



**Youth**Partnership

# COUNTRY SHEET ON YOUTH POLICY IN LITHUANIA



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**Youth**Partnership  
Council of Europe  
European Commission



Education and Culture DG



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## **1 Context of national youth policy (give a brief assessment of youth policy in your country (achievements, problems, obstacles, tendencies ...))**

The wish to ensure the sustainability of the emerging youth initiative and its development has resulted in the present model of youth policy. In the framework of this model non-governmental organizations have a special priority status. The State has to provide favourable conditions to encourage and support non-governmental youth organizations. Youth NGO's are expected to become increasingly stronger over time and to take over the responsibilities formerly belonging to the public sector. Institutional structure of youth policy implementing bodies is getting stronger on local level. On local level there are active regional councils and "Round tables".

For the first time in the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for the years 2004-2008 there was an article on youth policy, which was ensured in the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for the years 2006-2008. Several measures are planned to be implemented: 2.1. To support young families by guaranteeing a preferential long-term housing credit and compensating interest paid for housing credit. 2.2. To encourage the development of associated youth structures; to support their interaction with local authorities, rural and urban communities. 2.3. To support the efforts of youth organizations by addressing youth problems in the fields of education, science, employment, housing, recreation, culture, social security, health care, sport, crime prevention and others. 2.4. To encourage entrepreneurship. To make every effort to create favourable conditions for as many young people as possible to start up a business. 2.5. To increase allocations for youth organisation projects. There is tendency that youth issues are more often discussed on all levels (national, regional and local).

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2007 the Prime Ministers of Poland and Lithuania signed an agreement on the Polish-Lithuanian Youth Exchange Fund. Fund was established in order to bring the two nations closer by:

- Promoting the development of the transboundary co-operation;
- Developing actively the friendly and good-neighbourly relations;
- Inspiring cultural cooperation and promoting tolerance.

The aims of this fund are: 1) exchange of Polish and Lithuanian youth; 2) sharing good practice between Polish and Lithuanian organizations working with youth and active in the field of youth policy; like seminars and trainings; 3) projects, which are organized and implementation by organizations, promoting youth exchange and other initiatives between Lithuanian and Polish youth; 4) events, meetings and other initiatives of Polish and Lithuanian Youth Exchange Fund; 5) information initiatives aimed at inspiring cultural cooperation, promoting tolerance and better understanding between Polish and Lithuania

youth; 6) publications fostering closer links between people of Poland and Lithuania; 7) other initiatives.

## 2. Statistics on young people

Total number of young people from the ages 13 and 30: 902.117 thousand (Source: Department of Statistics to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, 2007).

Percentage of young people from the ages 13 and 30: 26.65 % of total population. Percentage of young women: 13.08 %; percentage of young men: 13.57 % (Source: Department of Statistics to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, 2007).

AGE	%	% men	% women
13	1.35	0.69	0.66
14	1.53	0.78	0.75
15	1.54	0.79	0.75
16	1.57	0.80	0.77
17	1.53	0.78	0.75
18	1.56	0.79	0.77
19	1.65	0.84	0.81
20	1.68	0.86	0.82
21	1.62	0.82	0.80
22	1.6	0.81	0.79
23	1.56	0.80	0.76
24	1.44	0.73	0.71
25	1.4	0.72	0.68
26	1.36	0.69	0.67
27	1.33	0.68	0.65
28	1.32	0.67	0.65
29	1.31	0.66	0.65
30	1.32	0.66	0.66

## 3. Actors and Structures

### 3.1 Public authorities

### 3.1.1 National public authorities:

#### Ministry in charge of youth

- Name of ministry  
**Ministry of Social Security and Labour**, [www.socmin.lt](http://www.socmin.lt)
- Minister  
Ms. Vilija Blinkeviciute
- Duration of mandate  
92 months

#### **The Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour**, [www.jrd.lt](http://www.jrd.lt)

- Main tasks of the Youth department  
Main functions: prepare and implement state youth policy programmes and measures, analyse the condition of the youth and youth organisations in Lithuania, co-ordinate the activities of state and municipal institutions as well as agencies in the field of youth policy, carry out other activities related to youth and youth organisations.
- Number of people who work in this ministry in the youth department  
16 persons
- Director responsible for Youth in the Ministry  
Mr. Juras Pozela
- Contact person in the youth department competent for European youth policy  
Mr. Juras Pozela, the Director of the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Tel.: +370 5 2497 335, e-mail: [j.pozela@jrd.lt](mailto:j.pozela@jrd.lt)

#### **Other national public bodies who are directly involved in youth policies:**

Council of Youth Affairs is a consultative body to the Director of the Department of Youth Affairs (JRD).

The organizational structure of the Council of Youth Affairs is as follows:

- Six members of the Council are appointed from the state institutions. At the moment the Council of Youth Affairs includes executive officers from the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Government. As a rule the chairperson of the Council of Youth Affairs is a representative of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.
- Lithuanian Youth Council (LiJOT) nominates the other six members to the Council of Youth Affairs; one of them usually has the position of the vice-chair. These nominees to the Council of Youth Affairs must be leaders or employees of youth organizations and they must have relevant experience and knowledge. Several actors in the youth work field must also support them before they are registered as candidates.

### **Parliament commission in charge of youth issues:**

- Name

Commission on Youth and Sport Affairs of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania

- name of president / chair

Mr. Algimantas Salamakinas

- role and competence

Main tasks: 1. Implementation of youth policy; 2. Youth sport and wellness questions; 3. Sport policy implementation. Main functions of the Commission: 1) Consideration of youth questions concerning: education, local work with youth and social problems; 2) taking care of cultural creativity of youth, youth from ethnical minorities integration into cultural and social life, education of public awareness in Lithuanian army, problems of rural youth; 3) cooperation with youth affairs structures of other countries; 4) parliament control; 5) taking care of moral and civic awareness education of youth; 6) and others.

#### *3.1.2 Regional public authorities with competencies in the youth field*

In Lithuania structures with competences youth affairs are established at national and local level but not at regional level yet.

#### *3.1.3 Local public authorities with competencies in the youth field*

Since 2003 in all municipalities administration the incumbency of youth policy coordinators was established. The position is funded from national budget. Main activities of the youth coordinator are: 1. To coordinate youth policy implementation on the level of municipality; 2. To systemize and analyze the situation of youth; 3. To prepare and spread information about the implementation of youth policy; 4. To implement the decisions of Youth Affairs Council in the municipality; 5. To inform youth organization about the possibility to get support for their activities; 6. To give consultations for youth, how to apply for different programs; 7. To participate in different working groups; 8. To represent youth position; 9. To organize trainings for youth, and etc.

The Municipality councils for youth affairs are formed on the principle of parity for 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. 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 recognise youth demands and possibilities, 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). Activities performed by the municipality council for youth affairs are most often regarded as: 1. Prepares offers and general information regarding youth policy implementation to the mayor, council, municipality administration and etc.; 2. Prepares municipality programmes targeted for youth, gives recommendations regarding financial support for the project activities; 3. Analyses youth issues and demands; 4. Analyses foreign experience on youth policy issues; 5. Gathers information about activities of youth NGOs and municipality institutions targeted for youth; 6. Initiates sociological and statistical researches in the municipality youth situations; 7. Assists youth NGOs in finding premises for their activities.

### **3.2 Youth welfare services (comprising public and/or non public actors)**

Structure and major organisations of (voluntary) social welfare and social services for young people

There are 10 Youth work centres in each Lithuania's region. The main target of Youth work centres is the raise of competitiveness of youth. In seeking of it, it is attempted to proceed by: creating the opportunities to learn the labour market; assisting to select the appropriate job or training institution; organising the labour - and social adaptation; providing of open information, consultancy, guidance, psycho-social adaptation, self - instructed services.

Open work with youth centres are established under the program of the Department of Youth Affairs. In 2008 there were 12 projects supported. These centres are orientated to open space for leisure activities for young people.

Also there are Public information services in libraries, where all needful information is provided.

Youth entrepreneurship centres are establishing in each region. These centres are orientated to promotion of youth entrepreneurship, to encourage young people to become enterprising and to learn to use their own and local communities' possibilities.

Each municipality has a *day centre* for children. Such centres render social favour for risk group children and theirs families and help them to integrate into society.

### **3.3 Non-public actors/structures & youth services with competencies in the youth field**

#### *3.3.1 Youth councils*

The Council of Lithuanian Youth Organizations (LIJOT) is a self-dependent, voluntary union of non-governmental youth organizations and regional unions of youth organizations.

*Main aims:* 1. Promote youth initiative, 2. Promote youth mutual understanding and co-operation, 3. Promote activities useful and constructive for the state and society, 4. Represent youth interests for Lithuanian governmental institutions.

*Activities:* 1. Representation of youth interests; 2. Realization of Lithuanian State Youth Policy Concept; 3. Training of youth leaders; 4. Development of international relations; 5. Providing youth with information.

Contact person: Sarunas Frolenko, President of LiJOT, Tel.: +370 5 279 1280, e-mail: [prezidentas@lijot.lt](mailto:prezidentas@lijot.lt), [www.lijot.lt](http://www.lijot.lt).

There are also regional youth councils in municipalities. The councils are usually named "Round Table" and they are associations of youth organisations at municipal level. At the moment those organizations are established in 18 municipalities (out of 60). 10 councils are members of LiJOT.

*Main activities:* 1. involve young people into the organisation and its work; 2. work with the members and volunteers, 3. train youth leaders, youth workers and volunteers; 4. provide information and consultation for the youth organisations and the organisations working with the youth, and also for the young people; 5. develop cooperation among youth organisations and the organisations working with young people, 6. foster exchange of information and experience, and involvement into the activities of the regional councils of youth organisations.

### 3.3.2 Youth NGOs

Most Lithuanian Youth organisations are members of the Council of Lithuanian Youth Organizations

### 3.4 Other structures

Expert groups, permanent networks etc.

The Department of Youth Affairs organises different types of working groups, when it is needed, for instance, when any problems arise and it needs to solve them; when the programme for government is being framed, then people from institutions or youth organisations are invited to discuss it and so on.

## 4. Legislation

### Articles of the constitution concerning youth explicitly:

Article 26: Freedom of thought, conscience and religion shall not be restricted. Parents and guardians shall, without restrictions, take care of the religious and moral education of their children and wards according to their own convictions.

Article 38: The family shall be the basis of society and the State. Family, motherhood, fatherhood and childhood shall be under the protection and care of the State. The right and duty of parents is to bring up their children to be honest people and faithful citizens and to support them until they come of age. The duty of children is to respect their parents, to take care of them in their old age, and to preserve their heritage.

Article 39: Under age children shall be protected by law.

Article 41: Education shall be compulsory for persons under the age of 16. Education at State and municipal schools of general education, vocational schools and schools of further education shall be free of charge. Higher education shall be accessible to everyone according to his individual abilities. Citizens who are good at their studies shall be guaranteed education at State schools of higher education free of charge.

### **National legislation on youth:**

A new **Youth law (Law on Youth Policy framework)** was adopted in December 2003. It provides, amongst other things, for the age brackets it applies to i.e. 14 to 29. It gives definitions (youth policy, youth NGO, youth council, non-formal education, etc.) sets youth policy principles (parity, subsidiary, co-management, cooperation, participation, etc.). In 2005 the amendment to the Law on Youth Policy Framework was adopted. The main amendment in this law is: A new institution, entitled Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour should be established instead of State Council of Youth Affairs. The department takes over all the functions the Council had. The law also identifies governmental institutions involved in youth field and describes the role of Department of Youth Affairs (before the State Council for Youth Affairs). This law replaced the former Youth Policy Concept.

### **Regional and local legislation on youth:**

Many municipalities have their conception for youth policy. Each municipality has Strategic action plan, where one of measures could be programme for youth affairs.

## **5. National Programmes on youth**

- **Active youth citizenship, initiatives and leisure activities of young people from rural areas development**

**Objectives of the programme:** **1.** Promoting youth initiative, joining public activities, promoting voluntary activities, increasing possibilities of young people in rural areas; **2.** Consolidating youth NGO and improving the quality of their activities; **3.** Empowering disadvantaged youth with essential knowledge and skills to cope with social crisis.

- **Youth socialization, creative self-expression and participation in creating knowledge society**

**Objectives of the programme:** **1.** Educating conscious personality able to solve his/her problems actively and creatively and take active part in the public life; **2.** Ensuring possibilities for youth

participation in creating knowledge society, enabling them to become the active part of the knowledge society, empowering them with necessary knowledge, skills and abilities.

- **National drug control and drug addiction prevention**

**Objective of the programme:** 1. Implementation of prevention of youth drug addiction and other forms of addiction, youth psychological crises and youth crime.

- **Analysis, coordination and implementation of interdepartmental and cross-sectorial activities for youth and youth situation**

**Objectives of the programme:** 1. Analysing, systematizing and proclaiming exhaustive information on youth situation; 2. Efficient administering of programmes for financing youth project activities; 3. Coordinating youth policy implementation at the national and regional levels, creating and applying integrated youth policy models at the national and regional levels, representing youth policy at the international level; 4. Dissemination and exchange of good practice in youth policy implementation in local, national and international levels.

## **5.1 Action plans i.e. official strategies**

In the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for the years 2006-2008 it is stated to prepare these strategies/programmes:

1. The programme of youth policy development in municipalities – it was approved in 14<sup>th</sup> of August in 2007.
2. The programme of youth potentiality development – it is being framed.
3. The national programme of youth entrepreneurship development – it was approved in 2<sup>nd</sup> of April of 2008.
4. The programme of children and youth public spirit, morality and voluntary activities stimulation – it is being framed.

## **5.2 Programmes and actions for specific target groups**

No information

## **6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth**

National level

670 thousand Euros (The budget of the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour for supporting and financing youth organisations and organisations working with youth)

## 7. European Dimension of youth policy

### 7.1 Council of Europe programmes or activities implemented in an important way for youth purposes (including funding schemes of the European Youth Foundation)

Council of Europe youth campaign: All different- All equal

Coordinating Organisation:

Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labor (former State Council of Youth Affairs).

Campaign Website:

<http://www.visiskirtingivisilygus.lt/lt/>

Contact-Email:

e-mail: [info@jrd.lt](mailto:info@jrd.lt)

### 7.2 European Union programmes

*Briefly explain how the YOUTH Programme is implemented in your country and provide a link/ to the institutions who implement this programme (National Agencies or other)*

In 2000 the co-ordination of the program YOUTH in Lithuania was delegated to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. The Ministry annually signed the contract with the Agency of International Youth Co-operation (Lithuanian National Agency) concerning the administration of the program YOUTH in Lithuania.

In the period of YOUTH program (2000-2006) almost 6 900 000 euros have been allocated for 1255 projects and activities implemented by Lithuanian youth groups and organizations. Almost 25000 young people got involved into the program's activities.

In 2007 the new generation of the Communities' programs started. However, this did not bring any major changes into the structure of program management in Lithuania – the coordinating and administrating bodies remained the same. During the first year (2007) 320 applications were received, 134 projects were granted.

The Eurodesk network and the Lithuanian Eurodesk website started its operations in the country in 2004. The main parts of the website are the news section, the discussion forum, the youth NGOs database and the funding search, all of which are constantly updated or moderated. Topics relating to youth mobility (travelling, studying and work placements) and the rights of young people are also covered by the website's content.

Visitors of the website are given the opportunity to send questions directly to the Eurodesk staff in Lithuania by filling out a special form that is provided online. In 2007 the Lithuanian network has received 671 such queries and the total number of unique visitors to the Eurodesk website was 601 689. This number has increased significantly since 2006, when the webpage had received 254 137 unique clicks.

## **8. Forthcoming events/conferences**

### **8.1 Current developments/plans with regard to national legislation/guidelines**

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### **8.2 Current developments/plans with regard to European youth policy priorities**

*Please mention important events in the youth field, especially those linked to the four Open Method of Coordination key priorities and give the dates foreseen.*

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