

Perspective on Youth Work Developments

LITHUANIA FACT SHEET

The 3rd European Youth Work Convention (EYWC) plays a key role in launching the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda (EYWA) as a strategic framework for further developing and strengthening youth work practice and policies in Europe. The goal of this fact sheet is to provide basic information about the perspective on youth work developments in a specific country. All information has been gathered from national contact points, reports or country sheets and profiles available online. The purpose of this fact sheet is to stimulate discussion before, at and after the 3rd EYWC among the members of the national delegations. This information is a suggestion only and a starting point for further development by the delegation when planning actions for implementation of the EYWA.

FACTS

Youth work as a recognised occupation: YES (The youth work providers are identified and defined and principles of youth workers' profession are described in the 2013 order No. A1-208 of Social Security Minister and Labor of the Republic of Lithuania on 'The Approval of the Youth Workers' Job Description').

Legislative framework for youth work: YES

Main youth work actors: municipalities, Department of Youth Affairs (under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour) coordinates the activities of the state and municipal institutions in the of youth work

Highlights with regard to youth work development:

Mobile youth work (youth work that is brought to an area where youth work infrastructure does not exist, and that is based on the individual needs of the young people who live in that territory) has expanded in the recent years.

STRENGTHS & SUCCESSES	CHALLENGES
<p>A growing network of open youth centres. Open youth work is the form of youth work that has been developed the most over the past years.</p> <p>Digital youth work is also becoming stronger. During the pandemic it became a reality and currently is receiving support from different actors to make it a quality practice.</p>	<p>Unsustainable financing. It is done on a project basis which makes the paper work very big for very small amounts of money to maintain the work of the youth centres.</p> <p>Youth workers are not staying in the field, therefore there is a constant need to train new people who often leave in 1-2 years.</p> <p>Recognition of youth work and youth workers.</p> <p>No youth work activities in rural areas (this is being addressed by mobile youth work recently).</p> <p>Lack of trained professionals in rural areas.</p> <p>Extracurricular activities (questionable quality) called youth work.</p>

SUPPORT NEEDED

If youth work would come into the European discourse more often and it would translate into more recognition outside of the youth sector, in the long run it could become a better financed field of work which also might lead to people not leaving it for better pay elsewhere. If there would be recognition of youth work and recognition of youth workers as a profession with a decent salary, youth work would be implemented by professionals and not cultural workers who needed some extra hours to make ends meet.

There are plenty of options for capacity building on the European level. We just need to find ways to reach those who are losing inspiration to work and to revive it.

GREATEST NEED FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH WORK IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS

Supporting further development of quality youth work

ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

- Youth Wiki youth work chapter link: <https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/en/content/youthwiki/101-general-context-lithuania>