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

INFORMATION SHEET

PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

LITHUANIA



Last updated: 2011 September

By: Valda Karnickaite

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1. Youth participation in Lithuania

Give an overview on participation of young people (13 – 30) in your country on the national and regional level (in federal states) answering the following questions:

- Are there official national/regional recommendations (policies) establishing the right of young people to participate in society?

Lithuanian youth policy is targeted at young people (aged 14–29) who presently amount to more than 800,000 (24 per cent) of the country's population. Legislation provides for the opportunity for young people to take part in relevant decision making and its' implementation at both local and national level. The Ministry of Social Security and Labour is a coordinating authority with regard to the implementation of youth policy in Lithuania.

A legal and institutional framework for the formulation and implementation of youth policy has been established and developed for more than 10 years in Lithuania. Youth policy principles, spheres, organisation and management have been laid down. With a view to creating adequate conditions for young people to actively participate in an open and democratic society, programmes have been implemented, aimed at promoting participation and involvement of non-governmental youth organisations in the formulation of youth policy. Furthermore, the relations of NGOs and state and municipal institutions have been strengthened; support from the EU Structural Funds and financing under programmes have been provided. The new long-term Youth Policy Strategy, which has been drafted in 2010, lays down the priority activities meeting the needs of young people, which enables to create and develop better opportunities for young people in Lithuania, among that are opportunities to participate actively in society.

The main policies on youth participation in the society are the following:

- Law on Youth Policy Framework¹;
- The National Youth Policy Development Programme for 2011–2019²;
- The Plan of Measures 2011–2013 for the Implementation of the National Youth Policy Development Programme for 2011–2019³

¹ Law on Youth Policy Framework of the Republic of Lithuania (Official Gazette *Valstybės žinios*, 2003, No. 119-5406) http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=283614

² Resolution No. 1715 "On the Approval of the National Youth Policy Development Programme for 2011–2019" of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 1 December 2010 (Official Gazette *Valstybės žinios*, 2010, No. 142-7299), http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=387971&p_query=&p_tr2=

³ Order No. A1-193 "On the Approval of the Plan of Measures 2011–2013 for the Implementation of the National Youth Policy Development Programme for 2011–2019" of the Minister of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania of 12 April 2011 (Official Gazette *Valstybės žinios*, 2011, No. 45-2116); http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=396538

The Law on Youth Policy Framework defines that “Young person” means a person between the ages of 14 and 29 in Lithuania. Moreover, youth-related issues are solved with the participation of young people and by coordinating them with youth or youth organizations⁴, also, it gives the general provisions of youth rights. Furthermore, it forms the aims of national and regional youth councils, as a tool for youth participation.

The main strategic goal of The National Youth Policy Development Programme for 2011–2019 is to create the prosperous conditions in order to implement the realization of youth in Lithuania. It is providing the list of the fields for the implementation; in addition the Action plan of 2011 – 2013 provides the measures for it.

Moreover, financial support has been allocated to the programmes and projects of youth organizations and organizations working with youth. Youth initiative projects aimed at improving the quality of activities of youth organizations, developing and promoting youth entrepreneurship, as well as developing the activities of open youth centers have been funded.

Implementing the Programme of Youth Policy Development in Municipalities youth policy has been developed in municipalities, participation of young people, in particular those with fewer opportunities, in youth activities and policy has been encouraged, and cooperation has been strengthened among youth organizations and municipal institutions, rural and urban communities.

- Do any of the above mentioned measures target specific groups? (please tick)

- Females
- Males
- Migrants
- Young people with fewer opportunities
- Young people in specific regions
- Minorities (which):
- Certain age groups within the age range 13-30(which):
- Other

⁴ Law on Youth Policy Framework of the Republic of Lithuania (Official Gazette *Valstybės žinios*, 2003, No. 119-5406)
http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=283614

2. Youth participation in representative democracy in Lithuania

Please describe the rules of representative democracy related to young people answering the questions below:

- Is voting compulsory in your country? No

- What is the legal minimum age to vote in elections?

European ⁵ :	18	National:	18	Regional:	18	local	18
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- What are the legal requirements for voting in local, regional, national and European elections?

According to the Law on Elections to the Seimas, citizens of the Republic of Lithuania who, on the election day, are 18 years of age shall have the right to vote. Citizens who have been declared legally incompetent by the court shall not participate in elections⁶.

According to the Law on Elections to the European Parliament, Citizens of the Republic of Lithuania as well as citizens of other Member States of the European Union, permanently residing in Lithuania, who, on the day of elections, are 18 years of age shall have the right to vote in elections to the European Parliament. Citizens who have been declared legally incompetent by the court shall not participate in elections⁷

Law on Elections to Municipal councils defines, that the right to elect municipal councillors shall be enjoyed by permanent residents of the respective municipality, who are 18 years of age on polling day, i.e. voters. Persons who have been recognised legally incapable by the court shall not participate in elections to municipal councils (hereinafter referred to as "elections")⁸.

Law on Presidential Elections Citizens of the Republic of Lithuania who, on the election day, are 18 years of age shall have the right to vote. Citizens who have been declared legally incompetent by the court shall not participate in elections.⁹

- What are the legal requirements for being a candidate in elections?

⁵ If applicable

⁶ Law on Elections to the Seimas http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=389872, last entry date 2011 09 21

⁷ Law on Elections to the European Parliament http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=241256, last entry date 2011 09 21

⁸ Law on Elections to Municipal councils http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=391386, last entry date 2011 09 21

⁹ Law on Presidential Elections http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=389873, last entry date 2011 09 21

National	Parliament (Seimas) elections	Citizenship	Any citizen of the Republic of Lithuania who is not under allegiance to a foreign state may stand for election
		Age	Is at least 25 years of age on the election day may stand for election
		Residence	Who permanently resides in Lithuania may stand for election
		Court decision	Persons who, with 65 days remaining before elections, have not yet served their sentence imposed by the court, as well as persons who have been declared legally incompetent and incapable by the court may not stand for election as members of the Seimas
		Past	A person who has been removed from office or his mandate of Seimas member has been revoked by the Seimas in accordance with impeachment proceedings may not be the Seimas elected Seimas member.
		Ongoing activities	Judges during their term of office, persons who on the election day are in the active or alternative military service, also servicemen of professional military service who, with 65 days remaining before elections, have not retired from the service, or officials of statutory institutions and establishments, or persons, who may not participate in activities of political parties according to special laws or statutes, may not stand for election as members of the Seimas ¹⁰ .
President elections	Citizenship/ Birth	a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania by birth	
	Age	provided he has reached the age of 40 prior to the election day	
	Residence	has lived in Lithuania for at least the past three years	

¹⁰ Law on Elections to the Seimas http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=389872, last entry date 2011 09 21

		Eligible for election to Seimas member ¹¹	
		Duration	not more than two terms
	European Parliament elections	Citizenship	A citizen of the Republic of Lithuania or any other citizen of the Member State of the European Union
		Age	at least 21 years of age on the election day
		Residence	Permanently residing in Lithuania (has declared his place of residence and the data relating to his place of residence in the Republic of Lithuania has been entered on the population register of the Republic of Lithuania prior to the reference date. The reference date shall be the date on which 65 days are left before elections)
		Court decision	Persons who, by the reference date, have not yet served their sentence imposed by the court, as well as persons to whom the application of compulsory medical measures, imposed by the court, has not ended by the reference date, and persons who have been declared legally incompetent by the court may not be elected as members of the European Parliament.
		Military service exception	Persons who on the election day are in the mandatory military service or alternative national defense service, also servicemen of the professional military service who have not retired from the service with 65 days remaining until elections, or officials of statutory institutions and establishments, or persons who may not participate in

¹¹ Law on Presidential Elections http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=389873, last entry date 2011 09 21
Information sheet 'Participation of young people'

			activities of political parties according to special laws or statutes, may not be elected as members of the European Parliament. ¹²
Local (Municipal councils)	Citizenship		shall be any citizen of the Republic of Lithuania
	competence		
	age		is at least 20 years of age on polling day
	residence		Any permanent resident of a particular municipality (declared not later than the date of submission of application documents to the respective municipal electoral commission)
	Court decision		A person who has not completed a court-imposed sentence at least 65 days before elections, as well as a person who has been declared legally incapable or insane by the court may not be elected as municipal councillor. A citizen of a foreign state whose passive voting right has been restricted by the court in the state of which he is a citizen may not be elected as municipal councillor.
	Military Services		A person who on polling day is in the active or alternative national defence service, as well as a serviceman of the professional military service or an officer of a statutory institution or establishment, who has not been transferred to the reserve or has not retired at least 65 days before elections and whose participation in political activities is restricted under special laws or statutes, may not be elected as municipal councillor ¹³

¹² Law on Elections to the European Parliament http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=241256, last entry date 2011 09 21

¹³ Law on Elections to Municipal councils http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=391386, last entry date 2011 09 21
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2.1. Participation in elections

Please give the percentage of young voters (young people who are allowed to vote below 30 years old) on European (for EU-countries only) and national level.. If detailed data on young people is not available please provide the general turnout of all voters and describe the young voter's participation

	Participation in European elections in % of people with the right to vote ¹⁴			Participation in national elections in % of people with the right to vote ¹⁵		
	Total	female	male	total	female	male
% of total population	21 %	25 %	16 %	67,9 %	71 %	64 %
18 – 24 year olds	12 %			56 %		
25 - 39 year olds	15 %			62 %		
40 - 54 year olds	18 %			66 %		
Older than 55 years old	28%			76 %		

At the moment Statistics Lithuania does not provide information in regard of participation in the elections by the age of group.

However, the basic overview is provided. According to the statistics on recent elections to the Municipal councils¹⁶ in 2011, only 44,75% of the people, who had the right to vote, have voted (39,73% on the election day, 5,02% in advance), however, in 2002 only 52,74% did it.

The Statistics Lithuania provides the following data on the elections of President in Lithuania¹⁷: In 2004 – 52,46% voted, in 2009 – 51,76% voted.

In 2008 48,59% of the people who have the right to vote expressed their opinion in the elections of Seimas, and only 46,08% in 2004.

Concerning the youth participation in the elections, it is worth to mention that the data is very old. According to the data provided by the Ministry of Science and Education in 2006, even 62,6% of young people took part in the President elections in 2004. However, only 23,75% of young people expressed their opinion in the European Parliament elections.¹⁸

¹⁴ The report on European Parliament Elections (2009), http://www.europarl.europa.eu/pdf/eurobarometre/28_07/eb71.3_post_electoral_firstresults_lithuania.pdf , last entry date 2011 09 21

¹⁵ The report on European Parliament Elections (2009), http://www.europarl.europa.eu/pdf/eurobarometre/28_07/eb71.3_post_electoral_firstresults_lithuania.pdf , last entry date 2011 09 21

¹⁶ Data of The Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Lithuania

¹⁷ Statistics Lithuania <http://db1.stat.gov.lt/statbank/SelectVarVal/saveselections.asp>, last entry date 2011 09 16

¹⁸ Ministry of Education and Science, Survey on the Youth (14 - 24) participation, 2006, Vilnius http://www.smm.lt/svietimo_bukle/docs/tyrimai/16-24_amz_jaun_visuom_dalyv.pdf, 2011 09 21

2.2. Young people elected into representative bodies

Please provide the number (in total and by gender) of young people under the age of 30 who are members of the national parliament. Please provide the total number of parliamentarians on national level.

	MP ≥ 30		All MP	
Women	1	0,7 %	26	18,4 %
Men	4	2,8 %	115	81,6 %
Total	5	3,6 % ¹⁹	141	100 % ²⁰

¹⁹ The list of members of Seimas http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter/w5_show?p_r=6113&p_k=1, last entry date 2011 09 21

²⁰ Statistics Lithuania http://www.stat.gov.lt/lt/catalog/download_release/?id=3658&download=1&doc=1953, last entry date 2011 09 16

3. Youth participation in civil society

3.1 Membership in NGOs

Please give the percentage of young people aged 13 to 30 (if possible in total and gender) who are members in non-governmental organizations (including political and youth NGOs) and if possible for youth NGOs. Please provide the same data for political parties as well. For comparison, please provide the same data for the whole population.

According to the latest results (in 2007) of the survey on Youth situation (age between 14 and 29) in Lithuania, 25,7% of respondents were included in the activities of formal or informal youth groups. Even 31,6% of the respondents are not participating in the activities, however, they would like to if they find the group according to their likes. Almost 43% declared the fact that they are not participating in any activities, furthermore, they would not like to do it.²¹

3.2 Youth participation structures on local, regional or national level

Structure of the youth policy

Activities of the youth policy structures are regulated by the Law on Youth Policy Framework of the Republic of Lithuania. It sets forth the main terms of the youth policy, determines the principles for the implementation of this policy, and defines the fields of the youth policy. An especially important part of this law is the consolidation of institutions organizing and governing the youth policy at the national and municipal level.

A particularly important aspect related to youth policy is the institutional framework established in laws and other legal acts. The system of institutions which organise and manage youth policy in Lithuania functions at both national and local levels.

At the national level, the main institutions operate in both the legislative and the executive levels. The key functions of the Commission for Youth and Sport Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania are to promote youth rights and the formulation of the national youth policy, as well as to exercise parliamentary control of institutions and agencies which implement youth policy. The Government has assigned the task of coordination of youth policy to one of the ministries, i.e. the Ministry of Social Security and Labour. Implementing youth-related objectives assigned to it, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour: performs control and supervision of the implementation of the Republic of Lithuania Law on Youth Policy Framework; organises and coordinates the implementation of priority youth policy measures established by the European Commission in

²¹ Survey on Youth Situation <http://www.jrd.lt/index.php?192553709>, last entry date 2011 09 16
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Lithuania; formulates, coordinates and implements youth policy in Lithuania. The Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour implements the established national youth policy measures which encourage young people's motivation to engage in active public life and take part in addressing youth problems. The key objectives of the department include: coordinating the activities of state institutions and agencies with regard to youth policy; developing and implementing national youth policy programmes and instruments; and analysing the situation of youth, youth organisations and organisations working with youth in Lithuania.

Young people can realise their opportunities through taking part in the activities of public organisations. By participating in youth organisations, a young person becomes communicative, more self-confident, and able to plan and implement plans, evaluate its efficiency and quality, cooperate with other persons and organisations, coordinate different interests. Youth organisations, through regional associations of youth organisations, and national youth organisations, through the Lithuanian Youth Council, represent youth interests and participate in the process of formulating youth policy.

With a view to ensuring involvement and representation of non-governmental youth organisations in the formulation and implementation of youth policy, the Council for Youth Affairs is formed from representatives of state institutions and the Lithuanian Youth Council in compliance with the principle of equal partnership. The council considers the main issues of youth policy and submits proposals on the implementation of youth policy meeting the needs of youth and youth organisations. A municipal council for youth affairs may be set up according to the principle of parity from the representatives of municipal institutions and youth organisations. It is an advisory institution with a long-term purpose of ensuring youth participation in addressing youth-related issues at the local level. Politicians, municipal administrative staff and representatives from youth organisations cooperate in the council.

A municipal coordinator for youth affairs assists municipal institutions in the formulation and implementation of a municipal youth policy. The coordinator creates and maintains a cooperation network between municipality politicians, servants, youth and organisations working with youth, seeking to involve young people in relevant decision-making, as well as plans and implements municipal programmes and measures targeted at youth. The National Association of Youth Affairs Coordinators unites coordinators for youth affairs from almost all existing 60 municipalities in Lithuania

The Council of Lithuanian Youth Organizations (CLYO)

The Council of Lithuanian Youth Organizations (CLYO) is the largest non-governmental youth organization in Lithuania that joins together the national youth organizations and the regional

unions of youth organizations. Currently, among its members there are 63 organizations. The CLYO is an organization representing the youth interests and shaping the youth policy, a partner to the Governments while forming his composition of the Council of Youth Affairs (CYA).

The Agency of International Youth Co-operation (AIYC)

The AIYC's main goal is to ensure the development of international youth cooperation and successful participation of Lithuanian youth in the European Union programs for youth. The AIYC is a national agency for European Union programme "Youth in Action" (2007-2013).

Youth organizations

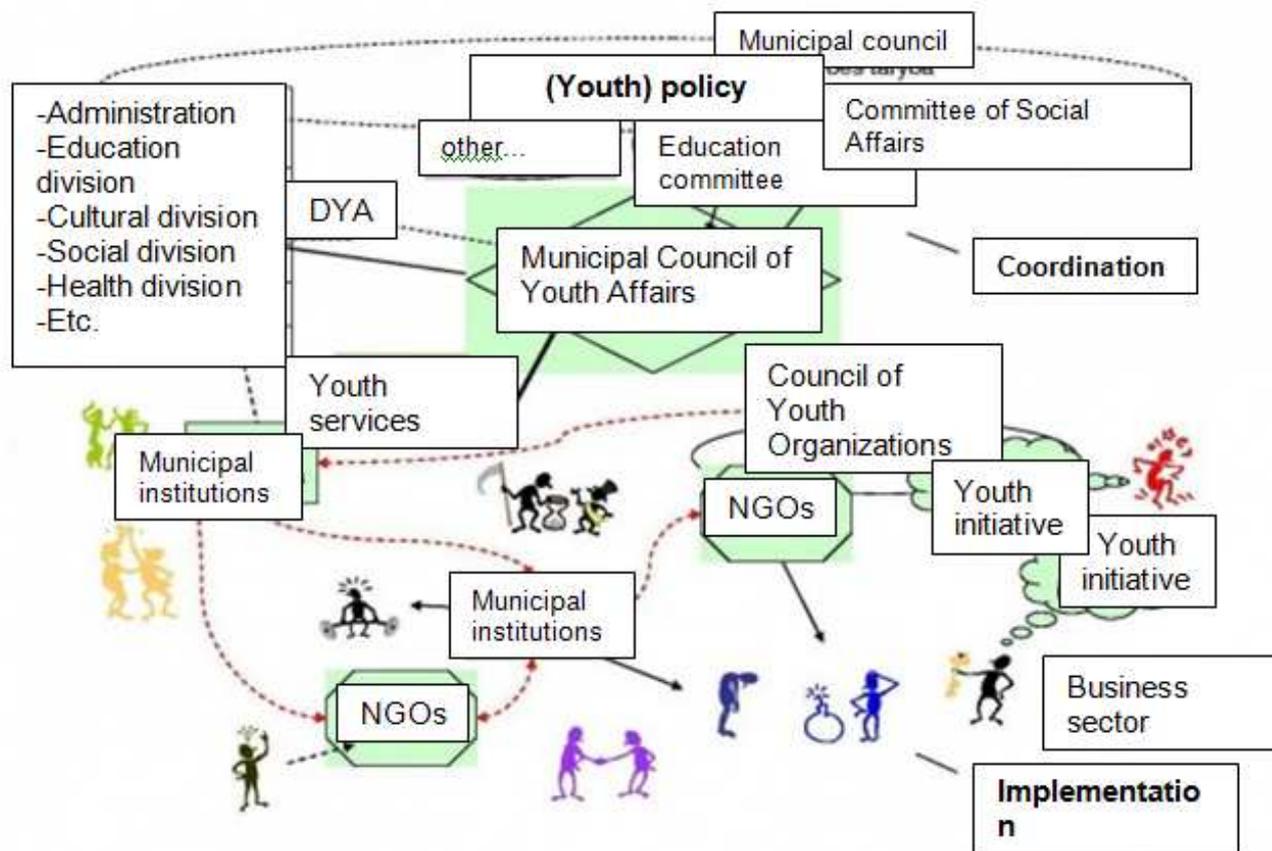
Young people are assisted in realizing their opportunities by participating in the activities of public organizations. The Law on Youth Policy Framework defined the term of the youth organization and the council of youth organizations, and recognized their importance and contribution for developing the personality of a young person.

Organizations and participation in the implementation of provisions set out in the youth policy create a space for young people to self-realization. By participating in activities of youth organizations, a young person becomes sociable, more self-confident; also is get abilities to plan and to implement plans, assess their efficiency and quality, cooperate with other persons and organizations, coordinate different interests.

Youth organizations via the regional unions of youth organizations (round-tables), and national youth organizations and regional unions of youth organizations via the CLYO represent interests of the youth well as form the youth policy.

It is also worth mentionin that financial support has been allocated to the programmes and projects of youth organisations and organisations working with youth. Youth initiative projects aimed at improving the quality of activities of youth organisations, developing and promoting youth entrepreneurship, as well as developing the activities of open youth centres have been funded.

It is also important to mention the Integrated Youth policy.



Integrated youth policy

The youth policy is developed in two directions. The first one – assurance of the youth interests in a particular field of public policy – education and science, culture, sports, employment and occupancy, housing, health care, etc. The second, the youth work, aimed at providing youth persons with conditions to learn from experience and to experiment (voluntariness, independence, self-rule). Seeking successful implementation of the youth policy, an integrated youth policy is necessary. It could be stated that the youth policy is integrated if inter-departmental and inter-sectoral cooperation structures are operating, a uniform database on young persons and institutions working with them is compiled, coordination of activity priorities of different institutions is carried out, human and material resources are accumulated. In 2003-2004, a pilot project was initiated in the municipalities of Utena and Šakiai districts and Kaunas city seeking to test and to disseminate a model of the integrated youth policy in municipalities.

Municipal council, Municipal administration. Municipal institutions form and implement the municipal youth policy. The youth policy covers different areas: training of the public spirit, education, teaching, science, studies and training, non-formal training, employment and occupancy, provision with housing, leisure, recreation, creation and culture, social security and health care, fitness, physical training and sports. Thus, one way or the other, the formation of the youth policy and its implementation is the responsibility of different committees of municipal councils and divisions of the municipal administration.

Coordinator for youth affairs. The coordinator for youth affairs helps municipal institutions to form and implement the municipal youth policy. He is an intermediary between the municipal policies, officers and the youth. The functions of the youth coordinator are defined in the job description of the municipal coordinator for youth affairs.

Municipal Council of Youth Affairs. The Municipal Council of Youth Affairs is an institution with an advisory vote which long-term goal is to ensure participation of the youth in the solution of issues important to them. The council is a venue for cooperation among politicians, administration employees and representatives of the youth (organizations). Representatives of the youth in the seriously working Council have an opportunity to learn to recognize needs of the youth, to formulate their interests and to represent them; to combine the needs and possibilities, the interests of the youth with the interests of their community; to have an insight into the democratic decision making and implementation procedures. In its own turn, politicians and administration representatives may better perceive the situation of the youth, get an insight into their problems, and together with representatives of the youth look for the best solutions.

The Council of Youth Organizations (Round Table). The Council of Youth organizations joins together youth organizations and organizations working with the youth in a municipality. The goals of the Council of Youth Organizations is to foster positive initiatives of the youth, mutual understanding and cooperation of the youth, youth work beneficial to society and the state, active participation of the youth in the public and civil life, development of youth organizations in the regions, and to represent interests of the youth in municipal institutions and agencies, relationships with other natural and legal persons. The Council of Youth Organizations coordinates the activities of youth organizations, furnishes important information to them, delegates representatives of the youth into the Municipal Council of Youth Affairs, and conducts trainings for the leaders of youth organizations. The representatives of Municipal Councils of Youth Organizations cooperate in the Council of Lithuanian Youth Organizations (CLYO).

Municipal institutions. Different municipal institutions, services, agencies that provide services to the youth operate in a municipality; thus there are important actors in forming and implementing the youth policy in a municipality. The biggest share of time is spent by the youth in different educational institutions: basic and secondary education schools, high-schools, vocational training centres, colleges and universities. Apart from educational institutions there are pedagogical-psychological services, labour exchanges, non-formal education institutions (music and art schools, sports centres, etc.) that provide services to the youth; besides the youth leisure centres, cultural centres, museums and libraries operate in municipalities.

Non-governmental organizations. Non-governmental organizations are non-profit seeking organizations set up by free will of citizens that are managed on a voluntary basis, are based on

voluntarily activity, are independent from the state authorities, and seek goals beneficial to society. Membership in such organizations is formal; to be able to join an organization, one only has to express a wish and to fulfil the prescribed requirements (to become familiarized with the goals of an organization, and to approve them; to submit an application for membership in the organizations; to assume the performance of particular duties, etc.). Non-governmental organizations have clear value attitudes and ideology; they frequently have their distinctive signs and attributes. Non-governmental organizations pursue different activities meeting their goals. They also have to continuously take care of the renewal of the organization itself and its support. Those non-governmental organizations are attributed to the youth organizations wherein at least 2/3 of the members are young persons and (or) which are comprised of at least 2/3 of associations each consisting of at least 2/3 young members.

Youth initiatives. Not all young persons are tended to join organizations, to assume long-term commitments or regular activity. These young persons, however, have ideas, want to implement them and this way to express themselves. The task of the youth policy is to identify such non-formal groups, to start a conversation, and, if such a group needs any assistance, to provide it subject to possibilities. Frequently, namely in non-formal groups (graffiti drawers, brake dancers, etc.) innovative ideas reflecting the most relevant needs of the youth are born.

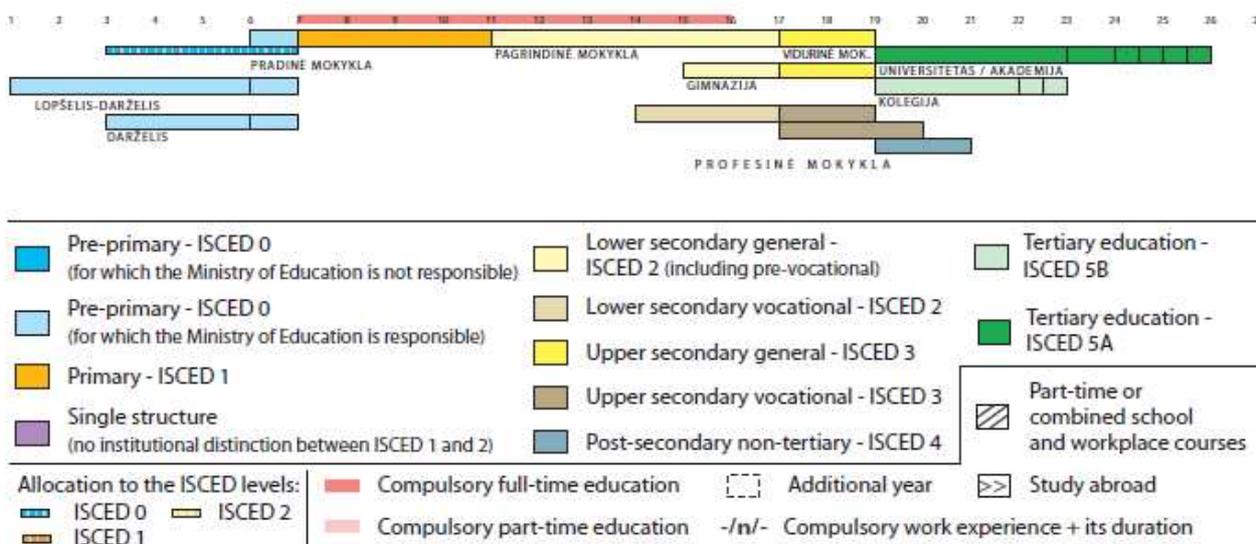
Youth services. The main goal of the youth councils to provide expressly identified services for the youth: informational, consultative, psychological, career counselling, etc. This covers psychological – pedagogical youth centres, youth employment centres, travel bureaus for the youth and students, etc. The structure of the services is clear-cut, most frequently small, seeking to disseminate information about services to possible clients as wide as possible, to satisfy their wishes, but not to increase the number of members of an organization. Services are provided by educated specialists that may also be assisted in particular cases by the trained volunteers.

Business sector. Young persons and their immediate environment are increasingly affected by the business sector. Commercial enterprises pay an increasing amount of leisure, communication, cultural, informing services for the youth by seeing in them a profitable consumer group. A great part of young people spend time in café-bars, discothèques, clubs, internet and computer game centres, communicate over mobile phones, listen to private radio stations, and watch rented movies and commercial television stations.

4. Learning to participate

4.1 The formal education system

1.1 Organisation of the initial education and training system



Are there teacher trainings programs at the national and/or regional level on this topic?

There is no separate trainings on this topic, however, the teachers might attend the general trainings.

PRIMARY

Teachers working in institutions of all stages of education have a right to attend in-service training courses at least 5 days per year, be attested and obtain a qualification category as prescribed by the Minister of Education and Science. The Law on Education states that teachers are obliged to improve their professional qualifications but does not specify any compulsory forms of the process.

Compulsory in-service training is necessary for the implementation of the State educational programme, or teacher assessment in the case of poor teaching performance. Training at the wish of teachers is encouraged by institutions and supported by the State, provided its content corresponds to the interests of the educational system.

Furthermore, training may be continuous or occasional. Ideally, occasional training lasts one to three working days comprising a single session, while its maximum length is ten. Teachers who undergo training for which they have to account, receive certificates from in-service training institutions. Continuous training, on the other hand, is organised in the form of several such

sessions. Teachers choose either the whole of a proposed training programme or the parts of relevance to them. Training is considered preferable when pupils are on holiday.

SECONDARY

Teachers working in institutions of all stages of education have a right to attend in-service training courses at least 5 days per year, be attested and obtain a qualification category as prescribed by the Minister of Education and Science. The Law on Education states that teachers are obliged to improve their professional qualifications but does not specify any compulsory forms of the process.

Compulsory in-service training is necessary for the implementation of the State educational programme, or teacher assessment in the case of poor teaching performance. Training at the wish of teachers is encouraged by institutions and supported by the State, provided its content corresponds to the interests of the educational system.

Furthermore, training may be continuous or occasional. Ideally, occasional training lasts one to three working days comprising a single session, while its maximum length is ten. Teachers who undergo training, for which they have to account, receive certificates from in-service training institutions. Continuous training, on the other hand, is organized in the form of several such sessions. Teachers choose either the whole of a proposed training programme or the parts of relevance to them. Training is considered preferable when pupils are on holiday.

4.2 Non formal education

Please describe five to ten existing examples of actions/programmes/activities at national or regional level, outside the formal education system, aiming at developing and deepening learning to participate in your country.

1. Living Library is method of informal education, encouraging social awareness, tolerance and respect for human rights. Living library consists of Living books, librarians and readers.

Living Books are people from vulnerable social groups, experiencing discrimination or stereotypes in society. Living books have a lot to say about discrimination, social inequality, answer a lot of deep and intimate questions concerning lifestyle of different social groups.

Librarian meets a reader (a trespasser, participant or targeted audience) that comes to the Living Library. Librarian is a trained person and responsible for preparing audience for reading process, explaining the rules and suggesting to pick a book from catalogue. Coming people often have questions: what will I ask the Living book? Is the Living book feels ok about my questions? Will I offend the Living book with my questions? Etc. „Before talking to Living book Roma people I hesitated: I don't like Roma people, what will we talk about? And only after seeing friendly smile of

a book I managed to start a nice conversation – I'm glad I made it"– anonymous reader presents her experience.

Process of reading involves sincere conversation between Living book and reader, asking concerning questions and getting straight answers. Reading process becomes comfortable and interactive place for intimate communication with people from socially vulnerable groups. Librarians are observing conversation from aside and intervene if needed. The reading session is approximately 15 to 25 minutes. Usually result of reading is obvious: reader leaves thoughtful, positive and energized, quite often they become friends or exchange contacts. Process of reading demolishes barrier of uncertainty and fear, develops tolerance and mutual understanding.

Worldwide successful method of informal education started in Lithuania in 2007 as a part of European Council campaign „All different – all equal“. From that time on importance and popularity of Living Library is growing in society, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions.

Huge effect of Living Library urges us to ensure succession of this method.

2. Lithuanian Youth Council (LiJOT) has launched a project “Man ne dzin” in order to increase the feeling of citizenship and inspire people to come to vote. It is a project was dedicated for the elections of Seimas; the main goal of this campaign is to especially motivate young people to vote.²²

LiJOT also involved some well know Lithuanian in order to promote this campaign

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lueJw0jxgsM>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SirIlyA0t_E&feature=related

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8iba5l-9x0A>

3. Project MISSION SIBERIA'11 promoting Active citizenship. This summer for the sixth year in a row Lithuanian Youth Council (LiJOT) is organizing the project of patriotism and citizenship called “Mission Siberia”. Since the beginning of the project 8 thrilling expeditions have already visited the places of deportations and concentration camps of Lithuanians in Siberia. Since 2006 the expeditions have already fixed about 80 Lithuanian cemeteries and have also met with remaining Lithuanian communities in these regions.

This year two expeditions are taking place in Tomsk region (Federation of Russia) and Republic of Tajikistan.

The idea of the project launched in 2005, when the resolution of youth patriotism was adopted in LiJOT autumn Assembly. It is stated in this resolution that Lithuanian youth is patriotic, but just not

²² Information of Lithuanian Youth Council (LiJOT) <http://www.lijot.lt/NewsList.aspx?CategoryID=1&NLNewsID=1850>, last entry date 2011 09 20

in the same way as former generations, and that is why they have no opportunities to show their patriotism in a conventional way. So this was the main reason of such youth initiative.

Aims of the project:

- To commemorate victims of genocide;
- To remind the price of freedom;
- To remind international community of the genocide of Lithuanian nation from the side of Soviet Union;
- To send a message to young Lithuanians about recent history of the country and to develop sense of patriotism;
- To maintain and develop “historic memory”.

Context: History of Deportation

The deportation of Lithuanian nation has started on the 14th of June, 1941, as a part of repressions of Soviet Union. During first days, June 14-16, 1941, 17 thousand Lithuanians were repressed and sent to concentration camps. During 11 years of repressions 140 thousands were deported while another 72 thousands were sent to concentration camps in Siberia. The deportation has touched almost all families in the country.²³

²³ Project MISSION SIBERIA'11 promoting Active citizenship <http://www.misijasibiras.lt/2011/apie#en>, last entry 2011 09 20
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5. Youth information in Lithuania

5.1 The structure of youth information

Please describe how youth information is organized in your country answering the following questions.

- *Do youth information points / centers exist? N*
- *Does youth information coordinated at the national level exist? N*
- *Does youth information coordinated at the regional level exist? N*
- *Is youth information in your country member of any European network (ERYICA, EYCA, Eurodesk)? Yes, Lithuania is a member of EYCA, Eurodesk.*

5.2. The youth information services

Please provide the percentage of municipalities with a youth information point/centre.

Is there an online national youth information system? Y/N. If yes, please provide the links to the relevant webpage(s), state if the portal provides youth information only on a specific topic.

It is still in the developing stage.

Are there any online regional youth information systems? Y/N If yes, please provide the links to the relevant webpage(s), state if the portal provides youth information only on a specific topic.

It is in the developing stage.

Please describe existing national or regional (federal states) print publications for information of young people in your country (e.g. magazines, folders/brochures).

First of all, we should separate the media, which is dedicated for youth by youth, and the information/ brochures/ information leaflets by youth. There are a number of newspapers dedicated to youth information – “Code: Youth”²⁴, “Youth fire”²⁵, “Youth voice” and etc. Also, the information is published according to the needs of youth and competences of the institutions. Moreover, NGO’s are provided lots of printed material with various information, which is required by youngsters of Lithuania.

²⁴ Magazine “Code: Youth” <http://sed.lt/zurnalas-kodas-jaunimas>, last entry date 2011 09 20

²⁵ Magazine “Youth fire” <http://www.tautosjaunimas.lt/news.php?item.178.1>, last entry date 2011 09 20

5.3. Topics of youth information

In relation to the structures of youth information you mentioned above, what are the main contents of information delivered to young people?

- Career guidance
- Studies and scholarships
- Jobs and training
- General health matters
- Relationships and sexuality
- Social security benefits
- Rights of young people
- Consumer rights
- European opportunities for young people
- Youth activities and exchanges
- Other (please explain)

5.4. Young people's involvement in youth information

How do young people participate in the national/regional system of youth information?

The program of "Young Journalists" was launched recently, which can be a great example of youth participation in spreading the information process.

This programme is the first in Lithuania, where the implementation does not focus on individual training. Educational programme for young publicists is a system that identifies talented young journalists, motivates, supports them and provides information to enable them for socially responsible actions.

Even during the formation of the future journalists' writing skills, the objective information based on the experience of the Lithuanian NGOs, vulnerable groups of the society, media experts working in the social field, is provided. Young journalists have the opportunity to interact directly with vulnerable groups of the society, thus learn more and overcome prejudices.

The unique structure of the programme helps to touch the essence of the social problems; to understand them from the inside, to maintain an objective position in the public life news. The

programme is designed for an optimal result; during the formation of journalistic skills, to enable young generation of socially responsible writing.

National educational programme for young publicists seeks to change the portrayal of vulnerable groups of the society and contribute to the objective, ethical and competent media education.

Who are Young Journalists?

A young journalist is from 16 to 29 years old. He or she know how to wield the pen and meets one of the following:

- is planning to study journalism in the future;
- is first or second-year student of journalism or philology;
- Have already worked in the mass media, but is still open to the challenge to face his/hers stereotype, change it and change oneself.

Each group of people will find a suitable level of the education programme for young journalists²⁶.

Also, „Eurodesk“ Lithuania is working on this case.

²⁶ Young Journalist project <http://jauniejiuzurnalistai.lt/en>, last entry date 2011 09 20
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6. Sources of information

The structure of Youth Policy

http://www.jrd.lt/go.php/lit/Jaunimo_politikos_struktura_nacionaliniu/450, last entry date 2011 09 20

Structures of Education and Training Systems in Europe, Lithuania, 2009/10 Edition

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/documents/eurybase/structures/041_LT_EN.pdf, last entry date 2011 09 20