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Partnership between the European Commission  
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# INFORMATION SHEET

## VOLUNTEERING OF YOUNG PEOPLE

### LITHUANIA



Last updated: September 2011

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# 1. Volunteering of young people in Lithuania

Give an overview on volunteering 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) concerning volunteering of young people?

On national level: Yes

Volunteering is generally becoming a high political priority in Lithuania. Due to the fact, that this year is announced as European Year of Volunteering, Lithuania adopted several fundamental laws and strategies on volunteering. First of all, it is worth to mention, that the Law on Volunteering Activities<sup>1</sup> was adopted and came into power since 1st of August 2011 as the outcome of National program on European Year of Volunteering 2011, which promotes the active citizenship<sup>2</sup>. The Law provides the clear definition on volunteering activities as well as on international volunteering program. It regulates to the main relation between the volunteer and the one which (who) organizes the volunteering activities. Moreover, it provides the description on rights and duties of the both sides. Furthermore, the law regulates the organization, insurance and compensation issues for the volunteer. It is important to mention, that there is the cense of the age of volunteer, which is 14 years.

National program on European Year of Volunteering 2011 itself draws attention to the two main goals:

- To create the auspicious conditions in order to implement the volunteering activities;
- To popularize volunteering activities and its importance<sup>3</sup>.

The National Youth Policy Development Programme for 2011–2019 also determines the importance of voluntarism and sets up the goal of creation the auspicious conditions in order to implement the volunteering activities<sup>4</sup>. In addition, The Plan of Measures for the Implementation of the National Youth Policy Development Programme<sup>5</sup> points out the measures, how, when and who has to implement the goal.

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<sup>1</sup> Law on Volunteering Activities

[http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc\\_l?p\\_id=402802&p\\_query=savanori%F0kos%20veiklos&p\\_tr2=2](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=402802&p_query=savanori%F0kos%20veiklos&p_tr2=2), last entry date 2011 09 15

<sup>2</sup> National program on European Year of Volunteering, which promotes the active citizenship

[http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc\\_l?p\\_id=380985&p\\_query=&p\\_tr2=](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=380985&p_query=&p_tr2=), last entry date 2011 09 15

<sup>3</sup> National program on European Year of Volunteering, which promotes the active citizenship

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<sup>4</sup> National Youth Policy Development programme for 2011-2019

[http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc\\_l?p\\_id=387971&p\\_query=&p\\_tr2=Resolution No. 1715 "On the Approval of the National Youth Policy Development Programme for 2011–2019"](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=387971&p_query=&p_tr2=Resolution%20No.%201715%20On%20the%20Approval%20of%20the%20National%20Youth%20Policy%20Development%20Programme%20for%202011-2019) of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 1 December 2010 (Official Gazette *Valstybės žinios*, 2010, No. 142-7299)

<sup>5</sup> The Action plan of 2011 – 2013 of this National Youth Policy Development programme for 2011-2019

[http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc\\_l?p\\_id=396538](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=396538) Order No. A1-193 "On the Approval of the Plan of Measures 2011– Information sheet 'Volunteering of young people'

On regional level: No

- *Is volunteering usually paid?*

No, it is not. However, according to the Law on Volunteering Activities, the article 11<sup>th</sup><sup>6</sup>, the expenses might be reimbursed.

- *Is there any National voluntary service? Yes*

There are frameworks, which are promoted by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, in the goals of the Action plan of 2011 – 2013 of the National Youth Policy Development Programme for 2011–2019.<sup>7</sup>

Moreover, the Program on Non-governmental sector development of 2011 – 2013 envisages to strengthen NGOs in the regions working in the field of organizing and informing on voluntary activities, and to establish ten such consultative centers (one in each region).

- *What is the legal / financial (fiscal) / social security status of volunteers?*

There is no exception for volunteers according to Lithuanian law on benefits from tax exemption, health insurance or pension system. The pension should be paid independently of whether one is a volunteer or not.

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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)

<sup>6</sup> Law on Volunteering Activities

[http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc\\_l?p\\_id=402802&p\\_query=savanori%F0kos%20veiklos&p\\_tr2=2](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=402802&p_query=savanori%F0kos%20veiklos&p_tr2=2) , last entry date 2011 09 14

<sup>7</sup> The Action plan of 2011 – 2013 of this National Youth Policy Development programme for 2011-2019

[http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc\\_l?p\\_id=396538](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=396538) 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)

## 2. Main actors and networks

- Who are the main actors (institutional and NGOs) in the field of volunteering of young people on the different levels?

National

### **Ministry of Social Security and Labour**

A.Vivulskio str. 11, 03610 Vilnius, phone (+370 5) 2664 201, fax (+370 5) 2664 209,  
e-mail: [post@socmin.lt](mailto:post@socmin.lt), website: <http://www.socmin.lt>

### **Lithuanian Red Cross Society**

Gedimino ave. 3a, LT-01103 Vilnius, Tel. +370 5 2628 037, Fax: +370 5 2619 923,  
e-mail: [info@redcross.lt](mailto:info@redcross.lt), website: [www.redcross.lt](http://www.redcross.lt).

### **Lithuanian caritas**

Aukštaičių str. 10, LT-44147 Kaunas, Tel. (8 37) 205 427,  
e-mail: [caritas@lcn.lt](mailto:caritas@lcn.lt) , website: [www.caritas.lt](http://www.caritas.lt)

Local (the main actors)

### **Youth Psychological Aid Centre**

Rasu str. 20, LT-11351 Vilnius, Tel. +370 5 231 3437, Fax. +370 5 231 3439,  
e-mail: [info@jppc.lt](mailto:info@jppc.lt), website: [www.jppc.lt](http://www.jppc.lt).

### **Youth Exchange Agency**

Švenčionių 33-1a, Vilnius, Tel./Fax. +370 5 2618 257,  
email:[info@jama.lt](mailto:info@jama.lt), website: [www.jama.lt](http://www.jama.lt)

### **European Voluntary Service Association „Saltes“**

Juozapavičiaus str. 10a, LT-09311 Vilnius, Tel./Fax. +370 5 2728 292,  
e-mail: [info@saltes.net](mailto:info@saltes.net), website: [www.saltes.net](http://www.saltes.net)

### **A. C. Patria**

Rotušės a. 23, LT-44279 Kaunas, Tel. +370 37 322 882, Fax. +370 37232 860,  
e-mail: [info@patria.lt](mailto:info@patria.lt), website: [www.patria.lt](http://www.patria.lt).

### **Youth Voluntary Activities Center „Deineta“**

Savanoriu ave. 16-7, LT-44253 Kaunas, Tel. +370 37 404 055, Fax. +370 37 203 446,  
e-mail: [csa@kaunas.omnitel.net](mailto:csa@kaunas.omnitel.net) , website: [www.deineta.lt](http://www.deineta.lt)

### **Malta order help service (Maltos ordino pagalbos tarnyba);**

### **Food bank (Maisto bankas);**

## Youth Line (“Jaunimo Linija”).

- Are any organizations in this field specifically targeting youth (as participants in [voluntary activities and voluntary services](#))? Yes.

- Do networks and/or co-operations exist for supporting volunteering of young people in your country?

Of course the cooperation exists. Although we can only see the beginnings, we can provide some great examples how volunteerism becomes visible as the outcome of cooperation of private and public sectors.

First of all, the new project was started between the NGOs and the private companies. The column “Voluntary activities” are applied in some of the web pages, which provide the information on free job places ([www.cv.lt](http://www.cv.lt)).

Also, the cooperation between public sector and NGOs is visible in the same way: The Lithuanian Labour Exchange under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour also provides the information about the possible volunteering activities in their website ([www.ldb.lt](http://www.ldb.lt)).

Another example of such cooperation between NGO and a private company is a website [www.savanoriaujam.lt](http://www.savanoriaujam.lt). It was launched in 2011 and its goal is to inform the society about volunteering and to speak out the greatest experiences and stories.

It is important to mention a few strong NGOs (Youth Line, A. C. Patria, etc.) that have eventually established a large recruiting, training and consulting system of young volunteers. Activity of those organizations is not limited to one city and they carry on various projects based on cooperation between other NGOs and private companies. A website [www.buk-savanoriu.lt](http://www.buk-savanoriu.lt) is online database seeking to establish a network of volunteers and organizations accepting volunteers. It also provides information on young volunteers and volunteering in general.

- What is the legal / financial (fiscal) status of organizations promoting volunteering?

Concerning the legal status of organizations promoting volunteering, according to the existing Law on Voluntary activities article nr.6<sup>8</sup>, the following organizations are recognized as legal in order to promote and organize the voluntary activities:

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<sup>8</sup> Law on Volunteering Activities

[http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc\\_l?p\\_id=402802&p\\_query=savanori%F0kos%20veiklos&p\\_tr2=2](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=402802&p_query=savanori%F0kos%20veiklos&p_tr2=2), last entry date 2011 09 14

- 1) Charity and sponsorship fund
- 2) Budgetary Institutions
- 3) Associations
- 4) Public Institutions
- 5) Religion Communities, Centers of community and religion
- 6) The representative branches of International social organizations
- 7) Political parties
- 8) Guilds
- 9) Other juridical persons, which activities are defined by the special laws, also, which are not-for-profit also, the profit they receive can not be apportioned to the members.

However, there is no separate law at the moment on any tax exemption or benefits.

### 3. Promotion of volunteering of young people

- Which methods among the one listed below are the most used to promote volunteering of young people in your country?

By national policies:

Advertisement campaigns

Education

Youth information centers

Funding of NGOs

Other

None

Concerning the education (or educational projects) the Ministry of the Education and Science adopted the General teaching plan (2011–2013) for schools<sup>9</sup> recently. The promotion of voluntary activities is also indicated in the plan. Furthermore, the vice minister of Ministry of the Education and Science Mr. Vaidas Bacys believes, that the lessons on the importance voluntary activities in the schools will be offered in the near future<sup>10</sup>.

The NGOs are also called to apply for the projects and get the fund from the government.

It is worth to mention, that the Youth Affairs coordinator place was established in each Municipality by the Law on Youth Policy Framework<sup>11</sup>. They are standing in the middle between the youth and the Municipality members. According to the Law, they are also responsible for the implementation of Youth Policy and Affairs. Basically, projects and measures are provided by them to the NGOs, which means they also spread the information by implementing programs

According to the goals which are declared in the Action plan of 2011 – 2013 of this National Program on Youth Policy Development of 2011–2019 part 4.3<sup>12</sup>, Youth Affairs Department under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, has to prepare and spread the information on voluntary activities in 2012–2013. At the moment the preparation works have started. The Public policy and Management institute as the result initiative of Youth Affairs Department under the Ministry of Social Security and Labor started the survey in order to evaluate the outlook of the youth on Youth

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<sup>9</sup> General teaching plan <http://www.smm.lt/docs/Bendrieji%20ugdymo%20planai.%20Patvirtintas%20variantas%2006-07.pdf> , last entry date 2011 09 15

<sup>10</sup> Newsletter on Volunteering <http://kps.lmitkc.lt/supadmin/kiti/spaw/uploads/files/apie%20savanoryte%20PITams.pdf> , last entry date 2011 09 15

<sup>11</sup> [http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc\\_l?p\\_id=283614](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=283614) [http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc\\_l?p\\_id=396538](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=396538) ; 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)

<sup>12</sup> The Action plan of 2011 – 2013 of the National Youth Policy Development programme for 2011-2019 [http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc\\_l?p\\_id=396538](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=396538) ; 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)

organizations as well as voluntary activities. Moreover, the brochure on volunteerism is prepared to be published.

By NGOs:

Advertisement campaigns

Education

Youth information centers

Other:

None

NGO Information and Support Centre Team recently launched NGO Forum 2011 which was dedicated to European Year of Volunteering 2011 Tour. It was a three -day interactive program all around the theme of volunteering. The tour has provided volunteers and organizations involving volunteers (OIVs) with an opportunity to exhibit achievements, give live demonstrations, meet one another and raise awareness of volunteering to visitors<sup>13</sup>.

Moreover, During the European Day festival in Kaunas, Lithuania (2011)<sup>14, 15</sup> NGOs had a possibility to promote their activities by establishing the Volunteering town. The anthem<sup>16</sup> in order to promote voluntary activities was created for this occasion.

Also, the national TV of Lithuania (LTV) launched a project in the cooperation with Lithuanian Youth Council (LiJOT) "The bureau of Volunteers"<sup>17</sup>. The idea of this project was also to promote and to expose the voluntary activities and to promote the active social life. People from all over Lithuania were suggesting the ideas, projects, events or workshops they wanted to implement during the broadcast.

Concerning the internet promotion, many new websites have been launched recently as the result of initiative NGO's as well, as cooperation between the private sector and NGO's<sup>18</sup>. Also, the social pages such as facebook, twitter increase the amount of information on voluntary activities in Lithuania.

*- Which among the followings are methods of recognition of volunteering of young people in your country?*

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<sup>13</sup> European Year of Volunteering 2011 Tour NGO Forum 2011 <http://www.nisc.lt/forumas/2011/index.php?lng=en&id=1>, last entry date 2011 09 16

<sup>14</sup> European Commission website [http://ec.europa.eu/lietuva/news\\_hp/news/europos\\_diena\\_2011\\_lt.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/lietuva/news_hp/news/europos_diena_2011_lt.htm), last entry date 2011 09 15

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LfA37MokU6w>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QKhj3xLn5k>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xd68OTafx9c>

<sup>18</sup> Newsletter on Volunteering <http://kps.lmitkc.lt/supadmin/kiti/spaw/uploads/files/apie%20savanoryte%20PITams.pdf>, last entry date 2011 09 15

- European Youth Pass
- Certificates
- Credits in the formal education system
- Awards
- Incentives
- They are valued in the CV
- Other:
- They are not recognized

According to the Law on Volunteering Activities article nr.12<sup>19</sup>, the voluntary activities might be recognized as an internship or learning experience or social activity.

Sometimes (depending on the professor and on the field of studies) the voluntary service can be recognized as a internship, but that might happen only on a case-by-case basis, rather than as a common rule in Lithuania.

Actually, it depends highly on how well young people can present volunteering to their professors, employers, colleagues (for the promotion purposes).

Certification is only given to EVS volunteers in Lithuania.

*- What obstacles to young people's engagement in volunteering do exist and how are these faced by national policies?*

As the Law on Voluntary activities was adopted only two months ago, the obstacles in practice have not come up yet. There is no statistical information on this issue so far.

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<sup>19</sup> Law on Volunteering Activities

[http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc\\_l?p\\_id=402802&p\\_query=savanori%F0kos%20veiklos&p\\_tr2=2](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=402802&p_query=savanori%F0kos%20veiklos&p_tr2=2), last entry date 2011 09 15

#### **4. Mobility of young volunteers**

*- Is there any national monitoring of how mobility of young volunteers takes place? No*

There is no national monitoring system created, however, national agency of Youth in Action programme monitors the mobility of young volunteers under EVS.