

Lietuvos Respublikos Ministras Pirmininkas
Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania

Dr. Boris Aleshin
President of ISO

Mr. Jacob Holmblad
Vice-President (Technical Management)

Dr. Yoshiki Mikami
Chairman of JTC1/SC2

Mr. Mike Ksar
Chairman of JTC1/ SC2/ WG2

and other persons concerned

International Organization for Standardization
ISO Central Secretariat
1, ch. de la Voie-Creuse
CP 56, CH-1211 Geneva 20

19-05-2011 Nr. 63-LL60

Re: CONTEMPORARY LITHUANIAN ALPHABET ACCENTED LETTERS

Dear Sirs,

I would hereby like to address you on the issue of the inclusion of the full scope of the Lithuanian accented letters in the new version of the ISO/IEC 10646 standard and the UNICODE.

As a matter of fact, the contemporary Lithuanian alphabet accented letters are widely used in Lithuania and are essential for the maintenance of the Lithuanian State Terminology Database, the publishing of Lithuanian standards (terminology chapters), Lithuanian schoolbooks, dictionaries, scientific and linguistic publications, as well as official and judicial documents. Pupils learn accented letters during several years of primary school.

Unfortunately, a considerable part of the Lithuanian accented letters has no UNICODE positions appointed to them, nor are they included in ISO/IEC 10646. The Lithuanian language – the only one from the European Union – cannot properly represent its own linguistic and cultural needs. Fully-fledged Lithuanian texts are unavailable to the international community and to the Lithuanians. The present situation causes considerable obstacles for the localization of computer software, and prevents from

using multi-language applications deployed outside Lithuania, and as a result – does not provide equal opportunities to use information technology for the Lithuanian-speaking people and creates a threat of losing a part of our cultural heritage.

Therefore, considering the above, it would be very helpful if the UNICODE Consortium decision preventing new precomposed characters were reconsidered, and UNICODE positions appointed to the missing Lithuanian accented letters in the new version of the ISO/IEC 10646 standard and the UNICODE. In fact, the accented letters of other EU languages have long had their own UNICODE coding, and neither composition sequences nor Private Use Area (suggested alternative solution by ISO) have been used for their input.


As you may be aware, Lithuania today is a full member of ISO and P-member of ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2. Currently, a proper technical proposal is in preparation to be submitted in due time for consideration during next ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2 meeting.

I would highly appreciate your support in this matter of the national relevance. Please find a more detailed explanation of the problem and the rationale as presented in the Annex.

Annex – 6 pages

Yours faithfully,

Andrius Kubilius

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrius Kubilius', written in a cursive style.



LIETUVOS STANDARTIZACIJOS DEPARTAMENTAS

LITHUANIAN STANDARDS BOARD

T. Kosciuskos str. 30, LT-01100 Vilnius, Lithuania Telephone +370 5 270 9360 Fax +370 5 212 6252 E-mail: lstboard@lsd.lt
<http://www.lsd.lt>

To: ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2 Convener 2011-12-15 No. (7.9)S- 429
 Attn: Mr. Michael Y. Ksar
 E-mail: mikeksar@gmail.com
 Recording Secretary
 Attn: V.S. (Uma) Umamaheswaran, Ph.D.
 E-mail: umavs@ca.ibm.com

Copy: International Organization for
 Standardization (ISO)
 Secretary-General
 Attn: Mr. Rob Steele
 E-mail: central@iso.org

ISO/IEC JTC 1 Secretariat
 Attn: Mrs. Lisa Rajchel
 E-mail: lrajchel@ansi.org

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2 Secretariat
 Attn: Ms. Toshiko Kimura
 E-mail: kimura@itscj.ipsj.or.jp

CONTEMPORARY LITHUANIAN ALPHABET ACCENTED LETTERS

Lithuanian Standards Board (LST) addresses you again on the issue of inclusion of the Lithuanian accented letters in the new version of ISO/IEC 10646 standard (as amendment) and the UNICODE.

In May, LST prepared and provided to ISO, ISO/IEC JTC1, subcommittee SC 2 and WG 2 the letter from Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania accompanying with the Rationale supporting this very important issue for Lithuanians and foreign society.

The contemporary Lithuanian alphabet accented letters are national heritage and widely used in Lithuania for maintenance of the Lithuanian State Terminology Database, publishing of Lithuanian standards (terminology chapters), Lithuanian schoolbooks, dictionaries, scientific and linguistic publications, official and judicial documents as well as abroad for study and research of Lithuanian language. The Lithuanian language can't be discriminated against other languages of World nations.

LST consider that Lithuanian accented letters are not yet included in ISO/IEC 10646 and Unicode due to insufficient and incomplete evidentiary material provided in 2006, why it is so very important for Lithuania. The new Proposal has more considerable argumentation and based on strong examples that representation (using composed sequences) of accented Lithuanian letters is not correctly accepted by software implementers. Lithuania hopes very much, that ISO/IEC/JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2 will take into account the new Proposal, estimate the losses for Lithuanian authorities, science institutions, publishers, software producers and other people due to absence of opportunity to use properly Lithuanian accented letters in the IT environment (projects' cost increases up to 25-30 %).

Hereby the LST provides the new updated Technical Proposal prepared by Mr. Vladas Tumasonis for including into the agenda and consideration during the 59th meeting ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2 in Mountain View, CA, U.S.A, 13-17 February, 2012.

This updated Technical Proposal is supported by various interested parties of Lithuania (Prime Minister, Parliament, authorities, scientific institutes, producers and service providers, etc.) and from abroad (see attached supporting letters). We are kindly asking high-level experts of WG2 to support our more motivated Proposal and consider it as a new technical and not only political issue. We know the political decision of JTC1 not to add new Latin precomposed characters and understand motivation, but this decision has been adopted before our declaration of vital needs of Lithuanian writing. Being a National Standards Body of Lithuania, LST strongly believes that our Proposal to add new Latin characters will secure normalization stability and serve as a good example of international standardization flexibility.

- Attachments:
1. The Technical Proposal (updated, 20 pages);
 2. The letter from Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania (2 pages);
 3. The letter from Secretary General of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania (1 page);
 4. The letters of support (7 pages).

Yours sincerely,



Brunonas Šičkus
Director

**UŽDAROJI AKCINĖ INFORMACIJOS TECHNOLOGIJOS BENDROVĖ „FOTONIJA“**

L.Giros g. 4-34, LT-06325 Vilnius,

tel. +370 618 28942,

el. paštas info@fotonija.lt

TO WHOM IT CONCERNS

2011-11-29

Inclusion of the contemporary Lithuanian accented letters in the ISO/IEC 10646 and the UNICODE

The Joint-Stock Company „Fotonija“ wants to emphasize that there are some problems due to absence of Lithuanian accented letters in the international standard ISO/IEC 10646 and the UNICODE:

1. The JSC “Fotonija” produces computer-based dictionaries for Windows, Mac OS X and iOS platforms. Because some of Lithuanian accented letters are absent in the Unicode, it is necessary to use the composed sequences or custom-built fonts. The usage of composed sequences reduces the quality and acceptability of displayed information very much, and the custom-built fonts worsen the properties of the cross-platform software (e. g. there is no possibility to use the custom-built fonts in the smart phones). This aggravates and raises cost of our production (up to approx. 30 %) and worsens its quality and competitive ability. General losses estimated during creation of the computer dictionaries containing Lithuanian accented letters can be estimated to be about 20 % of the project costs.
2. The JSC “Fotonija” produces Lithuanian spell checkers as well as specialized keyboard drivers which are suitable for typing the texts with Lithuanian accented letters. All these products become more expensive by 15 % and are of restricted functionality (e.g. it is impossible to hyphenate a text with composed sequences in any area of MS Office - because some accented letters are absent in the Unicode).
3. The JSC “Fotonija” develops the document search systems for Lithuanian. The situation is nearly catastrophic in this field. Due to the absence of Lithuanian accented letters in the Unicode, a considerable part of information in Lithuanian texts (administrative laws, textbooks, manuals) is inaccessible. A partial solution of this problem by ad hoc means raises the cost of such projects up to 25 % and more.

For the reasons detailed above we strongly support and endorse the Initiative of the Lithuanian Standards Board (LST) to incorporate the Lithuanian accented letters in the ISO/IEC 10646 standard and the UNICODE.

Director General
of JSC “Fotonija”

Arūnas Samuilis

**LITHUANIAN STUDIES SOCIETY
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

P.O. Box 777, Sandy Bay, Tas. 7006, Australia.

E-mail: A.Taskunas@utas.edu.au Phone + 3 6225 2505

Commonwealth Bank account No. 06 7102 00904299

ABN Registration No. 57 171 968 416

13 December, 2011

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

**RE: Inclusion of the current accented Lithuanian alphabet letters
in the ISO/IEC 10646 and UNICODE**

All Lithuanian texts used in the teaching of the Lithuanian language at this University are fully "accented", that is, they contain the standard marks for the grave stress, the acute intonation and the circumflex intonation (tilde). This marking is essential, because it is not enough to know where to stress a given Lithuanian word; the manner in which we pronounce the stressed syllable can vary in three different ways.

Modern technology has facilitated the printing and distribution of teaching texts, grammar books and reference sources. However, none of these aids can fulfill their purpose unless they are complete and easily copied.

We have in the past used computers and word processors that could not produce a completely "accented" Lithuanian text in one motion. This necessitated a second run to add the intonation symbols; or the symbols were inserted by hand. The latter alternative meant, of course, that the final product was fixed and inflexible. As a result, it was limited in its application: it could not be electronically corrected, updated or e-mailed.

For the reasons detailed above we strongly support and endorse the initiative of Lithuanian Standards Board (LST) to incorporate the Lithuanian accented letters in the ISO/IEC 10646 standard and UNICODE.

signed (Dr.) Algimantas P. Taškūnas, OAM, Ph.D., C.D.,
Honorary Research Professor,
School of Government, University of Tasmania (Australia).



International Organisation for Standardization

24/11/2011, Our ref.: 01-6-421

Re: STRESSED LETTERS OF THE LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE

The Institute of the Lithuanian Language supports the efforts to include Lithuanian stressed letters into the international standard ISO/IEC 10646 and UNICODE. Stressed letters of the Lithuanian language is an inseparable and necessary element of the Lithuanian language, one of the official European Union languages.

Stress and intonation perform a distinctive function in the Lithuanian language and serve to differentiate words and word forms, hence using stress and intonation symbols is a precondition for the official usage of the Lithuanian language and the dissemination of lituanistic resources around the globe. Stress symbols have to be used both in dictionaries, directories and in terminology and the official names of places that can be found in the legislation, among other things. There are several original Lithuanian fonts to address these needs, which are just not enough when it comes to more complex or specific applications. Besides, designing original fonts demands a lot of funding, and one needs to remember that modern publishing business requires having both standard and transitional fonts. Technological advancement spawns publishing automation tools of an increasing degree of complexity and intelligence that are used to facilitate and accelerate the process of publishing, however their application also involves a certain amount of inconvenience pertaining to the usage of stressed letters.

The absence of stressed letters in the international standard and UNICODE makes it impossible to design web pages in a reliable way so that every browser will display stressed letters properly. The Institute of the Lithuanian Language is not in a position to freely publish dictionaries, databases and other linguistic resources that are required by linguists all over the world on the Internet, because a lot of these resources consist of stressed text. Customising it so that it is supported by different web browsers is a highly time- and money-consuming process.

Jolanta Zabarskaitė

Director

D. Vaišnienė, 263 73 41



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS
RYŠIŲ REGULIAVIMO TARNYBA**
COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

06.12.2011 Our ref: (35.1) 1B-4765

**INCLUSION THE CONTEMPORARY LITHUANIAN ALPHABET ACCENTED
LETTERS IN THE ISO/IEC 10646 AND UNICODE**

The Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania, being concerned in ensuring a variety of technologically progressive, top quality, safe and affordable information and communications technologies as well as in creating favorable conditions for information and communication technologies' development, in this way promoting information and knowledge society progress, strongly supports and endorses the initiative of Lithuanian Standards Board (LST) to incorporate the Lithuanian accented letters in the ISO/IEC 10646 standard and UNICODE.

Feliksas Dobrovolskis
Director

Contact: Dalius Kontrimavičius, tel. +370 5 210 5684, el. p. dalius.kontrimavicius@rrt.lt

State budgetary agency

Code 121442211

VAT code LT 214422113

Register: The register of legal entities

27A Algirdo str.

LT-03219 Vilnius

Lithuania

Tel. + 370 5 210 5623/33

Fax + 370 5 216 1564

E-mail: rrt@rrt.lt

Web site: www.rrt.lt

Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main
Fachbereich Sprach- und Kulturwissenschaften

Mr. Brunonas Sickus
Director of the Lithuanian Standards
Board (LST)
Vilnius
Lithuania

Sprach- und Kulturwissenschaften

Vergleichende Sprachwissenschaft

Prof. Dr. Jost Gippert

Bearbeiter/in
Aktenzeichen:

Telefon +49 (0)69-798 25054
Telefax +49 (0)69-798 22873
E-Mail gippert@em.uni-frankfurt.de

<http://titus.uni-frankfurt.de/personal/gippertj.htm>

Datum: 29. November 2011

Inclusion of accented letters used in the contemporary Lithuanian alphabet in the standards of ISO/IEC 10646 and UNICODE

Dear Mr Sickus,

I strongly support and endorse the Initiative of the Lithuanian Standards Board (LST) to incorporate the Lithuanian accented letters in the ISO/IEC 10646 standard and UNICODE. These characters are indispensable for all kinds of linguistic work on Lithuanian as well as educational purposes concerning this language. The unavailability of unique code-points for these characters has hampered the development of language-related tools and databases for long and has led to a considerable technological gap in dealing with Lithuanian in comparison with other intonation-sensitive languages such as Ancient Greek, Vietnamese, or (Pin-Yin) Chinese.

Sincerely,



(Prof. Dr. Jost Gippert)

December 1, 2011, Vilnius

TO WHOM IT CONCERNS

Inclusion of the contemporary Lithuanian alphabet accented letters in the ISO/IEC 10646 and UNICODE

Both public sector and private companies of the Republic of Lithuania pay ultimate attention to the effective usage of technologies. In order to perform different tasks, vast variety of technologies is being used, therefore, it is natural that all of them face challenges related to the need to harmonize different manufacturers' systems.

INFOBALT association promotes innovation and diversity fostering the formation of neutral and competitive information and communication technology policy, which shall allow all participants equal access to Lithuanian market as well as digital access of Lithuanian cultural heritage and other resources from abroad by means of internationally recognised and market-accepted software solutions.

Public sector and businesses of the Republic of Lithuania face real risks that emerge when technologies and solutions produced by foreign manufacturers cannot be implemented, because they do not support the usage of the Lithuanian accented letters.

For the reasons detailed above INFOBALT association strongly supports and endorses the Initiative of Lithuanian Standards Board (LST) to incorporate the Lithuanian accented letters in the ISO/IEC 10646 standard and UNICODE.

Sincerely,

The President of INFOBALT association



Evaldas Kulbokas



**INFORMATION SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
UNDER THE MINISTRY TRANSPORTT AND COMMUNICATION**

Code 188772433 Vilniaus str. 7, LT-01103 Vilnius Lithuania Tel. +370 5 2665161 Fax. +370 5 2665180
www.ivpk.lt info@ivpk.lt

TO WHOM IT CONCERNS

Inclusion the contemporary Lithuanian alphabet accented letters in the ISO/IEC 10646 and UNICODE

Lithuanian alphabet accented letters are widely used in Lithuania and are essential for maintenance of Lithuanian State Terminology Database, publishing of Lithuanian standards (terminology chapters), Lithuanian schoolbooks, dictionaries, scientific and linguistic publications, as well as official and judicial documents.

Lithuanian language is used by approximately 4 million people (about 3.5 million in Lithuania and about 0.5 million in the rest of the world (mostly in the USA).

Lithuanian accented letters have no UNICODE positions appointed to them, aren't included in ISO/IEC 10646 and for this can't properly represent linguistic and cultural needs.

For the reasons detailed above we strongly support and endorse the Initiative of Lithuanian Standards Board (LST) to incorporate the Lithuanian accented letters in the ISO/IEC 10646 standard and UNICODE.

Director

Valdas Kisonas



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMO KANCELIARIJA
OFFICE OF THE SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

State budgetary institution Gedimino pr. 53, LT-01109 Vilnius, LITHUANIA Tel.: + 370 5 239 6008 / 239 6245
Fax + 370 5 239 6460 E-mail kvadsek@lrs.lt CODE IN STATE REGISTER OF LEGAL ENTITIES 1886 05295

12-12-2011 Nr. *5-2011-1112*

To whom it may concern

REGARDING LITHUANIAN ALPHABET ACCENTED LETTERS

Dear Sir or Madam,

Nowadays Lithuanian alphabet accented letters are widely used in Lithuania and are essential for maintenance of Lithuanian State Terminology Database as well as for publishing of Lithuanian standards (terminology chapters), Lithuanian schoolbooks, dictionaries, scientific and linguistic publications, also for legislation. Accented Lithuanian alphabet characters are indispensable for electronic publication of legal acts on Internet and for maintenance of Legal Acts Data Bases.

Lithuanian accented letters have no UNICODE positions appointed to them, and are not included into ISO/IEC 10646 either. Lithuanian language – the only one in European Union – is not able to represent properly linguistic, legislative and cultural needs. The fully-fledged Lithuanian texts are not available to international community or inside the Lithuania. Present situation can be treated as discriminative to Lithuanian language, one of current, usable EU languages.

The optimal way of solving the problem could be revising the UNICODE Consortium decision not to allow new pre-composed characters, and on this basis an appointment of UNICODE positions for the missing Lithuanian accented letters in the new version of the UNICODE and ISO/IEC 10646 standard. The accented letters of other languages have got their own UNICODE coding for a long time already and neither composition sequences nor PUA (Private Use Area) are being used for their input. Negative impact on accented letters presentations according the situation described above can be provided in various examples of explorers, outlooks and other applications.

I highly appreciate your support for successful solution on our national issue. More wide explanations of our problem and rationale are presented in documents, given by competent authorities and experts of this field.

Sincerely yours,

Jonas Milerius

Secretary General of the Seimas (Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania)