

# The European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

Key priorities for youth policies answers on  
**Country information on youth policies**



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

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## **LITHUANIA, 2006**

### **1 Statistics on young people**

#### **1.1 Total number of young people in global population**

903172 *young persons*

#### **1.2 Percentage of young people in global population**

26.37 %

#### **1.3 Percentage of young people by age brackets**

13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30
4.62 %	4.85 %	4.76 %	4.22 %	3.96 %	3.96 %

#### **1.4 Percentage of young people by gender**

Male	Female
13.39 %	12.98 %

#### **1.4.1 Percentage of young people by gender and by age brackets**

	13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30
Female	4.23 %	4.44 %	4.39 %	3.88 %	3.66 %	3.73 %
Male	5.06 %	5.32 %	5.19 %	4.61 %	4.3 %	4.22 %

#### **1.5 Percentage of rural young people in global population**

32.04 %

#### **1.5.1 Percentage of rural young people in rural population**

25.3 %

#### **1.6 Percentage of urban young people in global population**

67.96 %

#### **1.6.1 Percentage of urban young people in urban population**

26.9 %

#### **1.7 Percentage of young people with a different nationality in global population**

N/I %

## 1.8 Number of people working in the youth field (employees and volunteers)

N/I *persons*

## 2 Actors and structures

### 2.1 National public authorities

#### 2.1.1 Ministry in charge of youth

Name of ministry

Ministry of Social Security and Labour

Name of minister

Ms. Vilija Blinkeviciute

Duration of mandate

73 *months*

Number of people working in the ministry working on youth

18 *persons*

Contact person in the youth department

Juras Pozela, director of the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, tel. +37052497335, e-mail [j.pozela@jrd.lt](mailto:j.pozela@jrd.lt)

Function, role and competence of youth department

Main functions: prepare and implement state youth policy programmes and measures, analyse the condition of 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.

#### 2.1.2 Other public or semi public bodies

Council of Youth Affairs is an advisory body to the director of the Department of Youth Affairs.

Contacts: Juras Pozela, director of the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, tel. +37052497335, e-mail [j.pozela@jrd.lt](mailto:j.pozela@jrd.lt)

#### 2.1.3 Parliament commission in charge of youth issues

Commission on Youth and Sport Affairs of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania (Chairman: Algimantas Salamakinas). Main tasks: 1. Implementation of youth policy; 2. Youth sport and wellness questions; 3. Sport policy implementation. Main functions of 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 etnical 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) parliamentary control; 5) taking care of moral and civic awareness education of youth; 6) and others.



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## 2.1.4 Other national public authorities

N/I

## 2.2 Regional and/or local public authorities

### 2.2.1 Regional public structures with competencies in the youth field

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

### 2.2.2 Local public structures 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 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 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 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 organisation. 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 interests with the interests of the entire community, better understand democratic decision-making and implementation procedures. At the moment those municipality councils are established in 39 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 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.

## 2.3 Non public actors/structures - compulsory consultation

### 2.3.1 Names of bodies that must be consulted in the youth field

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: #



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## Country information on youth policies

Promote youth initiative, # Promote youth mutual understanding and co-operation, # Promote activities useful and constructive for the state and society, # Represent youth interests for Lithuanian governmental institutions. Activities: # Representation of youth interests; # Realization of Lithuanian State Youth Policy Concept; # Training of youth leaders; # Development of international relations; # Providing youth with information. There are also regional youth council 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 of councils are members of LiJOT. Main activities: # involve young people into the organisation and its work; # work with the members and volunteers, # train youth leaders, youth workers and volunteers; # provide information and consultation for the youth organisations and the organisations working with the youth, and also for the young people; # develop cooperation among youth organisations and the organisations working with young people, # foster exchange of information and experience, and involvement into the activities of the regional councils of youth organisations.

### 2.4 Non public actors/structures - non-compulsory consultation

#### 2.4.1 Names of bodies that can be consulted in the youth field

N/A

#### 2.4.2 National and regional youth councils

Name of national youth council - The Council of Lithuanian Youth Organizations (LiJOT); Name of regional youth councils - "Round tables".

#### 2.4.3 Large youth NGOs

Lithuanian Students Union, The Union of Lithuanian Student Representations, Scouts, Ateitininkai federation and other organisations.

#### 2.4.4 Expert groups, round tables, consulting groups in the youth field

# there are some Ad Hoc expert groups helping State Council for Youth Affairs, LiJOT and some other big organisations and networks when dealing with certain topics. # For the preparation of national programmes in the field of youth policy it is build 4 working groups. Youth matters related programmes, which are under preparation process and which are included into Government of the Republic of Lithuania programme for 2004-2008 mean implementation plan are: 1. National programme on youth entrepreneurship; 2. Programme on work improvement of coordinators for municipal youth affairs; 3. Programme on youth information centres network establishing and organizing of their activities; 4. Programme on promotion of public spirit, morality and voluntary work of children and youth through youth organisations, youth work organisations and traditional religious communities.

#### 2.4.5 Contacts of permanent networks in the youth field



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N/A

#### **2.4.6 Other non public actors/structures**

N/A

### **3 Legislation**

#### **3.1 Constitution (articles that concern youth)**

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.

#### **3.2 Application and transposition of the United Nations Declaration of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms**

N/I

#### **3.3 Application and transposition of the European Convention on Childrens Rights**

N/I

#### **3.4 National legislation on youth**

A new Youth law (Law on Youth Policy basics) 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.). It also identifies governmental institutions involved in youth field and describes the role of Department of Youth Affairs (previously the State Council for Youth Affairs). This law replaces the former Youth Policy Concept.

#### **3.5 Regional or 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.



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### 3.6 Guidelines

N/A

## 4 Programmes

### 4.1 European programmes

Lithuania as EU member can use all European programmes (YOUTH Programme, Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci, Phare etc.).

#### 4.1.1 National Agency for YOUTH Programme (Contact person)

Agency of International Youth Cooperation Lilija Gerasimiene # director of agency Pylimo 9-7, LT-01118 Vilnius Tel: +370 5 2604249 Fax: +370 5 2497005 E-mail: lilija.gerasimiene@jtba.lt

#### 4.1.2 Eurodesk

Ramune Trakymaite Didzioji str. 8-5, 01128 Vilnius Tel./faks. (5) 279 10 14 Tel. (5) 279 12 80 E-mail eurodesk@eurodesk.lt; ramune@eurodesk.lt

#### 4.1.3 Implementation of the YOUTH Programme

In Lithuania, the functions of a National Agency are performed by the Agency of International Youth Cooperation, which provides information, advice and methodical assistance to young people, their groups and organisations, as well as arranges training courses and study visits for youth leaders and workers. Coordination of implementation of YOUTH Programme belongs to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania.

#### 4.1.4 Other EU programmes implemented in an important way for youth

EQUAL programme. Young people are one of the target groups.

### 4.2 National Programmes on youth

National programmes for youth which are implemented by State Council of Youth Affairs (currently Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour): 1. Developing youth public spirit, initiatives and pastime occupation of young people from rural areas. Objectives of the programme: a) promoting youth civic initiative, joining public activities, voluntary activities, increasing possibilities of young people in rural areas; b) consolidating youth non-governmental organizations and improving the quality of their activities; c) enabling knowledge and improvement disadvantaged youth to cope with social crisis. 2. Implementing youth programmes, analysis of coordination of interdepartmental activities for youth and youth situation. Objectives of the programme: a) systematizing and proclaiming exhaustive information on youth situation; b) efficient administering of programmes for financing youth project activities; c) 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; d)



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dispersion of good practice in youth policy implementation. 3. Youth socialization, creative self # expression and participation in creating informational society. Objectives of the programme: a) educating conscious personality able to solve his/her problems actively and creatively and take active part in the public life; b) ensuring possibilities for youth participation in creating informational society, enabling them to become the active part of the informational society, granting them necessary skills and abilities. 4. National drug control and drug addiction prevention Objective of the programme - implementation of prevention of youth drug addiction and other dependency forms, youth psychological crises and youth crime.

Name of non youth specific programmes but which have a direct impact on young people  
2004-2008 programme of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania; National programme for the implementation of education strategy for 2003-2012. National drug prevention programme.

## 5 Action plans

Main characteristics and action plans in other horizontal policies directly related to youth  
N/A

## 6 Budget

### 6.1 Amounts allocated to youth policies/actions in the youth field

952 271 *Euros*

### 6.2 Main beneficiaries

Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour(former State Council for Youth Affairs) is giving financial support for youth organizations, which are implementing one year long programmes for youth. Also is financing projects for youth, which are implemented by youth organizations, organizations working with youth and non-formal youth groups.

### 6.3 Tendencies

In the period of 2004 # 2006 budgets for youth policy has increased. In year 2006 a budget for youth policies increases 44.27 % in comparison with 2004.

## 7 Changes foreseen in the youth field and new developments especially linked to the four Open Method of Coordination priorities.

By the amendments to the Law on youth policy framework: - a new institution Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour was established. It will coordinate a youth policy implementation in Lithuania instead of present secretariat of State Council of Youth Affairs; -State Council of Youth Affairs won't be decision making body. Council of Youth Affairs as advisable organ will be established under the Department of Youth Affairs.



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## **8 Forthcoming events/conferences in the youth field, especially linked to the Open Method of Coordination priorities**

On a regional and national level Youth policy conferences take place. In 2006 in every of 10 Lithuanian counties such conferences passed and on December 21 a national conference will be held. A concept of mentioned youth policy conferences are very similar: - To round up young people for collective discussion on Lithuanian youth policy concept, its development, herewith involving young people in deliberation of topical issues; - To identify different youth groups needs and expectations (jointly of involved and not involved youth in activities of youth organisations); - To introduce performance of state and municipal institutions and youth organisations on the EU level for participants of conferences. To talk over the most important EU decreed documents on youth policy and their implementation in Lithuania; - To present opinion of young people on topical issues for ministers, mayors and general public; - To seek for unified and purposeful development of national and local youth policy in Lithuania.

## **9 Useful links**

[www.lrs.lt](http://www.lrs.lt); [www.socmin.lt](http://www.socmin.lt); [www.jrd.lt](http://www.jrd.lt); [www.lijot.lt](http://www.lijot.lt); [www.eurodesk.lt](http://www.eurodesk.lt); [www.jtba.lt](http://www.jtba.lt)

## **10 Context of national youth policy (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 in the frame of this model. The State has to provide favorable 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 is an article on youth policy. 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).



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