



# **Challenges of Training in Public Health and Health Management in Lithuania**

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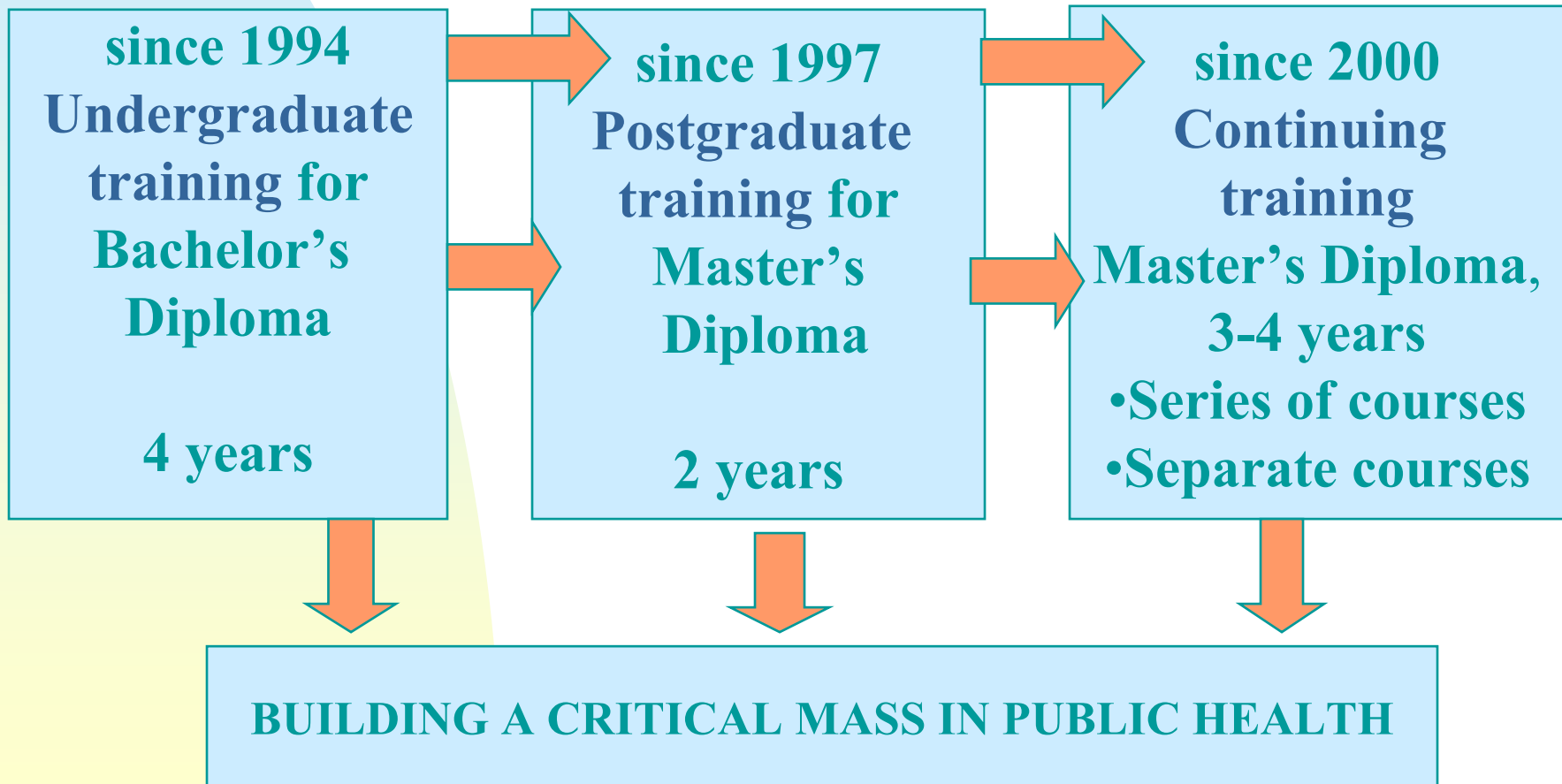
# Introduction

- Lithuania is undertaking a large reform of health system (including reform in health care personnel education and activities)
- There is lack of newly trained public health specialists and managers of health services

# **The aim of the presentation**

**To review successes and pitfalls in development of training programs for public health professionals and health managers in Kaunas University of Medicine, Lithuania**

# Public health and health management training at the faculty of Public Health



# **Project BRIMHEALTH - first large scale international structural project, focused on public health after restoration of Independency in 1991**

**INITIATED AND FINANCED** by the Nordic Council of Ministers

**AIM OF THE PROJECT - to ensure development of proper public health functions in the Baltic countries**

**OUTCOMES:**

- **Accumulation of intellectual teaching capacities for the national training institutions;**
- **Networking and collaborating between the broader range of Nordic/Baltic Public Health institutions**

**PROJECT CONTINUITY - Baltic International School of Public Health (consortium) established in 2001**

# **Project TEMPUS – initiated and financed by EU structural development agencies (1996 - 1999)**

**AIM OF THE PROJECT - to establish Master program for public health managers**

## **OUTCOMES:**

- **Master program in Management of Public Health was developed;**
- **New teaching methods were implemented;**
- **Computer facilities and classrooms were provided;**
- **Continuing training in Management of Public Health started**

## **PROJECT CONTINUITY**

- **Project on ‘Health Information Systems’ has started;**
- **Regional Public Health Observatory was established in 2001**

# Challenges faced

- **Different understanding about forms and content of the training in modern public health and health management;**
- **Lack of trainers;**
- **Language problems;**
- **Lack of literature available;**
- **Lack of computerized auditoriums, libraries**

# Key factors for success

- **General strategy for development;**
- **Common vision and consensus of politicians, academic institutions and professionals;**
- **International collaboration and multilateral support;**
- **Training of local trainers;**
- **Strengthening of public health research;**
- **Continuity and sustainability of training programs**



# Next steps

## Local and National level:

Development of School of Public Health as CONSORTIUM – network of collaborating academic institutions on the local and national scale

## Baltic Regional level:

Collaboration and networking with the countries of the Baltic Sea Region in the framework of Baltic Rim International School of Public Health - BRIMHEALTH and Task Force initiatives

## International level:

- ASPHER and OSI project in Quality Development of Public Health Training Programs
- Providing ASPHER PEER review and accreditation of public health training programs at Kaunas University of Medicine
- Networking with European Master in European Public Health Programs (ASPHER initiative) and other OSI initiatives

# Our expectations

The people engaged in public health and health management must act as powerful advocates for health, taking comprehensive integrated approach. Fortunately, they will assure the success of health care reform in Lithuania