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Partnership between the European Commission  
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth

# **COUNTRY SHEET ON YOUTH POLICY IN LITHUANIA**



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## **1 Context of national youth policy (give a brief assessment of youth policy in your country (achievements, problems, obstacles, tendencies ...))**

The wish to ensure the sustainability of the emerging youth initiative and its development has resulted in the present model of youth policy. In the framework of this model non-governmental organizations have a special priority status. The State has to provide favourable conditions to encourage and support non-governmental youth organizations. Youth NGO's are expected to become increasingly stronger over time and to take over the responsibilities formerly belonging to the public sector. Institutional structure of youth policy implementing bodies is getting stronger on local level. On local level there are active regional councils and "Round tables".

For the first time in the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for the years 2004-2008 there was an article on youth policy, which was ensured in the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for the years 2006-2008. The new Programme of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania was established for the years 2008-2011. At the moment the measures of this programme are getting ready.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2007 the Prime Ministers of Poland and Lithuania signed an agreement on the Polish-Lithuanian Youth Exchange Fund. Fund was established in order to bring the two nations closer by:

- Promoting the development of the trans-boundary co-operation;
- Developing actively the friendly and good-neighbourly relations;
- Inspiring cultural cooperation and promoting tolerance.

The aims of this fund are: 1) exchange of Polish and Lithuanian youth; 2) sharing good practice between Polish and Lithuanian organizations working with youth and active in the field of youth policy; like seminars and trainings; 3) projects, which are organized and implementation by organizations, promoting youth exchange and other initiatives between Lithuanian and Polish youth; 4) events, meetings and other initiatives of Polish and Lithuanian Youth Exchange Fund; 5) information initiatives aimed at inspiring cultural cooperation, promoting tolerance and better understanding between Polish and Lithuania youth; 6) publications fostering closer links between people of Poland and Lithuania; 7) other initiatives.

## **2. Statistics on young people**

Total number of young people from the ages 14 and 29: 802.357 thousand (Source: Department of Statistics to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, 2009).

Percentage of young people from the ages 14 and 29: 23,95 % of total population. Percentage of young women: 11,72 %; percentage of young men: 12,23 % (Source: Department of Statistics to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, 2009).

### 3. Actors and Structures

#### 3.1 Public authorities

##### 3.1.1 National public authorities:

Ministry in charge of youth

- Name of ministry

**Ministry of Social Security and Labour**, [www.socmin.lt](http://www.socmin.lt)

- Minister

Mr. Donatas JANKAUSKAS

- Duration of mandate

1 year 3 months (from 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2009)

**The Department of Financial Social Assistance, Children and Youth in the Ministry of Social Security and Labour**

- Number of people who work in the Department of Financial Social Assistance, Children and Youth in the Ministry of Social Security and Labour

14

- Director of the Department of Financial Social Assistance, Children and Youth in the Ministry of Social Security and Labour

Mrs. Violeta Murauskaite

- Contact person in the Department of Financial Social Assistance, Children and Youth in the Ministry of Social Security and Labour competent for European youth policy

Mrs. Violeta Murauskaite, the Director of the Department of Financial Social Assistance, Children and Youth in the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Tel.: +370 5 2664 265, e-mail: [violeta.murauskaite@socmin.lt](mailto:violeta.murauskaite@socmin.lt)

**The Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour**, [www.jrd.lt](http://www.jrd.lt)

- Main tasks of the Department of Youth Affairs

Main functions: prepare and implement state youth policy programmes and measures, analyse the condition of the youth and youth organisations in Lithuania, co-ordinate the activities of state and municipal institutions as well as agencies in the field of youth policy, carry out other activities related to youth and youth organisations.

- Number of people who work in the Department of Youth Affairs

13 persons

- Director ad Interim of the Department of Youth Affairs  
Mr. Juozas Meldziukas
- Contact person in the Department of Youth Affairs competent for European youth policy  
Mr. Juozas Meldziukas, the Director ad Interim of the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Tel.: +370 5 2497 335, e-mail: [juozas.meldziukas@jrd.lt](mailto:juozas.meldziukas@jrd.lt)

### **Other national public bodies who are directly involved in youth policies:**

Council of Youth Affairs is a consultative body to the Director of the Department of Youth Affairs (JRD).

The organizational structure of the Council of Youth Affairs is as follows:

- Six members of the Council are appointed from the state institutions. At the moment the Council of Youth Affairs includes executive officers from the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Government. As a rule the chairperson of the Council of Youth Affairs is a representative of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.
- Lithuanian Youth Council (LiJOT) nominates the other six members to the Council of Youth Affairs; one of them usually has the position of the vice-chair. These nominees to the Council of Youth Affairs must be leaders or employees of youth organizations and they must have relevant experience and knowledge. Several actors in the youth work field must also support them before they are registered as candidates.

### **Parliament commission in charge of youth issues:**

- Name  
Commission on Youth and Sport Affairs of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania
- name of president / chair  
Mr. Zilvinas Silgalis
- role and competence

Main tasks: 1. Formation and Implementation of youth policy; 2. Formation and Implementation of sport policy. Main functions of the Commission: 1) Consideration of youth questions concerning: education, local work with youth and social problems; 2) consideration of youth questions concerning drug and other forms of abuses, prevention of crimes; 3) taking care of youth employment, accommodation, problems of young families; 4) and others.

#### *3.1.2 Regional public authorities with competencies in the youth field*

In Lithuania structures with competences youth affairs are established at national and local level but not at regional level yet.

### *3.1.3 Local public authorities with competencies in the youth field*

Since 2003 in all municipalities administration the incumbency of youth policy coordinators was established. The position is funded from national budget. Main activities of the youth coordinator are: 1. To coordinate youth policy implementation on the level of municipality; 2. To systemize and analyze the situation of youth; 3. To prepare and spread information about the implementation of youth policy; 4. To implement the decisions of Youth Affairs Council in the municipality; 5. To inform youth organization about the possibility to get support for their activities; 6. To give consultations for youth, how to apply for different programs; 7. To participate in different working groups; 8. To represent youth position; 9. To organize trainings for youth, and etc.

The Municipality councils for youth affairs are formed on the principle of parity for the members of municipality council, administration servants, and youth (organisations) representatives. Local youth councils are open for young people who do not necessarily need to be active in local youth organisations. Municipality council is an agency with an advisory vote; its long term goal is to ensure youth participation in topical decision making processes. Youth representatives in the councils have an opportunity to recognise youth demands and possibilities, youth interest with the interests of the entire community, better understand democratic decision-making and implementation procedures. At the moment those municipality councils are established in 46 municipalities (out of 60). Activities performed by the municipality council for youth affairs are most often regarded as: 1. Prepares offers and general information regarding youth policy implementation to the mayor, council, municipality administration and etc.; 2. Prepares municipality programmes targeted for youth, gives recommendations regarding financial support for the project activities; 3. Analyses youth issues and demands; 4. Analyses foreign experience on youth policy issues; 5. Gathers information about activities of youth NGOs and municipality institutions targeted for youth; 6. Initiates sociological and statistical researches in the municipality youth situations; 7. Assists youth NGOs in finding premises for their activities.

## **3.2 Youth welfare services (comprising public and/or non public actors)**

Structure and major organisations of (voluntary) social welfare and social services for young people

There are 11 Youth work centres in Lithuania (Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipeda, Siauliai, Panevezys, Alytus, Marijampole, Akmene, Taurage, Telsiai, Utena). The main target of Youth work centres is the raise of competitiveness of youth. In seeking of job, it is attempted to proceed by: creating the opportunities to learn the labour market; assisting to select the appropriate job or training

institution; organising the labour - and social adaptation; providing of open information, consultancy, guidance, psycho-social adaptation, self - instructed services.

Open work with youth centres are established under the program of the Department of Youth Affairs. In 2010 there were 10 projects supported. These centres are orientated to open space for leisure activities for young people.

Also there are Public information services in libraries, where all needful information is provided.

Youth entrepreneurship centres are establishing in each region. These centres are orientated to promote youth entrepreneurship, to encourage young people to become enterprising and to learn to use their own and local communities' possibilities.

Each municipality has a *day centre* for children. Such centres render social favour for risk group children and theirs families and help them to integrate into society.

### **3.3 Non-public actors/structures & youth services with competencies in the youth field**

#### *3.3.1 Youth councils*

The Council of Lithuanian Youth Organizations (LiJOT) is a self-dependent, voluntary union of non-governmental youth organizations and regional unions of youth organizations. At the moment is uniting 59 national and regional non-governmental youth organisations.

*Main aims:* 1. Promote youth initiative, 2. Promote youth mutual understanding and co-operation, 3. Promote activities useful and constructive for the state and society, 4. Represent youth interests for Lithuanian governmental institutions.

*Activities:* 1. Representation of youth interests; 2. Realization of Lithuanian State Youth Policy Concept; 3. Training of youth leaders; 4. Development of international relations; 5. Providing youth with information.

Contact person: Sarunas Frolenko, President of LiJOT, Tel.: +370 5 279 1280, e-mail: [prezidentas@lijot.lt](mailto:prezidentas@lijot.lt), [www.lijot.lt](http://www.lijot.lt).

There are also regional youth councils in municipalities. The councils are usually named "Round Table" and they are associations of youth organisations at municipal level. At the moment those organizations are established in 18 municipalities (out of 60). 10 councils are members of LiJOT.

*Main activities:* 1. involve young people into the organisation and its work; 2. work with the members and volunteers, 3. train youth leaders, youth workers and volunteers; 4. provide information and consultation for the youth organisations and the organisations working with the youth, and also for the young people; 5. develop cooperation among youth organisations and the organisations working with young people, 6. foster exchange of information and experience, and involvement into the activities of the regional councils of youth organisations.

### 3.3.2 Youth NGOs

Most Lithuanian Youth organisations are members of the Council of Lithuanian Youth Organizations

### 3.4 Other structures

Expert groups, permanent networks etc.

The Department of Youth Affairs organises different types of working groups, when it is needed, for instance, when any problems arise and it needs to solve them; when the programme for government is being framed, then people from institutions or youth organisations are invited to discuss it and so on.

## 4. Legislation

### Articles of the constitution concerning youth explicitly:

Article 26: Freedom of thought, conscience and religion shall not be restricted. Parents and guardians shall, without restrictions, take care of the religious and moral education of their children and wards according to their own convictions.

Article 38: The family shall be the basis of society and the State. Family, motherhood, fatherhood and childhood shall be under the protection and care of the State. The right and duty of parents is to bring up their children to be honest people and faithful citizens and to support them until they come of age. The duty of children is to respect their parents, to take care of them in their old age, and to preserve their heritage.

Article 39: Under age children shall be protected by law.

Article 41: Education shall be compulsory for persons under the age of 16. Education at State and municipal schools of general education, vocational schools and schools of further education shall be free of charge. Higher education shall be accessible to everyone according to his individual abilities. Citizens who are good at their studies shall be guaranteed education at State schools of higher education free of charge.

### National legislation on youth:

A new **Youth law (Law on Youth Policy framework)** was adopted in December 2003. It provides, amongst other things, for the age brackets it applies to i.e. 14 to 29. It gives definitions (youth policy, youth NGO, youth council, non-formal education, etc.) sets youth policy principles (parity, subsidiary, co-management, cooperation, participation, etc.). In 2005 the amendment to the Law on Youth Policy Framework was adopted. The main amendment in this law is: A new institution, entitled Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour should be established instead of State Council of Youth Affairs. The department takes over all the functions the Council had. The law also identifies governmental institutions involved in youth field

and describes the role of Department of Youth Affairs (before the State Council for Youth Affairs). This law replaced the former Youth Policy Concept.

### **Regional and local legislation on youth:**

Many municipalities have their conception for youth policy. Each municipality has Strategic action plan, where one of measures could be programme for youth affairs.

## **5. National Programmes on youth**

- *National Program for the Training and Inducement of Youth Entrepreneurship for the years 2008-2012.* The purpose: to create consistent, working effectively education system of youth entrepreneurship.

- *Program for the Support of Young Artists for the years 2007-2015.* The purpose: to educate active and creative generation of young artists, that could influence the development of the state culture and art.

- *Program for the children and youth cultural education for the years 2006-2011.* The purpose: to develop systematic cultural education of children and youth of Lithuania, that could help to educate artistic, aesthetic and cultural skills and cultural competence, which are necessary to take over cultural experience, to participate actively in cultural life, to incorporate to this process state and municipal cultural, education institutions, non-governmental organisations, single creators of culture and art.

- *Permanent Program for the Civil and National Education.* The purpose: to improve the conditions of civil and national education of Lithuania's and foreign Lithuanian's children and youth; to improve the system of civil and national education of adults of Lithuania's and foreign Lithuanian's; to strengthen the role of associations, schools and academic communities while educating Lithuania's and foreign Lithuanian's children, youth, and adults public spirit and nationality, in this way motivating aware national expression and civil participation.

### **5.1 Action plans i.e. official strategies**

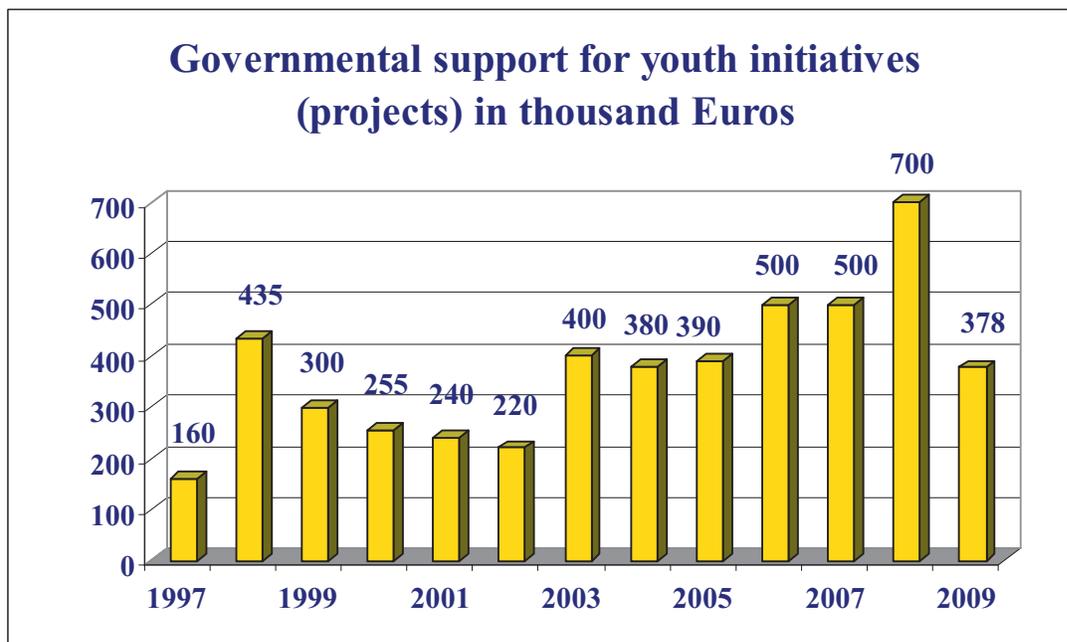
In the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for the years 2008-2011 it is stated to prepare the long-term youth policy development strategy, which should be approved in 2010.

### **5.2 Programmes and actions for specific target groups**

No information

## 6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth

National level (By the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour)



## 7. European Dimension of youth policy

7.1 Council of Europe programmes or activities implemented in an important way for youth purposes (including funding schemes of the European Youth Foundation)

Council of Europe youth campaign. All different- All equal

Coordinating Organisation: Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour

Campaign Website: <http://www.visiskirtingivisilygus.lt/lt/>

### 7.2 European Union programmes

*Briefly explain how the YOUTH Programme is implemented in your country and provide a link/ to the institutions who implement this programme (National Agencies or other)*

**The Agency of International Youth Co-operation** is functioning as the Lithuanian National Agency of the Youth in Action Programme. Its main tasks are to provide information, consultations and training for young people and those working with youth or responsible for youth issues; provide grants and support to informal groups of young people and organizations willing to implement activities within the frame of 5 decentralised Actions of the Youth in Action Programme:

### **Action 1 - Youth for Europe**

Action 1 is aimed to promote active involvement and citizenship of young people supporting exchanges of young people, their mobility and initiatives as well as participation of young people in the democratic life.

### **Action 2 - European Voluntary Service**

The aim of the European Voluntary Service is to support young people's participation in various forms of voluntary activities, both within and outside the European Union. Under this Action, young people take part individually or in groups in non-profit, unpaid activities.

### **Action 3 - Youth in the World**

Action 3 contributes to the mutual understanding and involvement of young people supporting projects with Neighbouring Partner Countries, namely Youth Exchanges and Training and Networking Projects in the youth field.

### **Action 4 - Youth Support Systems**

Action 4 aims to improve the quality of support systems for youth and youth work. It supports the training of those active in youth work and youth organisations, in particular the exchange of experiences, expertise and good practice as well as activities which may lead to long-lasting quality projects, partnerships and networks.

### **Action 5 - Support for European cooperation in the youth field**

Action 5 supports cooperation, seminars and Structured Dialogue between young people, those active in youth work and those responsible for youth policy

For projects submitted to a National Agency there are five application deadlines per year corresponding to the start date of the project: February 1, April 1, June 1, September 1 and November 1.

More information on the Youth in Action Programme and Agency of International Youth Co-operation may be found at:

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<http://www.jtba.lt>

In 2009 Eurodesk Lithuania has launched a revamped website to support its youth information services, accessible at [www.eurodesk.lt](http://www.eurodesk.lt). The website has received an increased number of visitors since its launch in October. Important features of the new website are the text version, which is aimed at improving accessibility and the database on volunteering opportunities in Lithuania. In 2009 the website has received 616 370 unique views and a total of 13 637 707

page views. 571 enquiries have been received by representatives of the network and 473 news items been published online.

In order to promote the services of Eurodesk Lithuania an information campaign in Lithuanian schools and public transport busses in the cities of Klaipėda, Marijampolė, Mažeikiai and Panevėžys have been organised.

Eurodesk Lithuania has continued to successfully manage the content which appears on the national pages of the European Youth Portal and in order to promote the Portal 5 contests for young people have been organised on local level and carried out by Eurodesk regional partners. Lastly, in 2009 Eurodesk Lithuania has involved young people in two kinds of information sessions. The first being the "... so you think you know it all?", an initiative aimed at presenting EU opportunities to young people. This year special attention was given to remote areas and all the presentations have been organised in cities with less than 10000 inhabitants. A total of 14 sessions of both kinds were organised in 2009, 478 participants have taken part in them.

The Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour is implementing the project "Promoting the partnership between national and non-governmental sectors in order to implement integrated youth policy". Different activities are supported by European Social Fund to strengthen youth policy development in the country. The project started on 29<sup>th</sup> of May 2009 and ends on 29<sup>th</sup> of May 2012. At the moment such activities have been carried out during this project:

- in 7 municipalities youth problematic surveys, as well as youth policy evaluations;
- 4 different conceptions of youth centres;
- the conception of youth problematic survey;
- the methodology of youth problematic survey;
- etc.

On 10<sup>th</sup> of August 2010 the other project called "The Development of Integrated Youth Policy" started. Under this project there will be held 53 surveys in municipalities, also the system of youth workers certification will be implemented and there will be held many other different activities.

## **8. Forthcoming events/conferences**

### **8.1 Current developments/plans with regard to national legislation/guidelines**

According to the measures of Programme of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania there is foreseen to form long-term youth policy development strategy, which should be established in 2010.

### **8.2 Current developments/plans with regard to European youth policy priorities**

*Please mention important events in the youth field, especially those linked to the four Open Method of Coordination key priorities and give the dates foreseen.*

It is foreseen by the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour to establish the network of researches working on youth issues.

Also, the issues related to youth work are on the top of discussions at the moment. It is planned to establish the term “youth worker” and all the things related to it in 2010.

Lithuania was chairing to Baltic Sea Expert Group on Youth Affairs from 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2009 till 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2010 and the main topic for chairmanship is – “evidence based youth policy”. According to which, the project on Evidence based youth policy in Baltic Sea Region was held, where the situation on this policy in 11 countries are discussed.