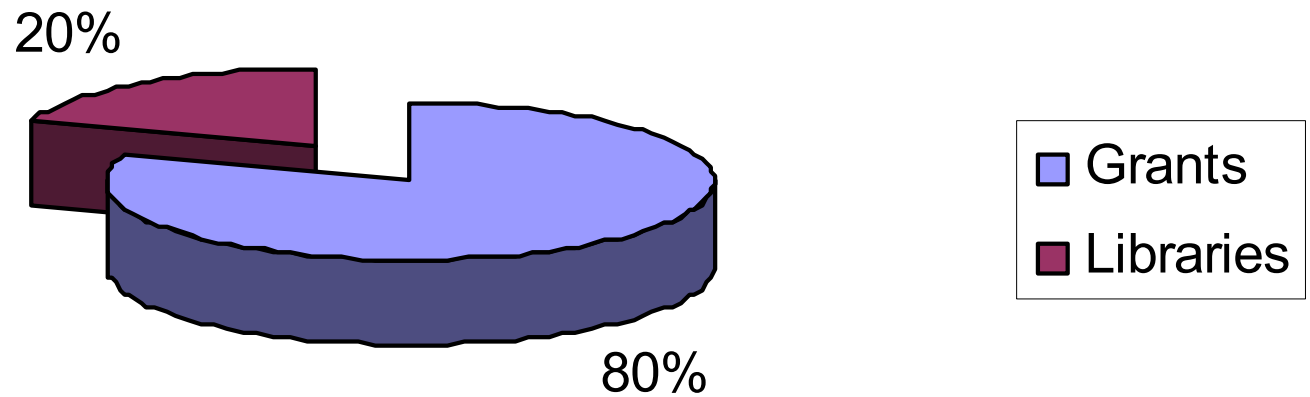
■ Ministry of Education and Science (LieMSIS)



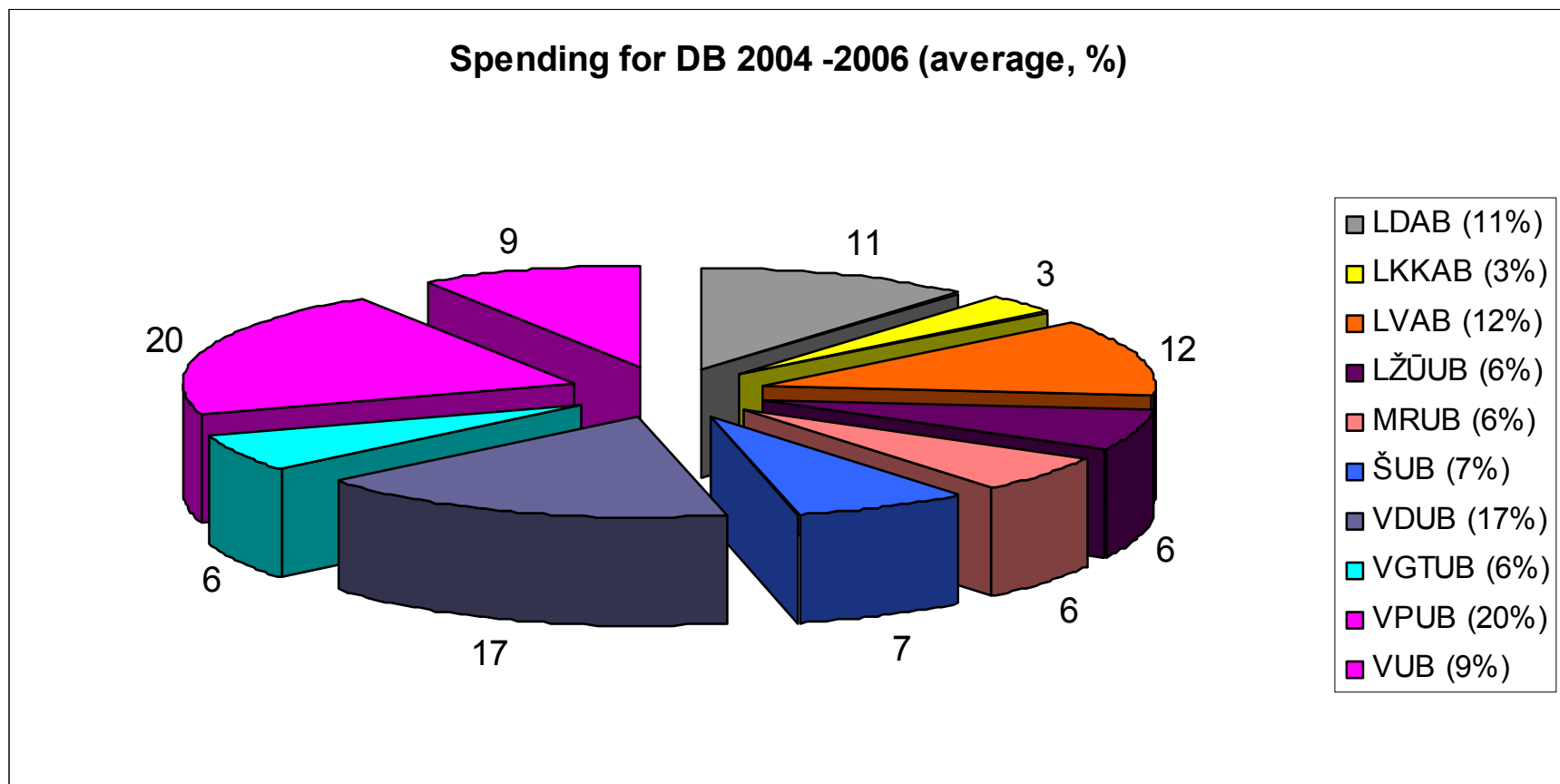
Libraries pay in €



Payment for databases



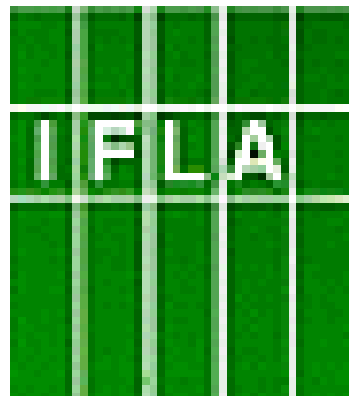
Spending for databases in academic libraries



Average – 9,7%, leader - KMUB - 37%



International co-operation





Why it is important to have the consortium?

Together we are the POWER:

- LMBA became strategic partner in scholarly communication
- Stakeholders trust us, we work together
- Researchers get much more information (still not all of them aware about subscribed DB)
- Librarians learned to work together, react quickly
- We have much more knowledge
- We are active internationally
- We save a lot