



Press release, 25<sup>th</sup> of July, 2012

### **Sailors will carry the spirit of entrepreneurship to the Black Sea ports**

#### ***30 selected students from the project "Captains of the Seven Seas" will challenge the Black Sea***

**This year, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of July, a unique youth entrepreneurship expedition will start, during which for the first time in Lithuania's history, a sailboat will circumnavigate the entire Black Sea. During the project "Captains of the Seven Seas", 30 top students in Lithuania will develop business relations with entrepreneurs from Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Russia and Georgia.**

"This project integrates various enterprise promotion methods and tools – lectures, workshops, camps, competitions, consultations with entrepreneurs and preparation of business plans. Expected sailboat trip will not only encourage entrepreneurial spirit of young people, but also will be a great challenge for youth teams starting their own businesses," says project coordinator Ilja Malkin.

More than 350 students and lecturers have expressed their willingness to participate in the project "Captains of the Seven Seas", which has started in May, 2012. However, only 160 were selected to participate in the first stage of the project. Under international development methodology, students are supported by 50 experienced entrepreneurs and experts. After an intense training cycle, creative camp and business ideas' presentations, 30 students were selected who will be traveling to gain international business skills.

"Our expedition is quite difficult because we intend to enter Ukraine, Russia and the Georgian border to sail. On the other hand, we emphasize that entrepreneurship promotes peaceful relations and public diplomacy is a noble mission that young people, students and business people engage in", says tour organizer and CEO of Public Enterprise "Gold of Lithuania" Donatas Juškus.

It is expected that youth entrepreneurial camp will last for 49 days, about 2,000 nautical miles will be sailed and more than 30 ports such as Istanbul (Turkey), Varna, Burgas (Bulgaria), Constanza (Romania), Yalta, Sevastopol, Feodosia, Odessa (Ukraine), Gelendzik, Sochi (Russia), Poti and Batumi (Georgia) will be visited. Expedition will come back to Istanbul along the northern coast of Turkey and will be the first crew of Lithuanian sailboat clockwise circumnavigated the Black Sea.

International youth project "Captains of the Seven Seas" is conducted by Lithuanian Business Employers' Confederation (LVDK) and supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania and Vilnius City Municipality. Sailing expedition is organized by the Public Enterprise "Gold of Lithuania", famous for the 2009-2011 historical reconstructive journey to the Holy Land. Captain of the crew will be Darius Vinkevičius who will lead the historic ship built in Lithuania and called "Reliant'59".

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About the project: [www.kapitonai.lt](http://www.kapitonai.lt)

Organizers: [www.goldoflithuania.com](http://www.goldoflithuania.com)

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