



**LITHUANIAN YOUTH POLICY:**  
**Legislation, Structures, Good Practices**





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# Youth Policy Conception



Youth policy can be defined as the entirety of systems and measures, aspiring after the most favorable terms for personal maturity of a young person and successful their integration into society. It is generally accepted to refer to structures of assistance (fields of socialization), subsidiary adding to the effort of a person and, especially, of a family, and helping to prepare a young person for independent life. These structures can be divided into informal (friends, contemporaries), non-formal (communities, non-governmental organisations, youth activity system), formal (schools, universities), and commercial (telecommunications, banks, recreation and entertainment industry).

Modern youth policy is developed in the following two main directions:

- *Security of interests of youth in individual areas of public policy* – education and science, culture, sports, work and employment, housing, health, etc.;
- *Youth work* – i.e. youth education, aiming at enabling young people to learn from experience and experiment (voluntariness, independence, autonomy). Youth activities “reach” young people during their free time, when they are not within the family, at school, or at work. This involves the work of youth staff, education of youth leaders, buildup of youth initiative, development and implementation of civil, cultural, as well as social projects.

?? Youth policy means a purposeful activity intended to resolve youth problems and to seek to create favorable conditions for the formation of a young person and his integration into public life, as well as an activity, which has the purpose of achieving understanding and tolerance of society and individual groups thereof towards young people.

Non-governmental (youth) organisations, local and religious communities, non-formal youth groups are the best to ensure independence and involvement (in decision-making). Non-formal youth education can (and has to) be carried out by the institutions of non-formal education and culture, established by the government, e.g. municipal youth leisure

centers, youth centers, sports centers, cultural centers in the elderships. The field of non-formal education (civil, democratic) is important in the schools for pupils' autonomy.

In accordance with Article 4 of the Law on Youth Policy Framework of the Republic of Lithuania (Official Gazette, 2003, No. 119-5406; 2005, No. 144-5238), *Youth policy* means a purposeful activity intended to resolve youth problems and to seek to create favorable conditions for the formation of a young person and his integration into public life, as well as an activity, which has the purpose of achieving understanding and tolerance of society and individual groups thereof towards young people.

# Legal regulation of youth policy

Favorable and explicit legal regulation is a prerequisite for successful development of youth policy. After restoration of independence of Lithuania, youth organisations that have been operating in Lithuania before the war (Scouts, "Ateitininkai" – Catholic youth education organisation, Young Lithuanians, the Gediminids, Riflemen) and subdivisions established by international organisations have renewed their activities, new youth organisations started to establish as well. In 1992, the Lithuanian Youth Council (hereinafter referred to as LiJOT) was established with the effort of some organisations with the main purpose to unite national youth organisations and regional youth organisation unions. LiJOT started intensive communication with similar foreign organisations, got experience in the European youth policy structures, started representing the interests of the Lithuanian youth organisations.

The first legal act – State Youth Policy Conception (Official Gazette, 1996, No. 65-1537), submitted by LiJOT to the Seimas, defining the guidelines of modern youth policy in Lithuania, was adopted by the Seimas in 1996. The adopted conception defines the purposes and principles of youth policy, the structure that is responsible for implementation thereof – State Council for Youth Affairs, as well as the conception implementation financing source – State Youth Fund. The State Council for Youth Affairs,

constituted from individual officeholders of ministries and representatives delegated by non-governmental youth organisations, was assigned an interdepartmental coordination of policy of individual ministries on youth matters (defined in the conception) and development of youth activities (non-formal youth education). The State Youth Policy Conception has for a long time been the main legal act, governing the development of youth policy in Lithuania.

The Law on Youth Policy Framework, which was initiated in 2001, was approved in 2003 (Official Gazette, 2003, No. 119-5406; 2005, No. 144-5238). The Law on Youth Policy Framework for the first time established the terms of youth organisations as well as youth organisation councils and acknowledged their importance as well as contribution to the education of personality of a young person; named responsible institutions at the national (State Council for Youth Affairs) and local level, established the role of municipal coordinators of youth affairs, councils for youth affairs, councils of youth organisations.

The amendments to the Law on Youth Policy Framework were adopted in the end of 2005 (Official Gazette, 2005, No. 144-5238), providing for the reformation of the State Council for Youth Affairs to the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour (hereinafter referred to the Department of Youth Affairs) and formation of the Council for Youth Affairs to perform the advisory function.

The Law on amendments and supplements to Articles 7 and 8 of the Law on Local Self-Government of the Republic of Lithuania No. IX – 1095, adopted by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania on 24 September 2002 (Official Gazette, 2002, No. 96-4171), establishing that *the protection of rights of children and youth has become the function of the state (handed over to municipalities)* had a great effect on the development of municipal youth policy. It practically meant that in 2003 all municipalities had to establish the positions of coordinators of youth affairs, which were financed from the state budget. Main functions were provided for the coordinators of youth affairs – to assist the municipal institutions to frame and implement the municipal youth policy.

The chapter on youth policy for the first time was incorporated as a separate part in the Program of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for 2004-2008 (Official Gazette, 2005, No. 40-1290). Implementing the provisions and measures, provided in the program, legal base was improved and supplemented in the field of youth policy:

- The amendments to the Law on Youth Policy Framework were adopted in the end of 2005 (Official Gazette, 2005, No. 144-5238), providing for the reformation of

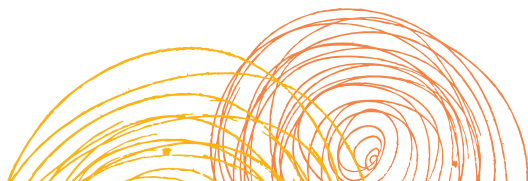
the State Council for Youth Affairs to the Department of Youth Affairs and formation of the Council of Youth Affairs to perform the advisory function.

- The Program for Development of Youth Policy in Municipalities for 2007–2009 with the purpose to enable the development of youth policy in municipalities was approved by the Resolution No. 898 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 14 August 2007 (Official Gazette, 2007, No. 95-3825).
- The National Program for Education and Promotion of Youth Entrepreneurship for 2008-2012 (Official Gazette, 2008-04-22 No. 46-1728) with the purpose to develop a consistent efficiently functioning system for responsible youth entrepreneurship education was worked out and approved to implement the provision of the program of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania to “Sustain the education of youth entrepreneurship. Endeavor that as many young people as possible were provided with the conditions to start up their own business”.

Implementing the *Program for Development of Youth Policy in Municipalities for 2007–2009*, the number of legal acts was approved in the field of youth policy:

- Governing the activities of municipal coordinators of youth affairs, a standard job description for a municipal coordinator of youth affairs was approved by the Order No. A1-68 of the Minister of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania of 4 March 2008 (Official Gazette, 2008, No. 29-1042), describing the purpose of a municipal coordinator of youth affairs, special requirements, main functions, as well as responsibility.
- Description of quality assessment methodology of youth policy in municipalities and quality assessment of youth policy in municipalities, approved by the Order No. A1-157 of the Minister of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania of 19 May 2008 (Official Gazette, 2008, No. 60-2273). This description regulates the purpose, tasks, principles, organisation, performance, and reporting on quality assessment of youth policy in municipalities.

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- Typical regulations of municipal councils for youth affairs, approved by the Order No. A1-4 of the Minister of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania of 8 January 2009 on the approval of typical regulations of municipal councils for youth affairs (Official Gazette, 2009, No. 6-201).
- Conception of open youth centers and spaces, approved by the Order No. 2V-38-(1.4) of the Director of Department of Youth Affairs of 7 April 2010.

Developing youth policy in municipalities on the expiration of the Program of development of youth policy in municipalities for 2007–2009, the Program of development of youth policy in municipalities for 2010-2012 was approved by the Order No. A1-234 of the Minister of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania of 11 June 2010 (Official Gazette, 2010, No. 70-3476). The purpose of this program is to develop youth policy in municipalities: encourage the establishment and activities of youth organisations, sustain the relation thereof with the municipal institutions, rural as well as urban communities, improve the activities of municipal coordinators of youth affairs, improve the activities relevant to framing and implementing youth policy of municipal institutions, improve the qualification of experts as well as volunteers working with youth, introduce and coordinate the system of monitoring youth situation and quality assessment of youth policy in municipalities.

National Youth Policy Development Program for 2011-2019 (Official Gazette, 2010, No. 142-7299) has the following purposes:

- to ensure the development of social security, education, and health systems to meet various needs of youth;
- to educate a conscious, public-spirited, patriotic, mature, cultured, and creative personality of a young person, capable of being an active part of diverse society;
- to develop and coordinate the system of work with youth as well as ensure the development of youth employment infrastructure;
- to establish favorable conditions for consistent and quality activities for youth and organisations working with youth with the view of more active involvement of youth in organised activities;
- to ensure the cooperation between the departments and sectors in developing a cohesive youth policy based on evidence and knowledge.



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:

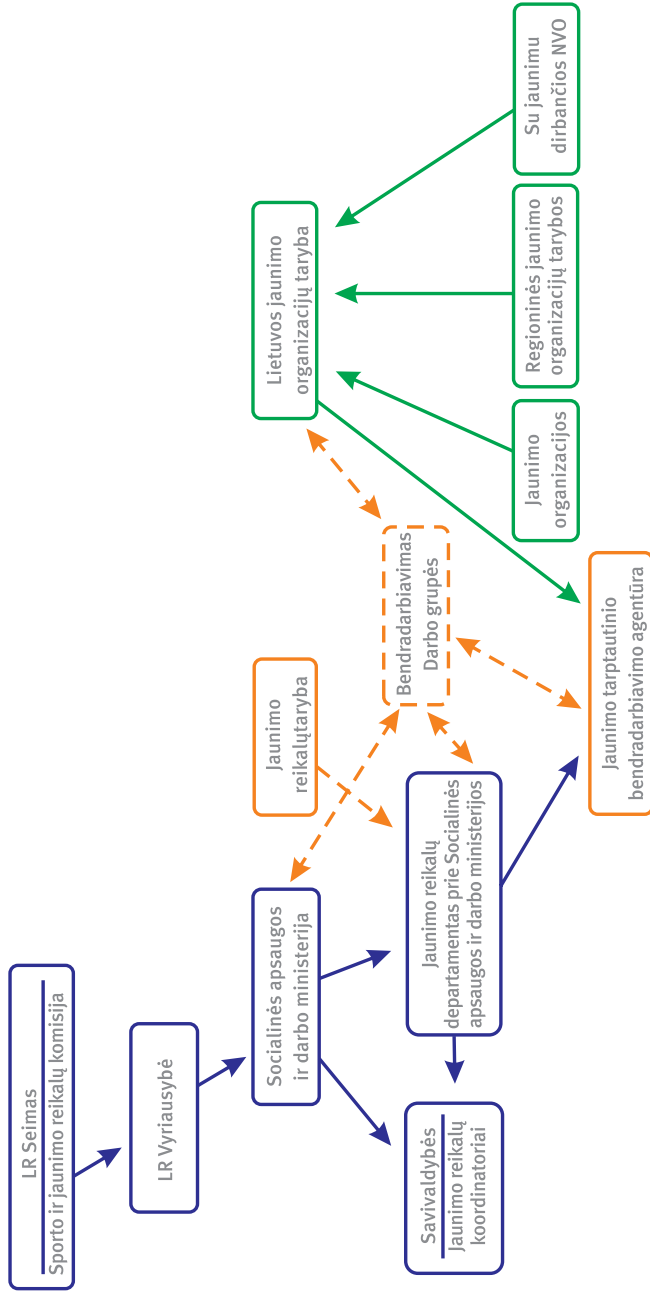
- to provide measures and actions aimed to increase youth employment and foster youth entrepreneurship;
- to define youth work and its principles, to improve activities and functions of the institutions working in the field of youth;
- to strengthen prevention of youth unemployment expanding and improving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

In order to implement these measures, a Strategy for Increased Employment is being prepared for 2014-2020, an Action Plan for 2014-2016 of the National Youth Development Programme for 2011-2019, it is also planned to improve the legal regulation of youth policy (i.e., the draft Law on Amendment to the Law on Youth Policy Framework).

# Framing and implementing youth policy at a national level

The activities of structures of youth policy in Lithuania are governed by the Law on Youth Policy Framework of the Republic of Lithuania (Official Gazette, 2003, No. 119-5406; 2005, No. 144-5238). This law establishes the main terms of youth policy and

## Integrated youth policy at national level



principles of its implementation as well as defines the areas of youth policy. An important part of the Law is related to the establishment of institutions executing and managing youth policy on national and municipal level.

## Commission for Youth and Sport Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

Commission for Youth and Sport Affairs (hereinafter referred to as the Commission) concerns about the rights of youth, implementation of the state youth policy, gives sug-

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of the Seimas. The Commission follows the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, Statute of the Seimas, other standard legislation, and regulations, approved by the resolution of the Seimas.

The Commission has the following tasks:

- 1) to concern about framing and implementing the state youth policy;
- 2) to concern about framing and implementing the state sports policy.

In pursuance of its tasks, the Commission shall:

- 1) deal with the learning, training, science, studies, education, non-formal education, municipal work with youth, social and health care problems of youth;
- 2) deal with problems of military age youth and rural youth;

- 3) deal with the problems in regard to prevention of drug addiction and other forms of addiction as well as crime control among youth;
- 4) deal with the problems of work and employment, provision for housing, as well as young families;
- 5) analyze priority trends for developing physical culture and sports, financing potential, and activities as well as activity results of responsible institutions and organisations;
- 6) analyze the efficiency of physical preparation of pupils, students, soldiers, and other layers of population, as well as suggest the ways to improve the same;
- 7) deal with the problems of developing student sports clubs and sports bases of colleges;
- 8) give suggestions on preparation of specialists of physical culture and sports, in-service training thereof, development of material sports base, international cooperation in youth and sports areas, as well as such other matters;
- 9) keep in touch with parliamentary institutions for youth and sports affairs of other countries, Lithuanian and foreign youth and sports non-governmental organisations;
- 10) give suggestions to the Seimas, the Government, and other institutions on adoption and improvement of legal acts governing youth and sports affairs;
- 11) analyze the state of standard legal acts governing youth and sports affairs as well as whether these acts meet the requirements of the laws.

Further information on the Commission is available on: [www.lrs.lt](http://www.lrs.lt)

## Ministry of Social Security and Labour

The Ministry of Social Security and Labour together with the subordinate institutions, municipalities, social partners, non-governmental organisations, and other institutions concerned implements a function that is important for every person – his work and social security.

The Ministry performs its mission with the view of the following main strategic objectives:

- to balance the labour market, enhance flexibility and security thereof, improve qualification of employees and their abilities to adapt to the market changes;



- to form the family-friendly environment, efficient social security, and active participation of communities in social activities, as well as ensure social integration of socially vulnerable population groups.

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The Family and Communities department of the Ministry has Youth Division with the following functions relevant to youth policy: coordinate the implementation of youth policy, perform national as well as international obligations in the field of youth policy; implement the measures attributed to the division's competence relevant to

the youth policy, implemented by the European Union, the European Council; coordinate the implementation of the state (handed over to municipalities) youth rights protection function.

Further information on the Ministry is available on: [www.socmin.lt](http://www.socmin.lt)

## Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour

The Department of Youth Affairs was established on 15 August 2006 after restructuring the State Council for Youth Affairs that has been operating since 1996 (Resolution No. 329 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 5 April 2006).

” The Department of Youth Affairs works out and implements the state youth policy programs and measures, analyzes the state of youth and youth organisations in Lithuania, coordinates the activities of the state and municipal institutions in the field of youth policy, as well as performs such other activities relevant to youth, youth organisations, and organisations working with youth.

The Department of Youth Affairs is one of the main institutions working in the field of youth policy. The Department of Youth Affairs works out and implements the state youth policy programs and measures, analyzes the state of youth and youth organisations in Lithuania, coordinates the activities of the state and municipal institutions in the field of youth policy, as well as performs such other activities relevant to youth, youth organisations, and organisations working with youth.

The Department of Youth Affairs implements the objectives of the state youth policy through application of measures to enhance the motivation and possibilities for youth to acquire education, get work, and engage in active social life; takes part in solution of youth related problems; develops non-formal education; as well as controls the socialization processes of youth.

Further information on the Department of Youth Affairs is available on: [www.jrd.lt](http://www.jrd.lt)

## Council for Youth Affairs

The Council for Youth Affairs is a collegial advisory institution, functioning under the Department of Youth Affairs on social grounds, constituted on the basis of equal partnership from the representatives, delegated by the state institutions and the Lithuanian Youth Council. The Council for Youth Affairs includes 12 members: 6 representatives of the state institutions and 6 representatives of youth organisations, who are delegated by the Lithuanian Youth Council (LiJOT).

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The task of the Council for Youth Affairs is to deal with the fundamental youth policy problems and give suggestions to the Department of Youth Affairs on the implementation of youth policy that meets the needs of youth and youth organisations. The decisions of the Council for Youth Affairs for the Department of Youth Affairs are of advisory nature only.

## Lithuanian Youth Council

The Lithuanian Youth Council (hereinafter referred to as LiJOT) is the biggest non-governmental, non-profit umbrella structure for Lithuanian national youth organisations and regional unions of youth organisations.

Currently LiJOT has 64 members (non-governmental youth organisations) and represents more than 200 000 young people in Lithuania. LiJOT is an organisation representing the interests of youth and framing youth policy, the Government's partner forming the constitution of the Council of Youth Affairs. LiJOT is a full member of the European Youth Forum, one of the biggest non-governmental organisations in Europe.

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Further information on LiJOT is available on: [www.lijot.lt](http://www.lijot.lt)

## Agency of International Youth Cooperation

The Agency of International Youth Cooperation is a public non-profit institution established in February 1999 by the Department of Youth Affairs (in those days – the State Council for Youth Affairs) as well as LiJOT. The main aim of the agency is to ensure the development of international youth cooperation and successful participation of Lithuanian youth in European Union programs for young people. The main purpose

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of the Agency of International Youth Cooperation is to ensure due and efficient participation of the Lithuanian youth in the European Union program “Youth in Action” (2007 – 2013) through financial grants for project implementation and quality improvement of projects implemented.

Further information on the Agency of International Youth Cooperation is available on: [www.jtba.lt](http://www.jtba.lt)

# Framing and implementing the youth policy at the local level

Article 8 of the Law on Youth Policy Framework of the Republic of Lithuania (Official Gazette, 2003, No. 119-5406; 2005, No. 144-5238) governs the framing and implementing of youth policy in municipalities:

- Municipal institutions shall frame and implement a municipal youth policy.
- A municipal coordinator of youth affairs shall assist the municipal institutions in the performance of such function. He shall be a public servant.
- A permanent municipal council for youth affairs (for the duration of the term of office) or an ad hoc municipal council for youth affairs (for the examination of specific matters) may be set up by a decision of a municipal council. A municipal council shall approve regulations of a municipal council for youth affairs. A municipal council for youth affairs shall be set up on the principle of parity from representatives of municipal institutions and agencies as well as youth organisations. A regional youth council shall delegate representatives of youth organisations to a municipal council for youth affairs.

## **Municipality Council, Municipality Administration, Municipal Institutions**

Municipal institutions frame and implement a municipal youth policy. Youth policy covers such different fields as: education of civil spirit, learning, training, science, studies



and education, non-formal education, work and employment, provision with housing, leisure, recreation, creation and culture, social and health care, wellness, physical culture and sports.

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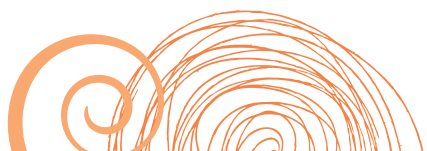
Thus, different committees of Municipality Council as well as departments, institutions of Municipality Administration (educational institutions, pedagogical-psychological services, jobcentres, institutions of non-formal education (music and art schools, sports centers, etc.), youth leisure centers, cultural centers, museums, libraries, etc.) are in one way or another responsible for framing and implementing youth policy.

## Coordinators of Youth Affairs

Coordinator of youth affairs assists the municipal institutions to frame and implement a municipal youth policy (standard functions are approved by the Order No. A1-68 of the Minister of Social Security and Labour of 4 March 2008). Coordinator of youth affairs serves as a mediator between the politicians of municipality, officers, as well as youth. Coordinators of youth affairs supervise and initiate measures, necessary for performance of youth policy, as well as, where necessary, carry out youth situation surveys. With the view of due cooperation in the field of youth affairs, they furnish the institutions and persons concerned with information on implementation of youth policy in the municipality, cooperate with the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Department of Youth Affairs, and such other institutions, youth organisations, non-formal youth groups, as well as takes part in developing cooperation with the municipalities of foreign countries in the field of youth policy.

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Since the children and youth rights protection has become the function, delegated by the state to the municipalities in 2003, all municipalities in Lithuania have finally ensured full-time employment for the coordinators of youth affairs (in total 59). The National Youth Affairs Coordinator Association (hereinafter referred to as



NJRKA) is a non-governmental organisation uniting the coordinators of youth affairs of the Lithuanian municipalities, which aspires to frame and give a unanimous position on framing and implementing youth policy in municipalities, solution of mutual problems, as well as enhance the competence and qualification of coordinators of youth affairs, was established in 2006.

Further information on coordinators of youth affairs is available on: [www.jrd.lt](http://www.jrd.lt) and on each municipality's website; on NJRKA is available on: [www.njrka.lt](http://www.njrka.lt)

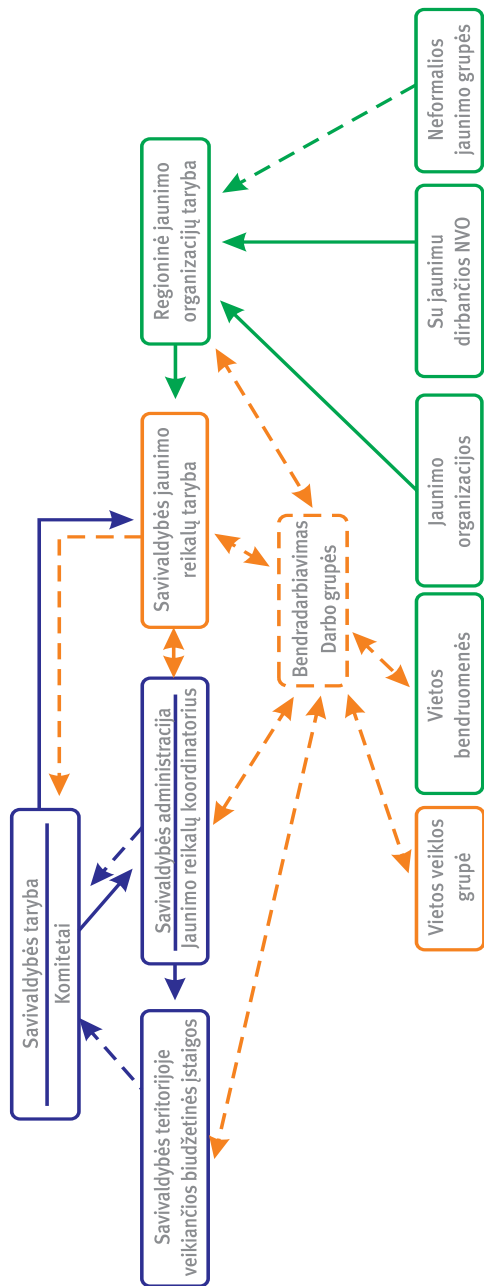
## Municipal Council for Youth Affairs

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. Politicians, administration personnel, and representatives of youth (organisations) cooperate in the council. The representatives of youth have a chance to learn how to recognize the needs of youth, frame and represent the interests, combine needs and possibilities, interests of youth with interests of community, get the measure of democratic decision-making and implementation procedures. In turn, the politicians and representatives of administration can go into the situation of youth, realize problems, as well as together with the representatives of youth search for the best solutions.

Below is the chart of integrated youth policy at a local level, demonstrating the key players of youth policy in the municipality: municipality council, municipality administration, institutions thereof, municipal council for youth affairs (constituted by parity principle from the representatives of municipal institutions and youth organisations), council of youth organisations, youth initiatives, non-governmental organisations, youth councils, and business sector.



## Integrated youth policy at local level



# Youth organisations

Realization of potential of young people is assisted by involvement thereof in the activities of non-governmental organisations. The Law on Youth Policy Framework (Official Gazette, 2003, No. 119-5406; 2005, No. 144-5238) for the first time established the terms of youth organisation, youth council, as well as organisation working with youth, and acknowledged the importance and contribution thereof into education of personality of a young person.

In accordance with Article 2 of the Law on Youth Policy Framework:

- Youth organisation means a public organisation or association, registered in the manner prescribed by laws and other legal acts, in which young people or public youth organisations comprise not less than 2/3 of its members.
- National Youth Council means a youth organisation the principal purpose of which is to unite youth organisations of Lithuania and to represent them.
- Regional Youth Council means a youth organisation the principal purpose of which is to unite youth organisations functioning in a territorial administrative unit of the Republic of Lithuania, and to represent them.
- Organisation working with youth means a public legal person one of the purposes of which is youth-oriented activity which meets their needs.

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Article 9 of the Law on Youth Policy Framework indicates the key functions of youth organisations:

- 1) to attend to and satisfy common needs and interests of young people or needs and interests of individual youth groups;

- 2) to foster civic responsibility and respect for the family;
- 3) to carry out informal education of young people;
- 4) to organise employment, sport, tourism, cultural and professional activities of young people;
- 5) to promote international co-operation of young people;
- 6) to foster voluntary youth work;
- 7) to carry out other activities which are in compliance with the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, international agreements of the Republic of Lithuania, laws, and other legal acts.

Youth organisations represent the interests of youth as well as frame youth policy through regional unions of youth organisations (round tables), national youth organisations as well as regional unions of youth organisations – through LiJOT.

The sources of financing of youth organisations are diverse: from the national, municipal budgets, international funds, program funds, membership fund, to private funds.

Further information on youth organisations is available on:  
[www.jrd.lt](http://www.jrd.lt), [www.lijot.lt](http://www.lijot.lt), [www.zinauviska.lt](http://www.zinauviska.lt)

## Youth work

Youth (14-29 years) is an age group which is highly receptive to the changes, therefore targeted and focused education of young people may be changing their worldview, values and attitudes. Young people are able to change those negative social attitudes which determine current social and economic situation of the state.

Youth work is a broad term comprising social, cultural, educational, political or any other kind of activities implemented by young people, with young people or for young people. Youth work covers area of out-of-school education, it also includes special leisure activities carried out by professionals or volunteers that work with young people, and youth leaders. There is a variety of ways youth work can be organised. It can be organised by youth-lead organisations, organisations for young people, non-formal youth groups, youth services or public institutions.

Youth work in Lithuania is understood as an educational activity that is implemented together with young people or their groups in their free time and is based on their needs; this is an activity seeking to involve and integrate a young person in social environment and empower them to participate consciously and actively in private and social life. Youth work complements formal education and upbringing in the family.

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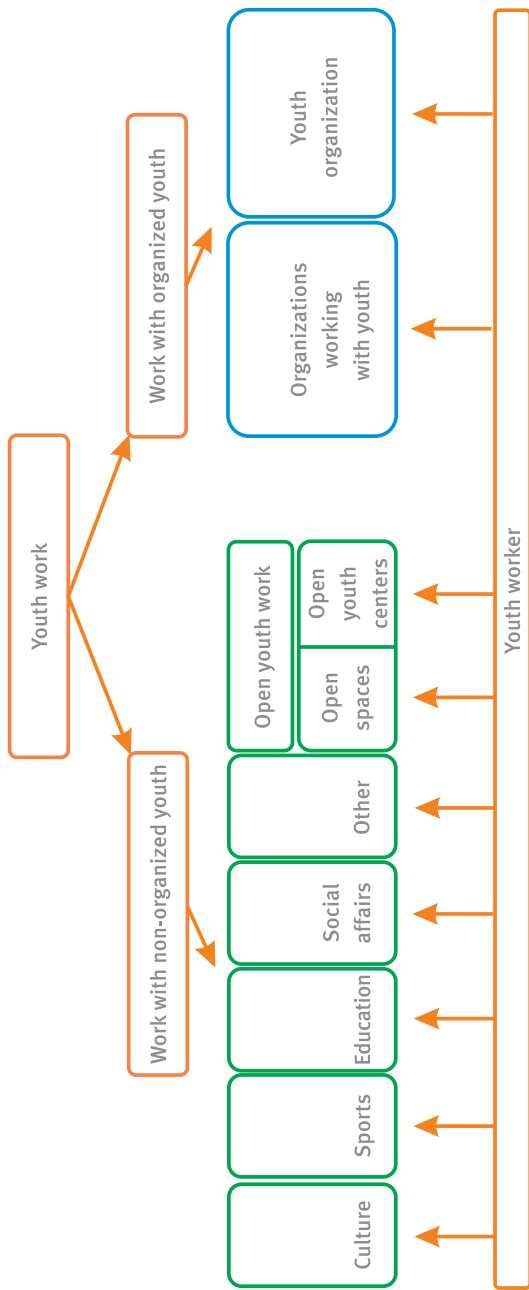
Youth worker is a very important figure in youth work (youth worker in Lithuania is seen as a specialist who implements public policy rather than a representative of a certain profession). Youth worker is an adult who works with young people in their leisure time and encourages their personal and social development through work with individuals, groups or communities. Youth worker should have competences that are recognized in accordance with the procedure set by the Department of Youth Affairs. Youth worker is paid for his qualified work with young people in accordance with the procedure laid down in the legislation of the Republic of Lithuania.

For a long time a great attention in Lithuania has been paid to the work with organised youth – strengthening and motivating youth organisations and / or organisations working with young people, providing financial support for their activities, organising trainings.

While continuously researching the situation of young people, Department of Youth Affairs has noted that there was little paid to non-organised youth (only 22 % of children and young people were taking part in the activities of non-governmental organisations and institutions of non-formal education). The solution was sought in strengthening international cooperation and adopting best practice of Germany, Flanders (Belgium), Wales (the Great Britain), Norway.



# Scheme of youth work in Lithuania



## Open youth work

Western Europe has a long tradition of open youth work. In 2006 this form of youth work started to take root in Lithuania.

It would not be correct to say that there was no open youth work until then. In opposite, many youth organisations and youth services had manifestations of open youth work. However, the system of youth policy and its financial mechanisms were not adjusted to this flexible form of youth work.

There are open youth centers being established in Lithuanian municipalities now. They are designed to carry out an open youth work with young people with fewer opportunities. Various institutions appear to have unused premises which can be adapted to the needs of young people. Such premises took the title of Open Space.

In 2007 – 2009 the pilot Open Youth Centers program was implemented by Department of Youth Affairs. In parallel, the Conception of Open Youth Centers has been developed and tested in practice. The Conception has been approved by the Director of Department of Youth Affairs in 2010 and lays down the main principles of open youth work, defines professional attitudes of youth worker, roles of local self-government and other actors of youth policy.

As the result of cross-sectoral cooperation initiated and promoted by the Department of Youth Affairs, the amendments on the Law on Minimum and Medium Child Care were adopted in 2010 and Open Youth Centers were added to the list of the institutions providing minimum care service.

National Youth Policy Development Program for 2011 – 2019 adopted in 2010 provides the following steps and indicators necessary to implement the Conception of Open Youth Centers and Open Spaces (hereinafter referred to as the Conception):

- Youth workers' system in Lithuania prepared and developed;
- Number of accredited youth workers – 1000;
- Number of open youth centers and spaces – 350;
- Number of young people taking part in the activities of open youth centers and open youth spaces - 112 000.

In order to ensure smooth implementation of the Conception, the funding of open youth spaces was initiated in 2011. Each year Department of Youth Affairs funds ap-



prox. 25 open youth centers and open youth space projects, involving approx. 7500 young people. Approx. 2000 people older than 29 years and approx. 330 short-term and long-term volunteers are involved in organizing activities in Open Youth Centers and Spaces. A great deal of attention is paid to support the implementation of open youth work: publishing methodological tools, organising trainings, individual and group counseling sessions for youth workers.

The Department of Youth Affairs carries out monitoring of open youth centers and spaces, initiates and takes part in the discussions involving leaders and officials responsible for sustainable development of youth policy in municipalities. In parallel, the Department of Youth Affairs implements training courses on youth work and open youth work for the representatives of other systems and institutions, e.g. police, sports, culture, children day care centers etc.

While implementing EU funded projects “Promoting the partnership between national and non-governmental sectors in order to implement integrated youth policy” and “Developing integrated youth policy” in 2009 - 2013, a Certification System for Youth Workers has been introduced (for more information see chapter “Good practice” – “Development of integrated youth policy”).

Ministry of Social Security and Labour in cooperation with the Department of Youth Affairs and practitioners of open youth work are actively involved in drafting legislative acts: the Description of the Activities of Open Youth Centres was prepared, coordinated and approved in 2012; the Description of Activity of Youth Worker has been prepared and approved in 2013. Seeking for systematic and general recognition of youth work a new chapter of the Law on Youth Policy Framework has been initiated: it will aim to define and establish purpose of youth work, basic definitions, and actors.

# Non-formal children and youth education/learning

## Aims of non-formal learning

- to develop a self-conscious personality who is capable of responsible and creative own and community's problem solving and of being an active member of society who has competences necessary to create a meaningful life;
- to develop individual's ability to combine ideas with knowledge and skills and transform them into creative actions in a constantly changing environment;
- to increase the access to *full-fledged learning/education to a greater number of children and youth through a variety of methods, measures and providers.*

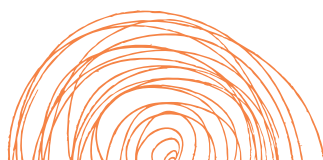
## Political recognition of non-formal education/learning

Non-formal education/learning of children and youth in Lithuania is mainly implemented through two areas of public policy: youth issues and education.

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Youth policy is shaped and accounted for by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour in accordance with the Law of Youth Policy Framework. The age of young people (from 14 to 29 years) is defined by the Law.

The Ministry of Education and Science is responsible for the education policy in accordance with the Law of Education, Conception of Non-formal Children Education and other legal acts. Non-formal education forms a part of the education system of Lithu-



ania as it is defined by the Law of Education. Non-formal education in Lithuania is seen as the education through various programmes satisfying learning needs, apart from the formal education. Non-formal education includes pre-school and pre-primary education, non-formal adult education and non-formal children education. In this context non-formal children education is aimed at children aged 7-19 years old, i.e. school-age children.

## Practical level

Non-formal education/ learning takes place outside the formal education (school, university systems) in different fields (sports, education, culture, etc.) and forms through the planned and voluntary learning (having learning objectives and lasting for a certain period of time). Non-formal education/learning in Lithuania is implemented through the programs, projects and other curriculum activities. Non-formal education/learning is carried out by budgetary, private institutions and non-governmental organisations in Lithuania.

” Based on the practice of persons and institutions carrying out non-formal education/learning, the principles of non-formal education/learning are distinguished. These principles of non-formal education/learning are not mandatory; more principles emerge in the long run. It is notable that the provisions of above mentioned principles can be found in various legal acts defining non-formal education/learning. The educators of non-formal education/learning adapt the principles according to the purpose of their institution and policy.

Teachers, specialists, youth workers, young people (leaders, peer-to-peer educators) are working with young people in these institutions. Based on the practice of persons and institutions carrying out non-formal education/learning, the principles of non-formal education/learning are distinguished. These principles of non-formal education/learning are not mandatory; more principles emerge in the long run. It is notable that the provisions of above mentioned principles can be found in various legal acts defining non-formal education/learning. The educators of non-formal education/learning adapt the principles according to the purpose of their institution and policy.

- **Specific environment.** Non-formal education/learning takes place in a specific environment, which is characterized by a certain degree of autonomy, so that young people can safely experiment and test themselves without any risk of harm to themselves and others.

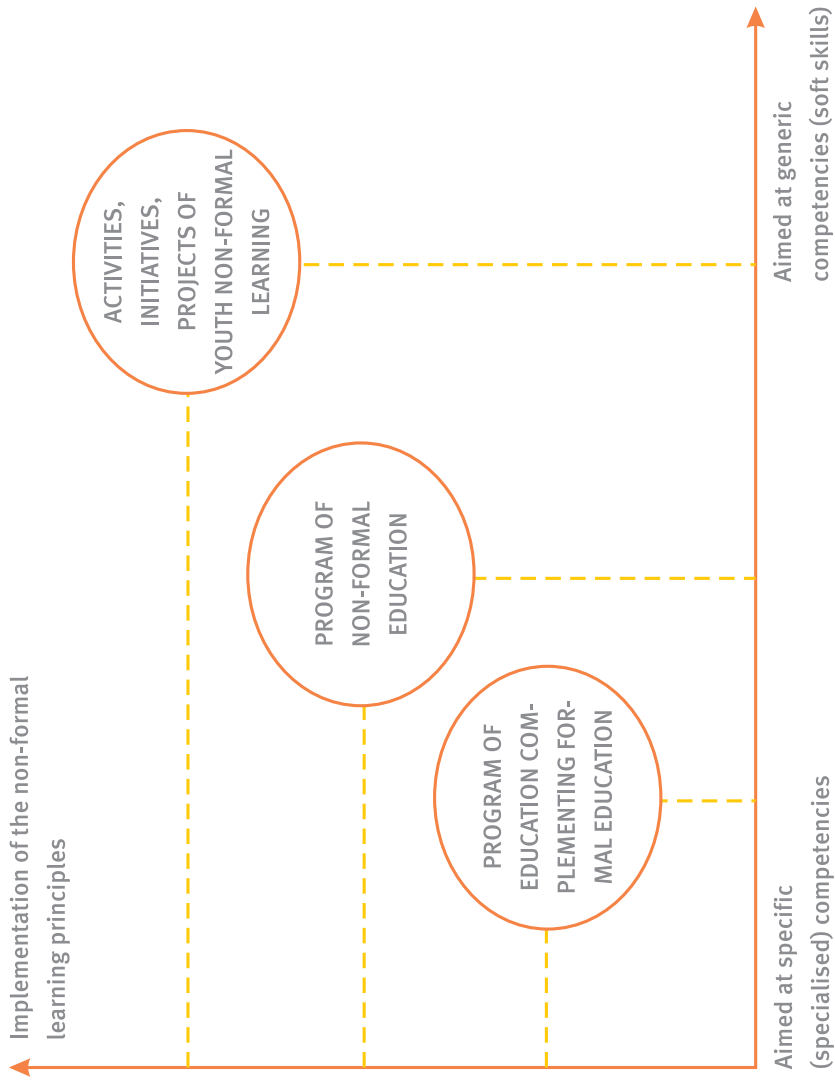
- **Active participation in the learning process.** Young people taking part in non-formal education/learning achieve results thanks to their own activity. The activity is pursued by identifying and perceiving personal experience, creating artificial situations to gain new experience, if necessary; providing theoretical material for active discussions.
- **Holistic approach.** This principle implies a holistic approach to a young person, learning objectives and methods; feelings, mind and physiology are not ignored; the attention is paid to a person, group and the theme. It is aimed to link the experience gained through learning process with the reality. The emotional, physical, intellectual methods are combined to ensure overall development of personality.
- **Learning from experience.** The process of non-formal youth education/learning is based on experience, which becomes meaningful once the experience has been perceived and recognized. Therefore, the experience is discussed (reflection) and conclusions are drawn (generalization) that gain meaning once applied in real life.
- **Open and informal communication.** Non-formal education/learning is a safe space where people can be themselves, sharing their life experience, exposing their weaknesses, not fearing to make mistakes and admit them.
- **Creating non-competitive environment.** Non-formal education/learning is a space where the pressure of artificial competitiveness is avoided. Young people are not compared to one another; instead the conditions to evaluate their own personal achievements are provided.
- **The group process-oriented learning.** Group serves as a tool and a kind of model of society in non-formal education/learning. It is learned how to address the relationships, make joint decisions, share work and responsibilities in a group. A personal development becomes more intense in a group.

Non-formal education/learning activities, taking into account the specifics of their implementation and actors, can be divided into:

- programs of non-formal children education;
- activities, projects of non-formal youth learning.

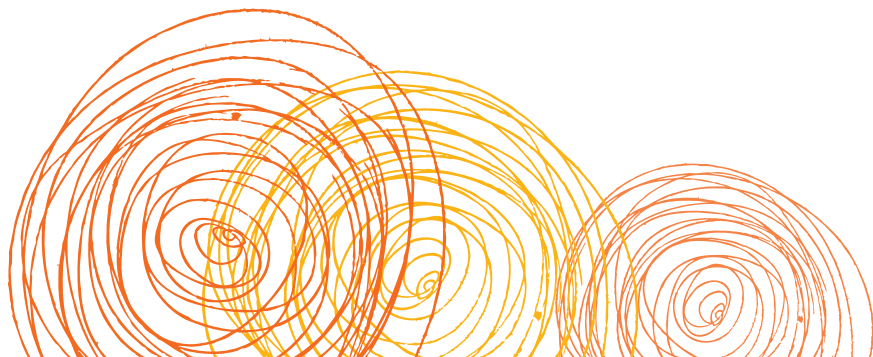
	Specific features of non-formal youth learning	Specific features of non-formal children education	
Type	activities, initiatives, projects of non-formal learning, etc.	Program of non-formal education	Program of education complementing formal education
Examples	<p><b>Youth NGO</b></p> <p>Carries out various activities in accordance with the mission and aim of their organisation. Members of organisation or young people who don't belong to the organisation can participate in the activities of organisation.</p> <p>Learning activities can be long-term, continuous, e.g., young journalists' program.</p> <p>Most common are short-term activities, such as projects of young people ecological, artistic, civic initiatives.</p> <p>Activities are carried out in accordance with needs and interests of young people. Young people have an opportunity to initiate and implement activities by themselves.</p>	<p><b>Children's leisure time center</b></p> <p>Implements environmental, healthy lifestyle, theater, student expression, pop choir, table tennis and other programs.</p> <p>All children who applied are accepted.</p> <p>In some cases special skills of children may be tested (e.g., skills of those who wish to sing in a pop choir).</p> <p>The usual duration of a program is 1 academic year.</p> <p>Programs may be continuous, designed for different age groups.</p> <p>After the completion of the program the certificates may be issued.</p>	<p><b>Music School</b></p> <p>Implements primary (4 years) and secondary (4 years) education programs. The program consists of core subjects: the child's chosen specialization (piano, violin, cello, accordion, etc.), musical hearing education (solfeggio), music history and music in ensemble.</p> <p>Children can choose one of the following subjects: second musical instrument, improvisation and composition, digital music literacy, etc.</p> <p>School admissions may require take an entry exam or a test to evaluate special skills of children.</p> <p>Children's learning outcomes are assessed by using grading system during the year. After the completion of a school year every student has to take an exam on a core subject.</p> <p>After a successful completion of a primary and secondary music education program, children receive a Music School graduation certificate approved by the Minister of Education and Science.</p>
Aim	To develop a self-conscious personality capable of responsible and creative own and community's problem solving, of being an active member of society; also to expand their social competences.	To develop competencies that provide opportunities for the individual to become an active member of society, to operate successfully in society, help meet the needs of knowledge and self-expression.	To expand systematically knowledge of a certain subject (field), to enhance skills and abilities and provide additional subject related and general competencies.
Duration and continuity	Various activities of indefinite duration. Mostly short-term activities based on implementation of individual projects and programs.	Short-term (up to 9 months). Usually the next level transition is not foreseen.	Long-term (duration of one program is 2-4 years). Education takes place in steps, after of each level (program) there is a transfer to the next level (program) foreseen.

<p><b>Evidence of achievements and learning, assessment of achievements</b></p>	<p>There is no formalized assessment of learning outcomes. A certificate of a program or project completion may be issued. Non-formal activities, discussions on learning process and outcomes are the most common.</p>		<p>After a successful completion of all programs, children receive a School graduation certificate approved by the Minister of Education and Science. Usually formal assessments of learning achievements (exams, tests, etc.) are organised.</p>
<p><b>Implementing institutions / organisations</b></p>	<p>Children's leisure time centers, clubs (in other words, non-formal education schools implementing short-term programs), language schools, non-governmental organisations, cultural centers, museums, libraries, sports clubs, freelance teachers, general education schools, non-formal education schools and other education providers implementing long-term programs. Above mentioned providers are delivering non-formal education/ learning through various types of non-formal/learning education: music, art, theater, dance, sports, folklore, natural knowledge, ecology, technical creativity, media, tourism and local history, information technology, citizenship, etc. This can be budgetary institutions, public entities, non-governmental organisations.</p>		<p>Music, art, arts, sports and other non-formal children education schools implementing long-term programs. Usually, the main form of education is a lesson in mentioned schools (or sports training in sports schools). Often it is a budgetary institutions financed by Municipality funds, parents' tuition fees and other funds.</p>
<p><b>Employees / Educators qualification requirements</b></p>	<p>The qualification of a person engaged in non-formal youth learning is not specified. There is a youth workers certification system introduced. Various non-formal training courses, conducted by both, private and public bodies are organised for those working with youth.</p>	<p>Persons holding or not holding educational qualifications are working as teachers of non-formal education in Lithuania. Individuals who do not have teaching qualifications must have completed a special course consisting of pedagogy, psychology and methodology of non-formal education subjects. There is an additional requirement for teachers working in non-formal children education schools implementing long-term programs: they must hold a higher education degree in a particular subject area. <i>For example</i>, a music school teacher must have a higher music school (Academy) degree, sports school teacher - coach must have a higher sports school (Academy) degree.</p>	
<p><b>Finances</b></p>	<p><b>Youth organisations, initiatives, camps</b> Raise money from their pupils and / or seek various support. Often the activities are financed by taking part in various calls for project funding organised by various funds, municipalities, state institutions.</p>	<p><b>Children's leisure centers, clubs</b> Established by Municipality Councils. Organise various hobbies circles, non-formal education programs. Financed on institutional basis from municipal budget. <b>After-school programs</b> Fixed Pupil's basket for general education that is allocated to schools by the state from the state budget. Some of this funding is intended for after-school activities. Usually the activities are led by school teachers.</p>	<p><b>Talent development "Schools" (music, arts and sports)</b> Established by Municipality Councils, carrying out education complementary to formal education. Funded on institutional basis from the municipal budget.</p>



**NON-FORMAL CHILDREN AND YOUTH EDUCATION/ LEARNING**

The practice of the recognition of competences acquired in through non-formal education is not systematic, lacking universality. Several universities apply different systems of recognition of competences acquired through non-formal and informal education. Competences acquired through non-formal education can be validated and recognized as the ones acquired through formal education.





# Good practices

## Development of integrated youth policy

Department of Youth Affairs in order to strengthen national and non-governmental sectors working with youth, as well as to create, promote and increase the variety of their co-operation forms, since 2009 has been implementing projects

“Promoting the partnership between national and non-governmental sectors in order to implement integrated youth policy” and “Developing integrated youth policy” financed by European Union funds and Lithuanian Government. The projects have laid sustainable foundation for the further development of integrated Lithuanian youth policy.

Detailed description of some of projects’ activities and their results is provided below.

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## *Evidence and knowledge based youth policy*

The following activities were implemented in order to form and implement evidence and knowledge-based youth policy on national and local levels: youth issues related research and quality assessment of youth policy implementation in municipalities (both carried out in all municipalities of Lithuania), analysis of cross-sectoral cooperation in the field of youth policy on national level.

” To form and implement evidence and knowledge-based youth policy on national and local levels.

## Youth issues related research

A single methodology was used to carry out youth issues related research in all 60 municipalities of Lithuania and a comparative analysis of all researches was conducted.

The main aim of the research was to study the indicators that are reflecting youth problems in the different fields of youth policy, e.g. education and studies, employment, recreation, living conditions, participation in non-formal education, physical and mental health, habits and life-style, family, friends, neighborhood, problematic / risky behaviors etc. It was the first study of such extent. More than 23000 young people were interviewed. These researches allowed to determine the precise situation of young people in all municipalities and to identify problems of national-wide importance.

The research as a necessary tool to identify and name difficulties and problems that young people face; plan and co-ordinate implementation of intervention and prevention programs; optimize local sources as well as efforts of state institutions and various youth or youth-related organisations, also strengthens effective performance of national and non-governmental sectors in the various fields of youth policy.

These researches allow assessing and comparing situation of young people in each municipality according to the same criteria.

Based on the results of the research municipalities were able to prepare plans and take decisions in order to ensure sustainable development of youth policy. Comparative analysis of all researches have revealed the most problematic regions and youth policy

areas that were taken into consideration setting the priorities of national youth policy and preparing strategic documents that should ensure coherence and validity of youth policy development.

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## Quality assessment of youth policy in municipalities

The methodology for quality assessment of the youth policy in municipalities was prepared to maximize efficiency of the programs and measures implemented in the field of youth policy on national and local levels and harmonize development of youth policy in all municipalities of Lithuania. According to this meth-

odology, quality assessments of the implementation of youth policy in municipalities were performed. Each assessment report is comprised of local context; data collected according to 9 indicators and its analysis (preconditions for youth policy implementation; youth participation; support for young people; youth non-formal education, youth training and counseling; youth information, *inter-agency dimension*, cross-sectorial dimension, integrity of youth policy, improvement and innovations of youth policy, international relations and cooperation), good practice and assessment summary.

All assessments were conducted in cooperation with Municipality Administration and representatives of young people.

### *Analysis of cross-sectoral cooperation in the field of youth policy at national level*

Strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation analysis of cross-sectoral cooperation in the field of youth policy on national level has been conducted. The analysis allowed to evaluate existing networks of cross-sectoral cooperation, their activity, benefits and effectiveness, potential continuity, current operational principles, etc. Data for this analysis was collected by analysing official documents (national programmes and measures), assessing activity and results of inter-agency working groups, conducting interviews or surveys, etc.

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## **Medium-term strategic documents on youth policy**

It is a great achievement that all 60 Lithuanian municipalities 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. A national plan covering period of 6 years has also been developed.

These plans are designed to create, encourage and strengthen various forms of cooperation between national and non-governmental sectors in the field of youth policy, optimize human and tangible resources, contribute to the implementation of long-term youth policy strategy etc.

Preparing plans for youth problems solving on local level the following structures implementing youth policy were actively involved: municipal council for youth affairs, coordinator for youth affairs, regional youth council or other youth organisations (organisations working with youth), employees of municipality administration, representatives of non-governmental organisations, communities, other stakeholders.

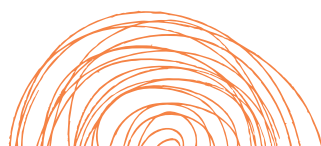
Youth problems solving plans included the following parts:

- *Information and data collection:* analysis of documents (municipal strategic documents, youth programs / conceptions, researches of youth related issues in municipalities, quality assessments of municipal youth policy, etc.), events (discussions, meetings etc.), analysis of good practice.
- *Preparation of plans and action plans:* events (discussions, meetings, presentations etc.), document analysis and synthesis), plan preparation.
- *Submitting plans and action plans for approval by municipality councils:* events (discussions, meetings, presentations etc.), consultations.
- *Implementation of plans and action plans:* events (discussions, meetings, etc.), consultations, monitoring and control.

There are at least 2 long-term aims provided in each plan and at least 2 objectives for each of the aims are indicated. Plans also include partner institutions and indicate a level of their involvement.

Plans and action plans also include assessment criteria for each of

**long-term aims** (e.g., \* *part of young people (14–29 years), participating in the activities offered by open youth centers and spaces (% of overall number of young people*



in a municipality); \* official rate of youth unemployment, %; \* share of municipality budget allocated for development of recreational infrastructure per young person (1 – 29 years) living in a municipality (in litas); \* share of municipality budget allocated for implementation of youth policy through grants for youth projects per young person (14 – 29 years) living in a municipality (in litas), etc.); and

**measures** (e.g., \* number of newly established open youth spaces in local neighborhoods, ensuring their even distribution in the area; \* annually organised youth entrepreneurship contest to support / buy at least 2 youth business ideas; \* number of sports grounds, organised and newly equipped; \* annually organised training for members of the council for youth affairs; \* established youth leadership club, etc.), and their values.

If the aims and objectives set in the plans are achieved, or the measures are completed will depend on the political will of local government, joint efforts of youth policy actors, youth involvement and effective cooperation between authority representatives, institutions implementing measures, youth and other stakeholders.

Approximately 500 local and national events (trainings, discussions, presentations) involving almost 7000 participants were organised drawing up these plans. Strong and purposeful cooperation between youth policy makers, implementers and youth drawing up the plans has strengthened confidence in each other, expanded cooperation boundaries, created opportunities for innovative solutions.

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## ***Development of youth work***

*First certified youth workers in Lithuania!*

The development of Youth Workers Certification Methodology (hereinafter referred to as the Methodology) started in 2009 in cooperation with foreign experts. Until 2012 the Methodology was being developed, improved and tested. As the initial step of overall youth workers' certification system leading towards obtaining a youth worker's cer-

tificate, a mechanism to assess competences of persons working with young people was developed. The mechanism enables those working with young people to identify work they do, methods they use, results they achieve and areas of qualifications they need to improve.

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Online portal [www.jaunimodarbuotojas.lt](http://www.jaunimodarbuotojas.lt). It has been created for those working with young people in order to facilitate self-assessment process of their social, personal, subject related, methodological and special competences. A special online questionnaire had to be filled in; there also was an opportunity to provide an expert – assessor with supporting documentation. The expert – assessor interviewed the candidate for a certificate individually or in a group. After the interview both, candidate and assessor, made a decision regarding the competence level of the candidate with a recommendation whether the candidate can obtain the certificate immediately or they have to improve their competences in a special course chosen according to the competence group(s) they would need to develop.

This activity became very popular amongst those working with young people in various sectors and systems. Employees of open youth centres and spaces as well as representatives of Lithuanian Labour Exchange, Lithuanian Riflemen Union, police have expressed

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their willingness to become certified youth workers. Representatives of the field of sports also took an active part in self-assessment process. Therefore, it can be assumed that the assessment of youth worker’s competences has become a sign of a quality.

During the project 329 people working with youth were assessed: 81 would obtain the certificate immediately, the rest would be invited to improve their competences in special training courses. The training course will provide an opportunity to gain knowledge and competences, meet with other colleagues. It will also include practical experience. After the candidate completes the training course, they will be offered a re-assessment opportunity.

## *Development of youth centres' conceptions*

During the project 4 youth centres conceptions (youth centre in a city, youth centre in a district centre, mobile youth centre, youth centre in a small town) were designed and implemented in 4 municipalities (Klaipėda city, Skuodas, Kelmė and Jolanda regions). Each municipality has chosen the conception that suited the specificity of their city/town. The employees of youth centres that have been involved in the testing of the conceptions shared their experience of youth work and ways to run a youth centre effectively with representatives of 16 other municipalities that have expressed an interest to join the process.

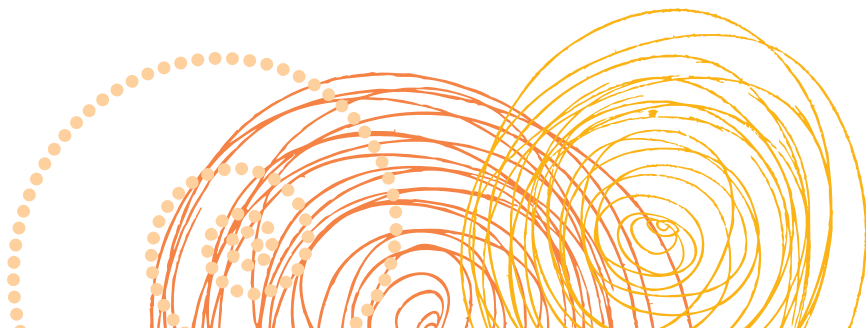
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” Cooperation among various departments and sectors has also improved in all municipalities (new areas of activities, objectives, activity sharing, planning, evaluation of results and closer cooperation for the sake of young people).

more positive. The development and improvement of competences involved wide range of professionals. Few municipalities have developed conceptions of their own open youth centres or spaces and started looking for financial resources and supportive political will. Cooperation among various departments and sectors has

also improved in all municipalities (new areas of activities, objectives, activity sharing, planning, evaluation of results and closer cooperation for the sake of young people). The project laid a firm foundation for cooperation between municipalities to strive together for the common goal – development of open youth centres and spaces.



## ***Strengthening cross-departmental and cross-sectoral cooperation***

*Empowerment of youth non-governmental organisations  
to become partners of public sector*

” To help organisations to acquire competences needed and to strengthen their weakest areas of performance, a number of training courses and seminars and consultations have been offered.

The Methodology of Quality Improvement of Youth Organisations Performance was developed to strengthen youth organisations and provide a tool that would enable youth non-governmental organisations to apply systematic evaluation of their efficiency and consistently seek for

the improvement of quality. According to this methodology, the level of performance quality and problematic areas are being identified. Based on it, long-term and short-term recommendations for performance quality improvement and annual action plans are being submitted.

Part of national youth organisations have already evaluated the quality of their performance, the recommendations have been submitted, annual action plans prepared and started.

Organisational performance quality improvement cycle covered entire year and was comprised of 5 two-day long meetings and seminars. Each of the events involved up to 15 representatives of the organisation. Organisational performance was discussed with each organisation, evaluation sheets filled in, the curve illustrating efficiency of organisational performance drawn, recommendations for performance quality submitted and coordinated, annual action plan prepared. Implementation of recommendations and action plans were monitored by experts appointed for each organisation. To help organisations to acquire competences needed and to strengthen their weakest areas of performance, a number of training courses and seminars and consultations have been offered.

Annual action plans included measures for implementation of submitted recommendations on improving organisational structure, activity, resources and external relations. After

” Only by strengthening and empowering non-governmental sector may become an equal partner for municipal and state institutions.



annual action plans were implemented and evaluated, the organisations started preparing new plans for the following year as well as developing further organisational strategies.

Strengthened organisations would be able to contribute to their further development more successfully. Organisations that have gained planning, organisational and managerial skills would be better prepared to implement youth projects, carry out events and other activities contributing to development of citizenship, active participation, entrepreneurship, voluntariness and diverse integration into society.

During the project representatives of organisations have been learning how to represent their organisation, its interests, cooperate with other organisations. Only by strengthening and empowering non-governmental sector may become an equal partner for municipal and state institutions. Youth organisations and regional youth councils that took part in the project are now ready and competent to represent interests of young people in their town or region on various levels.

### *Strengthening municipal councils for youth affairs*

There is a special role assigned to the Municipal Council for Youth Affairs – seeking the best favorable conditions for personal and social maturity of young people that live in the area to help Municipality Council in forming municipal youth policy and coordinating its implementation.

In order to promote effective performance of Municipal Council for Youth Affairs (hereinafter The Council) and closer cooperation between local institutions and organisations, a number of discussions in 10 Lithuanian regions were organised. Almost 240 politicians, employees of municipality administrations, representatives of youth organisations, coordinators for youth affairs from 57 municipalities took part in the discussions.

At discussions the representatives of the Councils had a possibility to present situation in municipalities, discuss the role of the Council, its functions, contribution to the implementation of municipal youth policy over last 5 years, problems they have met, solutions they have found, issues that remained unsolved. There also was a space for peer counseling and sharing examples of good practice. Participants have also discussed possibilities of strengthening Council's role and functions, ensuring qualitative implementation of youth problems solving plans.

Summarizing the outcomes of the discussions, the list of issues/activities/problems/opportunities that are being dealt with by the Council was prepared, recommendations for Council's efficiency (image formation, motivation of members, continuity of the activity, financing), proposals for the Council's contribution to decrease of emigration and unemployment, promotion of entrepreneurship and non-formal activities, creation of favorable conditions for young families, reduction of addictions and discrimination.

## Information and citizenship promotion campaign „I do care“

Lithuanian youth have a special role participating in development of democracy and knowledge based society. An active participation of young people in democratic processes of decision making still remains one of the most actual challenges and issues in Lithuania and European Union. According to the data of survey on youth civic empowerment index (CEI)<sup>1</sup> conducted in 2010, it was stated that young people living in Lithuania feel that they have more civic power than the rest of society. However, civic activeness of young people is still relatively low. Analysis of CEI survey data has shown that young people are less interested in the political news of the country than others, are less politically educated, their participation in elections is not active. This conclusion can be illustrated by low activeness of young people in the parliamentary elections in 2008. In order to strengthen civic empowerment of young people and all Lithuanian society it is vitally important to inform and to show them in an acceptable way how their participation in democratic decision-making processes can affect their own lives and the environment.

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Lithuanian Youth Council in cooperation with its members organisations in 2004, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2011 organised Information and citizenship promotion campaigns „I do care“. The main aims of these campaigns were to encourage young people to take an active part in the democratic decision-making processes, to provide young people with the knowledge and information about their possibilities to participate in the political life of the country, to create an opportunity for young people to meet and to get to

<sup>1</sup> The survey was commissioned by the Ministry of Education and Science

know better future representatives of the nation, politicians. The campaign aimed to present election programmes of the candidates in an attractive way, thus enabling a young person to choose responsibly whom they want to give their votes for. Each year a new methodology for campaign was

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chosen, various actions, concerts organised, promotional material prepared. Attractive and easy accessible information has received a positive feedback. The campaign was organised in relation to Lithuanian Parliamentary elections, Lithuanian Presidential elections, European Parliament's elections, municipal elections, thus encouraging young people gradually become actively involved in civic life of their country. Each year famous Lithuanian public figures join the campaign encouraging young people to become more curious and active. The campaign does not promote or support any of political parties or politicians; however, it emphasizes the importance of interest and active involvement.

## **Youth information network Eurodesk Lithuania knows it all!**

Eurodesk network and its coordinating bureau in Brussels unite 35 national Eurodesk partners in 33 European countries. When there are so many partners it is so interesting to study their differences and similarities.

Eurodesk Lithuania can be proud of its network of young journalists, „I know it all“ which is coordinated in partnership with the Agency of International Youth Cooperation administering EU programme „Youth in Action“ in Lithuania. This network provides an opportunity for young people to choose the way of communication and information that is most comprehensible for them – peer-to-peer communication. Currently it has more than 200 14 – 29 years old members writing articles, taking photos, creating video on the themes that are interesting for themselves and for their peers. The network enables young people to share their good practices and acquire journalistic skills. Young people are writing about their own experiences – mobility, employment possibilities, studies, voluntary work, international projects, etc. The motivation system of young journalists has been developed: every publication receives score points,

” This is one of the main sources providing information about opportunities for young people.

score points are summarized in the end of the month and young journalists owning the highest amount of score points are entitled to the award: prize, opportunity to take part in the training course or job-shadowing at

the professional media editorial office. It is important to mention that this network enables young people to contribute to the creation, search, presentation, processing and dissemination of information thus developing and improving their skills and competences. In the first half of 2013 there were 40 articles of young journalists published.

Articles and photos of young journalists are published on the internet portal for youth information and counselling, žinauviska.lt, which provides information about various opportunities for young people, various information and data bases. There is also a possibility to ask a question and receive an answer within 3 days. The portal is visited by 60 000 young people every month. This is one of the main sources providing information about opportunities for young people.

Eurodesk Lithuania also has a network of regional partners. In 2011 the efficiency of existing partnership system was questioned and new Eurodesk representations were started in various Lithuanian locations. Currently there were 13 representations established in Lithuanian towns and cities. The importance of regional partners is significant as they are able to counsell and inform young people and those working with them more effectively. Nowadays, when it is so easy to get lost in the amount of information young people need help

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to select the information they need, encouragement and consultations that would direct them to professionals. All of this can be offered by regional partners. Such centres are not only a place for youth information and counselling but also a great school for communication where young people are able to discover their abilities, get to know others, take part in the events (in 2012 there were 55 events organised by regional partners), information sessions, promotion campaigns. This allows to get closer to each and every young person and learn their needs better. Any organisation that complies with the criteria and are motivated enough can become a representative (or regional partner) of Eurodesk Lithuania. Eurodesk representations are the examples of how youth information centres can be organised. It is an issue currently discussed in Lithuania.

Media partners should be also mentioned – Eurodesk Lithuania cooperates with Lithuanian major information internet portals. Weekly newsletter is subscribed by 3000 young people. Aiming to reach young

people through the channels they are most comfortable with, Facebook (8000 fans) information is constantly being updated. Eurodesk Lithuania seeks to provide attractive and comprehensible information for young people. So, if there are ANY questions – start it with us!

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## The task for the country of young entrepreneurs – to raise entrepreneurship to a higher level

Lithuania is a country of young entrepreneurs. This is the conclusion that was reached in a study conducted by the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) in 2012. GEM is globally recognized as one of the most objective, accurate and reliable methods for entrepreneurship research.

” More Lithuanians are planning on starting their own businesses over the next three years than Estonians, Germans, Danes, Fins and Swedes.

During the launch of the GEM 2011 Global Report in San Francisco, Lithuania was mentioned as a country of young entrepreneurs, particularly in the 18-24 age group. Lithuania lived up to this again in 2012: even 25% of young people started their own businesses

(in line with 2011 figures); 21% of people 18-24 years old set up businesses for others (in comparison to 17% in 2011); and 3% more people in this age group indicated that they plan to start a business in the next three years.

According to the „Enterprise Lithuania“, GEM results only confirm the tendencies that can currently be observed in the market - more and more people are thinking about their own business and taking the plunge, and there are fewer and fewer of those who are afraid of failure. The study has shown that more Lithuanians are planning on starting their own businesses over the next three years than Estonians, Germans, Danes, Fins and Swedes. It is clear that this dying fear of starting business and the improving

image of the entrepreneur in society are becoming a truly strong inert force that is changing society's attitude towards entrepreneurship and the ability to create your own livelihood, and perhaps even create a job for someone else.

### *First-year innovative and traditional business service baskets for young people*

To promote youth entrepreneurship in Lithuania's largest cities and regions is one of the aims of "Enterprise Lithuania" under the Ministry of Economy. To achieve this aim, "Enterprise Lithuania" is applying various measures. One of them is first-year innovative and traditional business service baskets.

Entrepreneurs starting their businesses may realize the benefits of business start-up baskets even before they establish their company. Consultations on enterprise's legal status, registration procedures are included into the service basket.

” Entrepreneurs starting their businesses may realize the benefits of business start-up baskets even before they establish their company.

Entrepreneurs that have established their enterprise can receive professional consultations on accounting, marketing, strategic management, negotiations, etc. and take part in various trainings for the first six months. Business newcomers may benefit from these services for one year. Such services provide young entrepreneurs with support, self-confidence and sense of security.

98,9 % of enterprises that have been established with a support of "Enterprise Lithuania" have successfully performed for one year and one day at least, however, the overall countries' average in 2012 was 63,3 %.

As the results of Global Entrepreneurship Monitor study show, more and more young Lithuanians are planning on starting their own businesses over the next three years. The Ministry of Economy expects that professional business consultations as well as service baskets will provide an effective support for those starting their own business. It would also help solving the problem of youth unemployment – young people will be encouraged to realize their business ideas.



## ***Program for the future export leaders***

In the mid of 2013 the first training and practice phase of Young Export Leaders Program “Sparnai” (Wings) started. 16 Lithuanian future export leaders were selected out of 118 candidates. Selection procedure lasted almost 2 months. During the first 6 months of the program participants will have an opportunity to adapt experience of “Enterprise Lithuania” project managers in various export related activities.

During the first phase of education “Enterprise Lithuania” in cooperation with Confederation of Lithuania Industrialists performs the selection of enterprises willing to host program’s participants for the next phase (6 months). After the enterprises are selected they will be joined by talented and enthusiastic young professionals. Participants will already have practical experience of work with databases of export markets search, will study issues of business competitiveness, contribute to the particular export related task or project. Such mutual cooperation should be beneficial for both parties taking part in the program.

## ***International project for Start-ups***

„Enterprise Lithuania” is implementing a „Roadshow” project that has no precedents. The project consists of two parts. Firstly, the best Start-ups teams of the country with the help of Lithuanian and foreign experts had to learn how to make public speeches, sell their ideas and create company’s image. After they successfully completed their training the Start-ups will travel to the hottest business places – Tel-Aviv, London, Berlin and Stockholm, where they are going to attend the meetings with the investors.

The idea to introduce Lithuanian Start-ups in above mentioned cities was not accidental. The organisation „Startup Genome” which is gathering and analyzing data on the ecosystems of the world’s Start-ups took a second place in the rating in Tel-Aviv last year. London was seventh, Berlin - fifteenth in the rating.

The interest in Lithuanian Start-ups is also expected in Stockholm, the Scandinavian Finance center, not only in the cities above where the ecosystems of start-ups were highly ranked.

After the selection for the „Startup Lithuania Roadshow” was announce,

” It proves that Lithuania is becoming an attractive place for foreigners to establish start-ups - various events for start-up entrepreneurs, business accelerators, venture capital funds, cooperation centers are being organised.

“Enterprise Lithuania” received applications from the start-ups in Belarus, Spain, Scotland who are planning to establish their own companies in Lithuania. It proves that Lithuania is becoming an attractive place for foreigners to establish start-ups - various events for start-up entrepreneurs, business accelerators, venture capital funds, cooperation centers are being organised.

This is not the only project intended to enhance the ecosystems of start-ups formed by young people. In the light of Startup Lithuania, “Enterprise Lithuania” is also organising educational events, trainings, discussions to raise awareness of start-ups and to educate them.

### ***Particular attention to students***

The series of events “Business is cool” intended for Lithuanian pupils and students are taking place this year. The aim of the events is to motivate young people to turn their ideas into business, give them confidence, spread the information on the opportunities of getting a support for starting up own business. The events are taking place in smaller towns as well as the cities. The participants have a chance to take part in the lectures of famous business people and gain knowledge how to develop their own businesses. They also participate in various workshops, test their knowledge in business-related tasks.

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Famous entrepreneurs and people who have their business set-up in the area are invited to the event.

The main aim is to show young people that the opportunities to set-up own business can be found everywhere; to inspire them to analyze the market in

their area; find niche for the business and destroy the myth that the founding of the company can happen in a big city only.

The competition for pupils “My business idea” promoting entrepreneurship took place in 2012. Its purpose was to encourage 9-12 grade students to prepare the presentations of their business ideas and award the best projects under the theme “It’s not necessary to have millions to start business” and “My business idea is suitable not only for Lithuania”.



The employees of “Enterprise Lithuania” took a part in a project for pupils “Lift” as lecturers. The purpose of the educational project „Lift” organised by DNB bank is to develop young people’s awareness, financial responsibility and entrepreneurship in order to provide pupils with more practical knowledge, skills and the ability to implement their business ideas that would benefit the whole school community.

## Funding model of non-formal children education

Non-formal children education is funded and coordinated on the municipal level.

Institutional funding of non-formal education providers dominates at present. A part of municipal funding allocated to non-formal children education is distributed among educational institutions founded by the Municipality Council. They receive a stable funding not dependent on performance results. Non-governmental and private organisations have to seek alternative sources of funding or to raise money from their pupils. Such type of funding leads to a significant difference in educational costs per child between institutions and/or councils. It also causes uneven development of non-formal children education providers’ network and creates unequal opportunities for children to participate in non-formal education. In addition there is project based funding of non-formal education existing when various funding sources announce open calls for project and different organisations participate and compete for the funding possibility.

Numerous discussions among researchers and experts took place analysing current situation of non-formal education and concluding that there is a need to develop a new funding model for non-formal children education, which would be common for all municipalities. This Model should be

” This Model should be based on the principle “money follow a child”, meaning that a child is a central figure defining the needs for education and allocating resources.

based on the principle “money follow a child”, meaning that a child is a central figure defining the needs for education and allocating resources. It is also expected that a new funding model will make non-formal education more accessible and involve more children, broaden variety of non-formal education activities and empower the network of non-formal education providers. Therefore the Ministry of Education and Science in 2011 initiated a project aimed to develop a new funding model for non-formal children education and test it in 4 out of 60 Lithuanian municipalities.

## Funding changes in non-formal children education

### From

Institutional funding – institutional maintenance funding is allocated to an institution from the budget on a yearly basis.

After the institution receives funding children can choose the program.

Funding is not directly dependent on the learning achievements.

Defined network of non-formal education providers.

Structural confusion in non-formal education.

### To

Program funding - the program funds are allocated according to the number of children educated.

Children choose the program then the programs chosen receive funding.

Accountability for the quality of education to learners and funders.

Open and dynamic network of non-formal education providers includes not only educational or budgetary institutions (culture, sports, NGO).

A clearer and simpler administration and funding of non-formal children education that would separate programs of education complementary to formal education from programs of non-formal education.

The new funding Model consists of:

- Legal acts enabling and regulating money distribution to non-formal education providers
- System for quality assessment and assurance of non-formal education programmes
- IT system for the accounting of children and money flows
- Recommendations for non-formal education providers and administrators

