



**Youth**Partnership

# ***QUESTIONNAIRE***

# ***“PARTICIPATION”***

# **LITHUANIA**



**Youth**Partnership  
Council of Europe  
European Commission



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## **1 Context of youth participation in the country (legislation, structures)**

One of the principles that is defined in the Law on Youth Policy Framework is participation. This principle means that youth-related issues are solved with the participation of young people and by co-ordinating them with youth or representatives of youth organisations. Practically this principle is very well implemented. Youth interests mostly are represented by the Council of Lithuanian Youth Organisations. Also every youth organisation has a chance to be represented while having it's representative in the Council for Youth Affairs. This body is an advisory body for the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour. There are 12 representatives in this Council, 6 coming from Ministries and 6 being representatives of youth organisations. The Council for Youth Affairs is convened every 2 years.

## **2. Structures of participation at the local regional or national level**

### **2.1 Youth councils**

#### **2.1.1 National youth councils**

- The Council of Lithuanian Youth Organisations (LiJOT) is a self-dependent, voluntary union of non-governmental youth organisations and regional unions of youth organisations. Main aims: promote youth initiative; promote youth mutual understanding and co-operation; promote activities useful and constructive for the state and society; represent youth interests towards the Lithuanian governmental institutions. Activities: representation of interests; realization of Lithuanian State Youth Policy Concept; training of youth leaders; development of international relations; providing youth with information.
- National Union of Student Representations of Lithuania (LSAS) is a national, democratic, independent, non-profit union of public organizations uniting the student representations of Lithuanian higher education institutions.

#### **2.1.2 Regional youth councils**

There are regional youth council in municipalities. The councils are usually named Round Table and they are associations of youth organisations at municipal level. At the moment those organisations are established in 25 municipalities. Main activities: involve young people into the organisations and its work; work with members of Round Tables and volunteers; train youth organisations and the organisations working with youth, and also for the young people; develop cooperation among youth organisations and the organisations working with young people; foster exchange of information and experience and involvement into activities of the regional councils of youth organisations.

- Akemenes regional union of youth and youth organisations "Youth round table"
- Alytus Social Youth Organisations' Union "Round table"
- Ignalina Youth Organisations' Union "Round table"

- Kasiadorys region Youth Organisations' Union "Round table"
- Kaunas Youth Organisations' Union "Round table"
- Klaipėdas city Youth Organisations' Union "Round table"
- Klaipėdas region Youth Organisations' Union "Round table"
- Kretingas region non-governmental Organisations' Union "Round table"
- Kedainiai region Youth Organisations' Council "Round table"
- Marijampolės Youth Organisations' Council "Round table"
- Mazeikiai region union of youth and associations working with youth public organisations "Round table"
- Pakruojis region Youth Organisations' Council "Round table"
- Panevezys youth center "Round table"
- Pasvalys region Youth Organisations' Council "Round table"
- Rokiskis Youth Organisations' Council "Round table"
- Skuodas region non-governmental youth organisations' union
- Ukmergės region Youth Organisations' Union "Round table"
- Utena public Youth Organisations' Union "Round table"
- Vilnius Youth Organisations' Union "Round table"
- Visaginas Youth Organisations' Union "Round table"
- Zarasai region Public Youth Organisations' Union "Round table"
- Sakiai Youth Union "Round table"
- Siauliai Youth Organisations' Union "Round table"
- Silutes Youth Organisations' Union "Littoral youth"
- Sirvintai Youth Organisations' Union "Round table"

### **2.1.3 Local youth councils**

The Municipality councils for youth affairs are formed on the principle of parity by 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. The 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 represent youth demands, compare 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).

### **2.2 Youth parliaments**

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### **3 Participation in representative democracy**

#### **3.1 Number and percentage of young people who are members of a political party or political youth organisations, if possible by gender**

Information not available

#### **3.2 Number and percentage of young people who are members of a trade union**

Information not available

#### **3.3 Percentage of young people (in total and by gender) who are members of a youth non-governmental organisation, which are not trade unions, political parties or political youth organisations.**

According to the research, that was held by the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, 25% of youth are participating in any organisations in Lithuania (this number includes political youth organizations)

### **4 Existing support measures, of national, regional or local scope, to promote the participation of young people in local life and follow-up mechanisms**

The dialogue between the structures on the national, regional and local levels is developed according to one of the principles of implementation of the Law on Youth Policy framework. Inter-institutional coordination, binds over the state and municipality institutions and agencies discuss and cooperate with young people in considering youth related issues.

#### **4.1 Financial actions to support the various structures for youth political and NGO participation**

There are various programs, which help youth organisations to get money for maintaining organisation, its structure and helping to involve more and more people.

The Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour calls for applications once a year. Funding is made upon successful applications. Total amount in 2008 is 695 088 euros.

Each Lithuanian municipality has a fund for funding Youth activities. Usually funding is made upon successful applications.

#### **4.2 Which financial actions on national level aimed at certain specific groups of young people exist?**

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## **5 The vote**

### **5.1 Is voting obligatory?**

Yes.

### **5.2 Age of the right to vote**

From 18 years old.

### **5.3 Please describe, who is entitled to vote in national, regional and local elections.**

Lithuanian citizens are entitled to vote in any elections from 18 years old.

### **5.4 Requirements for being entitled as a candidate in national, regional or local elections (age, nationality , etc.)**

Every citizen from 20 years old and who is living in the municipality can be candidate to this municipality council. Every citizen, who is living constantly in Lithuania, from 25 years old can be candidate to national parliament. And every citizen, who has lived in Lithuania at least last 3 years, from 40 years old can be candidate to president position.

## **6. The elections**

### **6.1 Indicators of participation related to the election of the European Parliament**

#### **6.1.1 In the election of the European Parliament, the number and percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people who have the right to vote (in total and by gender)-**

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#### **6.1.2 In European elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the total population voting**

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### **6.2 National indicators of participation in the polls**

#### **6.2.1 In national elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people who have the right to vote (in total, by gender and by age groups)**

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**6.2.2 In national elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the total population who has voted.**

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### **6.3 Regional and local indicators of participation in the polls**

**6.3.1 In regional and local elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people who have the right to vote**

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**6.3.2 In regional and local elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the total population voting**

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### **6.4 Number of young people elected at the national, regional and local level: overall and by gender**

*Number of young women and young men (under the age of 30) who are member of the national parliament.*

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## **7.Actions, programmes, and financial or social support that promote the participation in the system of representative democracy, in particular to young people under the age of 30?**

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## **8 Learning to participate**

### **8.1 Existing actions and mechanisms within the systems of formal education aiming at developing and deepening learning to participate (citizens 'education).**

Youngpupils have a possibility to take part in students' self-government bodies. According to the law, each school should make facilities for students to have their self-government organ. The school council or university self-government organ should involve and equal number of students/students representatives, their parents and educators. The school council activities can also be attended by a representative of the local authorities. Each school should have these students' self-government organs operating: students' conference (which is summoned once a year and delegates representatives to the school and students councils) and the students' council. The students' council is a continuously operating students' self-government organ of 5-15 members; its structure and work rules are defines by students' conference.

**8.2 In which fields, other than formal education, do actions and/or support - of national or regional scope- exist, which aim at promoting learning to participate amongst young people? What is the nature of these actions/this support? Give examples of good practise.**

Ministries, departments, municipalities and other state institutions are organising various types of programmes for non-governmental organisations, including youth NGO's. If the applications are valued positively, than those organisations get financial support for implementation of them. All theses projects promote any kind of participation among young people.

**8.3 Do some of the existing or planned actions aim at certain specific groups of young people?**

Most of these programmes are directed to youth (as it defines the Law on Youth Policy Framework, young person is anybody aged between 14 to 29 years) and the priority of theses programmes is young people with fewer opportunities.

**9. Describe other, informal ways young people choose to participate in your country.**

No information.