



INFORMATION TEMPLATE

ON

SOCIAL INCLUSION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

in LITHUANIA



SPRING 2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. The socio-economic situation of young people	6
2. Policy measures for young people at risk of social exclusion	6
3. Research on social inclusion	7
4. Examples of practice	8

1. The socio-economic situation of young people

1.1 Please inform which groups of the young people are perceived as being socially excluded. What are the main factors for being socially excluded as a young person in your country?

Socially excluded are young people:

1. from families, that are socially vulnerable;
2. if parental rights are limited;
3. from orphanages or living in rural areas;
4. are children of migrant workers and immigrants;
5. are children of ethnic minorities.

Also young people with any physical or mental disabilities are stated as socially excluded. The majority of socially excluded young people are those who are unemployed.

1.2 Please provide the percentage representing the share of young people (18-24) who are at *risk of poverty* (and/or severely materially deprived and/or living in a household with very low work intensity).

Please compare it to the general population risk of poverty rate. What is the trend in your country – is the rate growing etc.?

No information

1.3 Has an impact of the current financial crisis on young people been observed in your country?

Economic crisis has affected the employment prospects of the young generation, but with the help of state policies youth unemployment rate is currently the lowest ever, registered by the European Union's statistics agency Eurostat. Young people under 29 years of age account for 21.5 percent of all unemployed while 1 October 2012 they accounted for 23.2 percent. During January-November 2013, 93,600 young people under 29 years of age were registered as unemployed (37.1 percent of all registered unemployed). This 4.7 percent less than during the same period in 2012 (98,200 young people were registered and accounted for 35.2 percent of all registered unemployed).

2. Policy measures for young people at risk of social exclusion

2.1 Social subsistence/ protection and health cover for young people living in poverty

In Lithuania all people living in poverty (below the minimum standard) get the same social protection rights. Those are:

- Financial support for those, whose monthly income rate is below the one, that is stated in country;
- The heating compensation;
- Municipal social housing for rent;
- Support for housing and construction (reconstruction).

2.2 Measures to meeting the medical Care needs of Young people at risk of social exclusion

All young people to get free of charge medical care need to be either student, either registered unemployed person. For those, who are mentally or physically disabled the medical care is free of charge. There are no other measures to meeting the medical Care needs.

2.3 Measures to re-engage the young people not in employment, education or training (NEET)

The National Program for the Development of Youth Policy for 2011 – 2019, which was adopted by Lithuania Government in 1st of December of 2010.

http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=396165

There are the Plan of Measures for 2011 -2013 and 2014 – 2016 adopted by the Minister of Social Security and Labor, where the measures addressing NEET are foreseen as well.

Also the Program for intensive long-term support for unemployed and school drop-outs was approved in 17th of April 2013.

http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=446869&p_tr2=2

The National Working Plan for Implementation of Youth Guarantee Initiative, 16th of December 2013.

<https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/forms/legalAct.html?documentId=b4432c10722e11e3bd0ecaffd80c672a>

2.4 Measures to ensure access to decent housing for young people at risk of social exclusion

As the Ministry of Social Security and Labour is responsible for the measures, that should be taken to people at risk of social exclusion, so the function of housing is delegated to municipalities

according to the Law on State Support for Rent and Housing, and Apartment Buildings to Renovate (http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=442098). There is foreseen, that municipalities should provide the social housing for rent and to support for housing and construction (reconstruction).

2.5 Measures addressing the social integration of young people with disabilities

From 2006 the Department for the Affairs of Disabled at the Ministry of Social Security and Labour provides financial support for disabled people who are studying at institutions of higher education. The following financial assistance measures are given:

1. Monthly payment for special needs;
2. Partially financing the tuition fee for the studies.

2.6 The contribution of youth work (and youth centres) to social inclusion of young people

The Description of Open Youth Centers Activities was adopted in 11th of December of 2012 (http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=439705&p_query=&p_tr2=2). Also The Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour each year finances the activities of open youth centers.

Open youth centers and open youth areas are targeting the youth aged 14-29 which has less possibilities by providing social, educational and psychological services. In order to ensure a smooth transition to education or labour market, NEET participants are considered to be a priority. One of the current open youth centers' function is related to the raising of employment of youth, so open youth centers are able to contribute at least indirectly in this sphere.

3. Research on social inclusion

2.1 Is there any national report/ national survey investigating the social exclusion of young people in your country, including issues of discrimination?

The employability of unemployed and school drop-outs: the review of good practice of EU member states and recommendations towards the work with socially excluded and inactive young people, 9th of May 2013.

The comparative analyses on the results of the researches on youth problematic, 2012. It was held by the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour according to the EU financed project "The integration of youth policy".

http://ijpp.lt/file/JAUNIMO_PROBLEMATIKOS_TYRIMU_REZULTATU_PALYGINAMOJI_ANALIZE_2012.pdf

Statistical portrait of young people, 2013. Statistics Lithuania.

http://osp.stat.gov.lt/documents/10180/259432/Lietuvos_jaunimo_statistinis_portretas.pdf

3.2 Is there any longitudinal research focused on the cumulative nature of disadvantage

The Statistics of Lithuania collects data on the number of families in social risk, as well as the data on the children living in them.

3.3 Apart from national reports and surveys, are you aware of other research that is valuable for understanding the situation of young people (esp. those with fewer opportunities) in the current crisis?

The Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour implemented EU financed project where one activities was to held the research on youth problematic in every municipality (there 60 of them in Lithuania). All the researches are placed at the web site: www.jrd.lt.

4. Examples of policy responses and practices

4.1 What are the relevant initiatives/projects at regional/ national level promoting the social inclusion of young people?

Youth policy in Lithuania is well developed. There such major legal acts concerning youth policy in Lithuania:

- The Law on Youth Policy Framework (2003)
http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=267613;
- The chapter on youth policy in the program of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (from 2004);
- The National Youth Policy Development Program for 2011 – 2019 (2010)
http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=396165;
- and etc.

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (Official Gazette, 2013, No. 29-1406) has approved the following priority measures in the field of youth policy for 2012 – 2016 (http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=462170):

- To provide measures and actions aimed to increase youth employment and foster youth entrepreneurship;
- To define youth work and its principles, to improve activities and functions of the institutions working in the field of youth;
- To strengthen prevention of youth unemployment expanding and improving vocational information, orientation and counselling, introducing young people to the trends of social and economic development of modern society as well as employment opportunities.

4.2 Have young people and civil society organizations been given political and financial support to be involved in the policy making process on social inclusion?

While implementing EU funds and Lithuanian Government financed projects “Promoting the partnership between national and non-governmental sectors in order to implement integrated youth policy” and “Developing integrated youth policy” all 60 municipalities in Lithuania have prepared long-term (2013 – 2018) strategic documents on youth policy followed by medium-term (2013 – 2015) action plans and monitoring and control systems for their implementation. All these documents were prepared in collaboration with young people: 28% (out of 6800 participants) of participants in working groups, that were preparing these documents, was youth (15 – 29).

4.3 Have youth organisations and other civil society organisations been involved in the development of the policies related to social inclusion of young people

As the youth policy is integrated itself and covers different areas of public policy, one of which is social inclusion. All questions regarding youth policy are dealt while collaborating with young people. There is Council for Youth Affairs on national level, which is collegial advisory institution, constituted on the basis of equal partnership from the representatives, delegated by state institutions and the Lithuanian Youth Council. On local level the Municipal Council for Youth Affairs is a body having a deliberative vote and a long-term objective – to ensure the involvement of youth in solving essential problems.