

Consolidated version from 1 October 2019

Law published: In the Official Gazette Valstybės žinios 2003, No. [119-5406](#), ID code 1031010ISTA0IX-1871

New version from 1 October 2019:

No. [XIII-1224](#),

31 May 2018,

published in the Register of Legal Acts (TAR) on 11 June 2018, ID code 2018-09738

**REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
LAW
ON YOUTH POLICY FRAMEWORK**

4 December 2003 No. IX-1871

Vilnius

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Purpose of the Law

This Law shall establish the peculiarities of the formulation and implementation of the youth policy, working with youths, advisory institutions, competence of the youth organisations and the organisations working with youths.

Article 2. Key Definitions

1. "**Open Youth Work**" shall mean the work with youth in open youth centre and/or space, in accordance with the principles of working with youth.

2. "**Open Youth Centre**" shall mean a legal person, another organisation or a branch, where the representative office thereof and the place of the performance of which, or a part of which, is in the Republic of Lithuania, and which carries out the work with youths based on the voluntary determination of young persons to participate in such activities, and that ensures their involvement in the activities.

3. "**Open Youth Space**" is any premises belonging to a legal person providing cultural, education, physical education and sports or social services by the right of ownership or trust, or on the basis of a lease or loan-for-use contracts, in which the work with youths based on the voluntary determination of young persons to participate in the activities and to ensure their involvement in the activities is carried out.

4. "**Youth Work**" shall mean the activities for creating the conditions for a young person to get involved in personal, professional and public activities, for the improvement and development of the competences thereof.

5. "**Outreach youth work**" shall mean work with youth not in an institutional

environment, but directly at informal gatherings of youths (in public spaces, streets, parks, cafes, sport grounds, clubs, etc.).

6. "**Young Person**" shall mean a person between the ages of 14 and 29 (inclusive).

7. "**Youth**" shall mean two and/or more young persons.

8. "**Youth initiative**" shall mean a voluntary and independent youth activity designed to meet organisational and public needs.

9. "**Youth Organisation**" shall mean an association established for the representation of youth and/or youth interests in the manner prescribed by the Republic of Lithuania's Law on Associations in which young people comprise not less than 2/3 of its members, and/or which includes not less than 2/3 of associations representing the interests of young people, where not less than 2/3 of the members of each association are young people.

10. "**Youth Policy**" shall mean measures intended to resolve youth problems and to seek to create favourable conditions for the formation of the personality of a young person and his integration into public life as a whole.

11. "**Development of the Practical Skills of Youth**" shall mean work with youth in the place of a practice aimed at developing the professional and social competences of a young person, as well as providing knowledge and competences that will help to access the labour market.

12. "**Lithuanian Youth Council**" shall mean a youth organisation, the principal purpose of which is to unite the youth organisations and organisations working with youths at the level of the Republic of Lithuania and to represent them.

13. "**Youth with Fewer Opportunities**" shall mean the youth who are at a disadvantage when compared to their peers for the development of their competences and activities, since they live in less favourable conditions or they face social, economic, educational, cultural geographical difficulties, or they have disabilities and/or health problems.

14. "**Mobile Youth Work**" shall mean work with youth in a residential territory without an infrastructure for working with youth, taking into account the individual needs of the young people living in the territory.

15. "**Inactive Young Person**" shall mean a young person who is not in education, studies, employment under an employment contract or self-employed, not in another legal relationship equivalent to employment relations, not engaged in the activities of paid employment, and not looking for a job.

16. "**Non-Formal Youth Education**" shall mean activities intended for developing the personal, social and educational competences of young people and that are carried out not according to a formal education programme.

17. "**Lithuanian World Youth Association**" shall mean a foreign Lithuanian youth organisation, the main purpose of the activities is to unite the foreign Lithuanian youth organisations at the global level and to represent them.

18. "**Municipal Council of Youth Organisations**" shall mean a youth organisation, the main purpose of which shall be to unite the youth organisations acting in the territory of a municipality and to represent them.

19. "**Organisation Working with Youth**" shall mean a legal person, one of the purposes of which is youth-oriented work.

20. "**Foreign Lithuanian Youth**" shall mean a youth of Lithuanian origin residing in a foreign country.

21. "**Foreign Lithuanian Youth Organisation**" shall mean a legal person, or another organisation established for the purpose of the representation of youth and/or youth interests, under the procedures established in the legislation of the country of the place of the registered office or a branch or a representative office thereof, where not less than 2/3 of the members are foreign Lithuanian youth.

22. For the purposes of this Law, other terms shall be understood as defined in the Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Lithuania's Law on the Social Integration of the Disabled, the Republic of Lithuania's Law on Citizenship, the Republic of Lithuania's Law on Construction, the Republic of Lithuania's Law on Employment, the Republic of Lithuania's Law on Volunteering, the Republic of Lithuania's Law on the Territorial Administrative Units and their Boundaries and the Republic of Lithuania's Law on Local Self-Government.

CHAPTER II

FORMATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE YOUTH POLICY

Article 3. Entities which shall Form and Implement the Youth Policy

1. The Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania shall form the youth policy, and shall organise, coordinate and control the implementation thereof.

2. The youth policy shall be implemented by the institution authorised by the Minister of Social Security and Labour.

3. For the purposes of the fulfilment of the state (delegated to the municipalities by the state) youth policy implementation functions, the position of the municipal coordinator of youth affairs shall be created in the municipality administrations:

1) the job description of the municipal coordinator of youth affairs shall be approved in accordance with the model job description of the municipal coordinator of youth affairs, as approved by the Minister of Social Security and Labour;

2) the municipal coordinator of youth affairs shall be a civil servant of the municipality administration;

3) the municipal coordinator of youth affairs shall draw up and implement the youth policy programmes and measures to be implemented in the municipality, analyse the situation of youths, youth organisations and organisations working with youth in the municipality, develop cooperation between the municipal institutions and bodies working in the field of youth policy, maintain relations with foreign Lithuanian youth organisations, and fulfil the other functions established in the job description of the municipal coordinator of youth affairs.

4. The public body Agency of International Youth Cooperation, the incorporator of which is the institution and association responsible for implementing the youth policy and authorised by the Minister of Social Security and Labour, i.e. the Lithuanian Youth Council, shall implement and/or administer international and EU programmes in relation to the youth policy. The aforementioned functions shall be funded from the state budget appropriations and/or other funds allocated to Social Security and Labour.

5. The Lithuanian Youth Council and the municipal councils of youth organisations, youth organisations and organisations working with youths, as well as the Lithuanian World Youth Association shall contribute to the implementation of the youth policy by their activities.

Article 4. National Council for Youth Affairs

1. The National Council for Youth Affairs shall mean the public advisory institution which shall be formed of the representatives delegated by public institutions, the Association of Lithuanian Municipalities, the Lithuanian Youth Council and the Lithuanian World Youth Association, in accordance with the principle of equal treatment.

2. The procedure for the formation of the National Council for Youth Affairs shall be established, and the regulations and composition shall be approved, by the Minister of Social Security and Labour.

3. The National Council for Youth Affairs shall consider the issues concerning the youth policy in the Republic of Lithuania, and shall put forward proposals on the youth policy, the

implementation thereof, the priorities of funding of the measures for the implementation thereof, and cooperation with foreign Lithuanian youth organisations, and shall draft legal acts in relation to the implementation of the youth policy to the government, ministries, other state and municipal institutions and bodies of the Republic of Lithuania.

Article 5. Municipal Council of Youth Affairs

1. The municipal council of youth affairs shall be a public advisory institution formed of the representatives delegated by the municipality administration and/or municipal council, and municipal council of youth organisations acting in the territory of the municipality, in accordance with the principle of equal treatment.

2. If the municipal council of youth affairs does not exist or it has not delegated its representatives, the representatives of the youth shall be elected at a public general meeting of representatives of the youth organisations and organisations working with youth, or for the government of schoolchildren and/or students acting in the territory of the municipality. The organisation of the aforementioned meeting shall fall within the responsibilities of the municipal coordinator of youth affairs.

3. The procedure for the formation of the municipal council of youth affairs shall be established, and the regulations and composition of the municipal council of youth affairs shall be approved, by the municipality council.

4. The municipal council of youth affairs shall consider the issues concerning the youth policy in the municipality, and shall put forward proposals on the youth policy, the implementation thereof, and the priorities of funding of the measures for the implementation thereof in the municipality, and shall draft legal acts in relation to the implementation of the youth policy in the municipality to the municipal institutions and bodies.

CHAPTER III YOUTH WORK

Article 6. Principles of Youth Work

Youth work shall be carried out in accordance with the following principles:

1) open and information communication: the relationship between the person working with a young person and the young person shall be based on mutual trust, equal treatment and learning from each other;

2) voluntary participation: the work with youth shall be based on the voluntary

determination of a young person and his/her involvement in the work without any form of discrimination; a young person shall voluntarily participate in the initiation of the activities, make decisions and assume responsibility for the implementation thereof;

3) common activity: the work shall involve learning to deal with problems in a group, making decisions in cooperation with other persons, as well as sharing work and/or responsibilities with them;

4) individuality: the work with youth shall be organised taking into account the needs of each young person with whom the work is performed;

5) learning from experience: the work with youths shall be based on the personal experiences of the young person and his/her self-assessment;

6) referral: a young person shall be referred to state and/or municipal institutions and/or bodies, or other entities that may provide necessary assistance and/or information to him/her, by taking into account his/her individual needs;

7) safe environment: a young person must be provided with possibilities for safely learning, acting and implementing ideas, without suffering physical and psychological violence.

Article 7. Youth Work and the Forms Thereof

1. The work with youths shall be carried out by the institutions implementing the youth policy, as well as by other entities in accordance with the principles of working with youths provided for in Article 6 hereof. The target group of the work with youths shall be young people.

2. The following forms of youth work shall be distinguished:

- 1) open youth work;
- 2) outreached youth work;
- 3) mobile youth work;
- 4) development of the practical skills of youths;
- 5) other forms.

3. When working with youths, non-formal youth education measures must be implemented.

4. The procedure for youth work in the forms provided for in Paragraph 2 of this Article shall be established by the Minister of Social Security and Labour.

Article 8. Activities Carried Out in Open Youth Centres and Open Youth Spaces

1. The activities of open youth centres shall be subject to the following requirements:

- 1) premises in which cultural, art, education, physical education and sport, pedagogical,

psychological or social services must be provided in the course of youth work free of charge must be adapted for youth work in an open youth centre;

2) the person exercising the rights and duties of the owner of an open youth centre (co-owners) must create such conditions for the work and organisation of activities in the open youth centres so that the open youth centre has ensured activities after school and during the holidays for the schoolchildren of schools in the general area.

2. The activities of the open youth spaces shall be subject to the following requirements:

1) the open youth space must be adapted for working with youths so that in the course of the work with youths cultural, art, education, physical education and sport, pedagogical, psychological or social services are provided to young persons free of charge;

2) the person exercising the rights and duties of the owner of the institution in which an open youth space is established (co-owners) must create such conditions for work and the organisation of activities in the open youth space so that the open youth space has ensured activities after school and during the holidays for the schoolchildren of schools in the general area.

3. Objectives of the Activities of Open Youth Centres and Open Youth Spaces:

1) to create conditions for youths to participate in the activities of an open youth centre and open youth space, in particular, with a view to involving youths with few possibilities and inactive young persons;

2) to ensure that the activities organised in the open youth centres and open youth spaces meet the needs of young persons and contribute to an improvement of the personality, as well as to the development of the personal and social competences of a young person;

3) to create conditions so that young people are motivated to engage in the activities that meet their interests, and that are promoted to improve and develop their entrepreneurship and other skills necessary in the labour market.

4. The municipal institutions and bodies shall, within their competence, ensure that an open youth centre (open youth centres) and/or an open youth space (open youth spaces) carrying out the activities in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Minister of Social Security and Labour is established in its territory.

I promulgate this Law passed by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania.

Amendments:

1.

Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Law
 No. [X-413](#),
 22 November 2005,
 Official Gazette Valstybės žinios, No.
 144-5238 (10 December 2005), ID Code: 1051010ISTA000X-413
 Law on the Amendment of Articles 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10 and 13 of the Republic of Lithuania's Law on the Youth Policy
 Framework and the Supplementation of the Law with Article 7(1)

2.

Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Law
 No. [XII-2778](#),
 10 November 2016,
 published in the Register of Legal Entities (TAR) on 17 November 2016, ID code 2016-26979
 Law on the Supplementation of the Republic of Lithuania's Law on the Youth Policy Framework No. IX-1871 with
 Article 7-2

3.

Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Law
 No. [XIII-1224](#),
 31 May 2018,
 published in the Register of Legal Acts (TAR) on 11 June 2018, ID code 2018-09738
 Law on the Amendment of the Republic of Lithuania's Law on the Youth Policy Framework No. IX-1871