

National report: First cooperation cycle of the EU Youth Strategy 2010-2012

Lithuania	
SECTION 1: GENERAL YOUTH POLICY	
1. Does your country have a 'youth law' or legislation that specifically refers to youth issues, or laws containing a section addressing the needs and/or rights of young people?	Yes
2. Please provide references for the law (title, adoption date, validity, etc) in your national language as well as in English	2003 m. gruodžio 4 d. Lietuvos Respublikos jaunimo politikos pagrindų įstatymas, Nr. IX-1871 (įsigaliojo 2003 m. gruodžio 18 d.) (Valstybės žinios, 2003, Nr. 119-5406) Law on Youth Policy Framework of the Republic of Lithuania, 4 December 2003, No. IX-1871 (in force from 18 December 2003) (Official Gazette Valstybės žinios, 2003, No. 119-5406) The Law provides for the main concepts of youth policy, defines youth policy areas and establishes principles of the implementation of youth policy in Lithuania.
3. Is the document available in other languages, in full or abbreviated version?	Yes
If YES, please provide a web-link or a copy of the law in available languages together with this national report.	Web-link for the Law on Youth Policy Framework in Lithuanian: http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_p?p_id=267613 Web-link for the Law on Youth Policy Framework in English: http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=283614 Web-link for the Law on Youth Policy Framework in Russian: http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=319644
4. Does your country have a National Youth Strategy and/or Action Plan, or a cross-sectoral strategy specifically referring to youth issues?	Yes
If YES, please provide references (title, adoption date, validity, etc) to this strategy or action plan	Resolution No. 1715 "On the Approval of the National Youth Policy Development Programme for 2011-2019" of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 1 December 2010 (Official Gazette Valstybės žinios, 2010, No. 142-7299), web-link: http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=396165 (in Lithuanian) Order No. A1-193 "On the Approval of the Plan of Measures 2011-2013 for the Implementation of the National Youth Policy Development Programme for 2011-2019" of the Minister of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania of 12 April 2011 (Official Gazette Valstybės žinios, 2011, No. 45-2116), web-link: http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=396538 (in Lithuanian)
5. Is the document available in other languages, in full or abbreviated version?	Yes
If YES, please provide a web-link or a copy of the document in available languages together with this national report.	The texts in Lithuanian are provided in the official website of the parliament: Web-link to the National Youth Policy Development Programme 2011-2019: http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=387971&p_query=&p_tr2= Web-link to the action plan: http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=396538 Main information on the National youth strategy in English is provided in the website of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour: http://www.socmin.lt/index.php?-460861425 . The National Youth Policy Development Programme 2011-2019 aims at: Ensuring the development of social security, education and health care systems, that meets the needs of young people; Developing a conscious, public-spirited, patriotic, mature, cultural and creative young personality, capable of being an active part of diverse society; Developing and coordinating the system of youth work and to ensure the development of youth employment infrastructure; Creating favourable conditions for consistent and high quality activities of youth organisations and organisations working with youth, seeking more active youth involvement in organised activities; Ensuring interdepartmental and cross-sectoral cooperation in developing coherent, fact and knowledge based youth policy. The full text of National Youth Policy Development Programme 2011-2019 in English is attached.
6. Please indicate how the EU Youth Strategy, adopted in November 2009, has influenced youth priorities in your country at the NATIONAL level?	B: It has led to a re-orientation of policy
Please specify your answer.	National Youth Policy Development Programme for 2011-2019 is one of the most important strategic documents of youth policy in Lithuania. Basically, EU Youth strategy was the guiding document for the development of the programme at national level. Moreover, the working group on drafting the programme focused on various political documents of the EU and CoE in order to use the best experience at the national level.
7. Please indicate how the EU Youth Strategy has influenced youth priorities in your country at the LOCAL and/or REGIONAL level?	B: It has led to a re-orientation of policy

Please specify your answer.	Since EU Youth Strategy was announced, the planning process of youth policy became better at the local level: European dimension definition appeared in the planning documentation, which was a more serious goal for the municipalities in order to create the planning documentation, strategic goals and priorities until the National Youth Policy Development Programme for 2011-2019 came into force. On the other hand, according to the main principle of the established structural dialogue, during the implementation process of the strategy, the inclusion and participation of the youth at local level increased when the questions related to the youth were raised: Youth week became a traditional annual event in the regions, where young people can present their current situation in relation to the question raised; they can be introduced into the European situation as well as the decisions and recommendations made; decision making process of the authorities can be influenced by young people.
8. Does the government of your country support and promote cross-disciplinary research relating to young people and their living conditions in line with the Council resolution on active inclusion, having regard to the socio-economic environment and the opportunities and obstacles this poses for the social inclusion and employability of young people?	NO, but we plan to take concrete measures in this field in 2012.
Please specify your answer.	Cross-disciplinary research relating to young people and their living conditions was not organised during the period of 2010-2012. The last research on the situation of young people was organised in 2007 (the areas included in the research: education, employment, health, family, housing, etc.). On the other hand, Lithuania is preparing for the EU Council Presidency activities in 2013, in relation to which it is planned to make the research relating to young people and their living conditions. In addition, according to the action plan for implementation of National Youth Policy Development programme for 2011-2019, it is planned to establish and maintain the network of youth researchers in the period of 2011-2013.
9. Is there an institutionalised and regular cooperation between the Ministry responsible for Youth and the youth research community in your country?	NO, but we have an ongoing initiative to establish such cooperation in 2012.
Additional comments.	There is no institutionalised and regular cooperation between the Ministry and youth researchers, however the communication is relevant and organised due to the needs. For example, the researchers were invited to take part in the National Working Group for structured dialogue. According to the action plan for implementation of National Youth Policy Development programme for 2011-2019, it is planned to establish and maintain the network of youth researchers in the period of 2011-2013.
10. Does your Government have an inter-ministerial working group on youth or any other institutionalised mechanism for ensuring a cross-sectoral approach to youth policy?	YES, such an institutional mechanism has existed since before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.
Additional comments.	<p>Council of Youth Affairs (CYA) is an institution, which works on a voluntary basis and consists from the representatives of state institutions and the Lithuanian Youth Council in compliance with the principle of equal partnership. The composition of the CYA and regulations thereof has to be approved by the Government on the recommendation of the Minister of Social Security and Labour. CYA consists of 6 representatives of state institutions and 6 representatives of youth organisations. The Prime Minister Office and ministries of Culture, National Defence, Education and Science, Foreign Affairs, Interim Affairs, Ministry of Social Security and Labour are represented. The National Youth Council delegates representatives of youth organisations to the CYA. The CYA shall consider the main issues of youth policy and submit proposals to the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour on the implementation of a youth policy meeting the needs of youth and youth organisations.</p> <p>The Ministry of Social Security and Labour is responsible for shaping and implementing youth policy in Lithuania. Department of Youth Affairs is an institution under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour responsible for implementation of state youth policy programmes and measures, analysing the condition of youth and youth organisations in Lithuania, co-ordinating the activities of state and municipal institutions as well as agencies in the field of youth policy.</p>
11. Has your Government carried out specific initiatives targeting young people or the field of youth policy utilising EU funding opportunities through the European Social Fund, the European Regional Development Fund and/or the Rural Development Fund, or any other relevant EU funds or programmes such as PROGRESS[1]? [1] Please note that the question does not refer to EU programmes such as the Lifelong learning or Youth in Action programmes.	YES, we are currently carrying out youth initiatives or projects utilising the general EU funding opportunities mentioned above.

Additional comments.	<p>Government's attention was drawn into the EU funds appliance during the period of 2007-2013 in order to create the National measures for the implementation of youth policy. As the suggestions were made after the strategy's draft was agreed with the European Commission, the decision to take the funds for youth policy implementation from the budget of Human Resources Development Actions Programme was made. Currently the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour is implementing 2 projects for this Action programme, in order to strengthen the regional policy and develop integrated youth policy. These projects have started in 2009 and 2010 (they will be finished in 2012 and 2013 accordingly) with the budget of more than 3,5 million euro.</p> <p>Separate communities and NGOs are also supported financially to implement the initiatives at the local level related to the Youth policy implementation programme according to the National Rural Development plan for 2007-2013, which was approved by the European Commission. National Employment Office implements the project "Be active in labour market" (ESF funding), other projects implemented are described in Section (6) "On examples of good practice".</p>
12. Does the Government of your country have a strategy to acknowledge, raise awareness of, and reinforce the role of youth work in society, in line with the Council Resolution on Youth Work (2010)?	YES, we have set up such a strategy since the adoption of the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.
Additional comments.	<p>The National Youth Policy Development Programme for 2011-2019 and the Plan of Measures 2011-2013 for its implementation seek to develop and coordinate the system of youth work; create beneficial conditions for continuing movement of youth organizations based on quality; ensure the cooperation among the different social sectors in order to create youth policy based on facts and knowledge. Moreover, financial support has been allocated to the programmes and projects of youth organizations and organizations working with youth. Youth initiative projects aimed at improving the quality of activities of youth organizations, developing and promoting youth entrepreneurship, as well as developing the activities of open youth centres and spaces is agreed measures within the Plan of the Program mentioned above.</p>
13. What are the main measures implemented by your Government in order to improve the recognition and support the development of governmental and non-governmental youth work?	<p>The measures approved in the Plan of Measures 2011-2013 for the Implementation of the National Youth Policy Development Programme for 2011-2019 are the following: 1. To develop the existing and create new open youth centres (OYC) and open youth spaces (OYS) 2. To create and approve the legal acts for establishing youth work in Lithuania 3. To set up a certification system for youth workers Currently OYC, OYS are the only one form of open youth work in Lithuania. OYC, OYS exist just for few years in Lithuania and there are 9 OYC and 9 OYS in 2011. The need and following target until 2019 is to have at least one OYC and few OYS in every municipality.</p> <p>Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour together with partners (Lithuanian Youth Council, Agency of International Youth Co-operation, Ministry of Social Security and Labour, National Association of Non-formal Education) had set up a certification system for the Youth workers as a tool of competences' recognition. Since 2011 this system came out as a pilot project, which was financed by the European Union funds as well as Lithuanian Government.</p>
14. What are the main challenges and/or obstacles that your Government has been confronted with during the first three years of the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy?	<p>The following challenges might be mentioned: 1. Cross-sectoral agreement on plans, priorities, actions; 2. Integration of the EU values at the local youth policy; 3. Equal inclusion of youth in the various youth policy areas; 4. Transfer of the European youth policy priorities to the national level and create additional tools to reach the goals of the EU paper; 5. Merge of the EU and national policies in the youth field; 6. Create a tool of the National Working Group for the implementation of the structured dialogue with youth</p>
15. Which measures and/or actions have your Government carried out in order to communicate the EU Youth Strategy to relevant stakeholders?	<p>In the end of 2010 the seminar for 60 municipalities' youth affairs coordinators was carried out in order to communicate the EU youth strategy and priorities of the CoE and EU in the field of youth policy. In 2011 the seminar for youth affairs coordinators was an event for dissemination of EU youth policy priorities in 2011-2013, the need and implementation of structured dialogue. The conference "Youth policy at the local level: present situation, challenges and possibilities" was held in 2011, in order to communicate the EU Strategy, which connected the governmental, non-governmental and business sectors. The information on the main principles of the EU youth policy and national youth policy are presented in the websites of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour (weblink: http://www.socmin.lt/index.php?-460861425) as well as in the website of the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour (weblink: http://www.jrd.lt/jrd-veiklos-naujienos)</p>
16. Has your Government carried out any actions to measure the impact or success of the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy at the national level?	<p>There was no detailed research and measures for the assessment of the impact of the implementation of EU Youth Strategy carried out in Lithuania. The researches on the implementation of the youth policy priorities and the evaluation of the quality of youth policy implementation is organised in most of the municipalities in Lithuania by the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.</p>
17. According to the principles of the EU Youth Strategy and in line with previous practice, Member States are asked to involve young people and their organisations in responding to this National Report. Please outline the various ways how young people have been consulted.	<p>The questionnaire was sent out to the National Youth Council. It was also presented during the meeting of National Working Group for the structured dialogue with young people stressing the need and importance of the answers provided by all the stakeholders. In addition, the draft of prepared answers of the questionnaire were sent out and discussed with the representatives of National Youth Council at the end of the preparation of the report.</p>

SECTION 2a: PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES On youth employment & entrepreneurship	
18. To take the specific situation of young people into account when devising flexicurity strategies?	NO, but we plan to take concrete measures in this field in 2012.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	<p>In order to establish greater flexibility in labour relations, the draft amendment of the Labour Code offers to legitimate a conclusion of fixed-term contract if work is of a permanent nature and the parties agree; unify all categories of employees on the notice of termination, which depends only on continuous length of service; determine the daily working time may exceed 8 hours with the agreement of the parties; determine that annual leave is granted in working days; to provide the possibility for the parties to agree for unpaid leave, etc. Moreover, youth is one of the focus issues in the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.</p> <p>The programme provides for the solving the issues of youth employment and integration in the labour market, encouraging youth entrepreneurship, reorganising the existing and establishing new youth employment centres. National Youth Policy Development Programme for 2011-2019 aims at the increase youth employment. It is aimed to promote a diversity of youth attractive activities and the development of open employment and complex measures with regard to disorganised and socially excluded young people.</p>
19. To promote cross-border professional and vocational opportunities for young people?	NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	No national measures were taken in this field.
20. To develop career guidance and counselling services?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	<p>Seeking to promote transition from education to the labour market, career counselling events are organized at 11 Youth Job Centres around Lithuania. Since 2008, by implementing the EU supported project "Development of New Innovative Services for Youth Seeking to Decrease Youth Unemployment and to Facilitate Entering the Labour Market", services are provided for the most vulnerable young people in order to increase their opportunities to establish themselves and compete equally in the labour market. A First Job Programme is offered for graduates who completed education and started working according to acquired professional competences or for graduates or persons with basic education who are seeking a job for the first time. Participants of this programme are provided with information, counselling, intermediation services.</p> <p>The establishment of Career Information Points (CIPs) was foreseen in the 2003 Vocational Guidance Strategy and its Implementation Action Plan. Currently, 700 CIPs are operating around Lithuania, which provide vocational guidance services and help youth to learn about the world of training and the labour market. National Youth Council states, that good initiative is not enough: career counselling and guidance is minimally effective in schools and vocational learning institutions; the rate of young people using services of CIPs, Youth Job Centres is low. Most of the unemployed are not well informed about the services; others are not satisfied with the quality</p>
21. To promote quality internships and apprenticeships to facilitate the entry to, and progress within, the labour market?	YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Based on the Law on Support for Employment of the Republic of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Labour Exchange implements support for the acquisition of professional skills that persons lack directly at the workplace. This measure may be organized for persons taking up their first employment according to the acquired speciality or occupation, the long-term unemployed whose unemployment period is or exceeds 2 years from the date of registration with a local labour exchange office, persons who have completed vocational rehabilitation programmes, and persons who have been given a notice of dismissal. When implementing the support for the acquisition of professional skills measure, employers, who have employed persons sent by local labour exchange offices for acquiring professional skills, receive wage subsidies. On the other hand, National Youth Council states, that the system of internships for students is quite poor.</p> <p>The internship length and conditions differ throughout universities and colleges. Most students do not get even minimal practical skills during their internships because some organizations and institutions don't give them tasks adequate to their knowledge, skills or exploit interns as a free workforce. Some educational institutions provide students with internships without giving them an option to choose where they want to do it. The situation is better in private educational institutions.</p>
<p>22. To promote sharing of responsibilities between partners in order to facilitate reconciliation between professional and private life for both young women and young men?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Since 2006, Article 179¹ of Work Code of the Republic of Lithuania established a father's right to paternity leave for a period of time from the day of the childbirth until the child is 1 month old. According to the Law on Sickness and Maternity Social Insurance, giving that the father has a required sickness and maternity social insurance record, a paternity allowance (the amount of which is 100 % of the allowance beneficiary's reimbursed remuneration) is paid for the period of a paternity leave. Therefore, the employers are promoted to ensure better conditions for young women and men to combine their work and family life responsibilities. According to the National Youth Council, the conditions to combine work and family life are only formal and do not work in practice. Young parents do not have where to leave their children (it is hard to get enrolled to the kindergarten - waiting line is about 2-3 years; not everyone can afford a babysitter). The work schedule</p>
<p>23. To promote entrepreneurship in the field of sustainable development?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Seeking to promote entrepreneurship, the labour exchange implements the measures for job creation such as subsidies for job creation, implementation of projects of local initiatives for employment, and support for self-employment. A subsidy may be granted for jobseekers willing to establish a workplace for themselves or to start up their own business under a business certificate. The subsidy for creating own business under a business certificate may be granted to partially compensate a business certificate acquisition costs (income tax) and social insurance contribution required for persons engaged in their own business under a business certificate. Ministry of Economy is engaged in organizing a number of entrepreneurship promotion initiatives orientated towards educating young people, including also the events designed to promote entrepreneurship "Business Lithuania".</p> <p>During the events of 2011, the first business year bags (vouchers) were offered to holders who will be able to access free services if they registered their own business within 6 month of receiving their voucher. Consultancy and virtual office-related services have been made available to voucher holders. Seeking to promote entrepreneurship of young people the Ministry of Economy is actively cooperating with PE Junior Achievement Lithuania: presently projects implemented on entrepreneurship promotion include Business Experience Academy, Founding of Pupil Training Establishments in the County of Vilnius, etc.</p>

Additional comments on employment & entrepreneurship

Project examples on the youth employment and entrepreneurship can be mentioned: Firstly, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour participates in activities of Community of Practice (COP) "Learning network on inclusive entrepreneurship" (subgroup "Access to finance"). Objective of this network is to produce an environment in which entrepreneurship is a natural choice for people from all walks of life. COP proposal accepted in April 2009, funding makes 630,000 EUR, duration 1/02/2009-31/01/2012, core partners: Germany, Spain, Asturias, Flanders and Czech Republic, active participants: Andalucia, Extremadura, Galicia, Lithuania and Wallonia. Secondly, starting from September 2009 Ministry of Social Security and Labour participates at the European Network on Youth Employment.

Members of the network: Greece, Cyprus, Belgium (Flanders), Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Lithuania. Thematic fields and learning objectives of the network: youth entrepreneurship; youth education and vocational counseling and youth mobility. In this framework of the project, a Benchmarking Report is to be produced, deriving from the best practices obtained in the three studies, evaluating and comparing them, in order to conclude whether they indeed constitute a practice to be recommended and copied by others. The completed studies are available at the network's website: www.youthemploymentnet.eu. This report will serve as a basis for developing a Common Reference Framework for Your Policies, after it undergoes two peer reviews from experts in the three fields of study.

This Common Reference Framework will exploit good practices and products that are developed either in the framework of the community initiatives such as EQUAL, or in the framework of the current programming period within the wider framework of the three learning areas under which the projects of the network are developing, both of the member states of the network and other member states which might want to be interconnected. The end of the network activity - December 2011. Thirdly, the Ministry of Economy is engaged in organizing a number of entrepreneurship promotion initiatives orientated towards educating young people, including also the events designed to promote entrepreneurship "Business Lithuania".

The main aim of these events was to start a dialogue between the Government and the business community with people who seek to start their own business, especially the young ones and those between jobs. Seeking to help young people make their first steps in the business world they were offered information on the business start cycle and small business development conditions in Lithuania. Young people thinking of their own business development were the main audience at the events. Next year the Ministry of Economy plans to continue this initiative and "Business Lithuania" events. Web-link: <http://www.versli Lietuva.lt/en>

SECTION 2b: PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES On youth participation	
24. to develop mechanisms for dialogue with youth and youth participation on national youth policies?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be	<p>1. Council of Youth Affairs. Between 1996 and 2006 the activities of the State Council of Youth Affairs under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania was formed according to the principle of parity from 6 representatives of 6 state institutions and representatives of youth organisations. The National Youth Council delegated representatives of youth organisations to the State Council of Youth Affairs. After 2006, the amendment of the Law on Youth Policy Framework came into force.</p> <p>Council of Youth Affairs stayed in the structure as institution which works on voluntary basis. It shall consider the main issues of youth policy and submit proposals to the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour on the implementation of a youth policy meeting the needs of youth and youth organisations. 2. National Working Group for the structured dialogue with young people (Lithuanian Youth Council is the member of it; as well according to the needs and topics, other representatives of Youth are involved) 3. Other Working Groups at national level (according to the needs and topics, the representatives of Youth are invited)</p>
25. to encourage use of already existing, or development of, guidelines on youth participation, information and consultation in order to ensure the quality of these activities?	YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	According to the Plan of Measures 2011-2013 for the Implementation of the National Youth Policy Development Programme for 2011-2019, state of play analysis is going to be done, and the creation of the information and consultancy structure for youth in order to make youth affairs visible for the society will start in 2012.
26. to support politically and financially youth organisations, as well as local and national youth councils and promote recognition of their important role in democracy?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	<p>The Law on Youth Policy Framework defines national youth organizations, Lithuanian Youth Council and Regional Youth Councils. Lithuanian Youth Council nominates 6 members into the advisory body - the Council of Youth Affairs. As it consists of 12 members, other 6 are delegated by the national institutions. At the municipality level, the law defines, that the Municipality Youth Affairs Councils might be created and should consist of youth representatives as well as the representatives of Municipality Council and Administration. The youth representatives are delegated by the Regional Youth Council.</p> <p>The funding for Lithuanian Youth Council as well as Regional Youth Councils for the projects started in 1997. Open calls for Lithuanian Youth Council, Regional Youth Councils and National youth organizations are organized by the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour separately every year in order to fund the annual activities' plans. The support for the local youth organizations and initiatives might be given by other institutions or departments according to their competences; however, the greatest funding comes from the municipalities. Lithuanian Youth Council stresses that financial support is too low and not secured for every youth organization. Moreover, many youth organizations in the regional level don't get enough political support and recognition as partners in solving youth issues.</p>

27. to promote the participation of more and a greater diversity of young people in representative democracy, in youth organisations and other civil-society organisations?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	<p>According to the Plan of Measures for the Implementation of the National Antidiscrimination Programme for 2009-2011, the non-formal learning on antidiscrimination, tolerance and respect topics are organized for the representatives of youth associations and members of self-governance institutions at schools. According to The Plan of Measures 2011-2013 for the Implementation of the National Youth Policy Development Programme for 2011-2019, the actions in order to encourage and help young people representing the national minorities to take part in economical and public life, as well as in the civil society, and integrate into the society are defined. Volunteering is strongly related to active citizenship.</p> <p>Therefore, in order to encourage young people to engage, development of youth voluntary activities was taken as one of the two national priorities of the National work programme of the European year of volunteering (Minister of Social Security and Labour approved the programme in September 2010). All year round (in 2011) through the different means the importance and visibility of volunteering was promoted and young people were encouraged to become volunteers. Also, in 2011 the Parliament agreed on the Law of Voluntary Work, which describes the principles of voluntary work, the requirements for a volunteer, etc. http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_bin?p_id=402802 (in Lithuanian). http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=412533 (in English).</p>
28. to make effective use of information and communication technologies to broaden and deepen participation of young people?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	The measures were implemented, however more initiatives are needed as well. The goal of the Children and youth cultural education programme for 2006-2011 is to promote the cooperation between the NGOs and state as well as municipal institutions in education and culture field. According to the programme, the innovation for children and youth cultural education is supported; the publication of the cultural education for children and young people is financed; the organisation of the fair for the ideas on cultural education is foreseen.
29. to support various forms of learning to participate from early age through formal education and non-formal learning?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	School programs include a citizenship upbringing subject, offer various forms of non-formal education, as well as non-governmental organizations and the civil society itself. The government financial support is minimal and no current actions are being taken to improve the situation. Many of the activities are being supported by the EU financial mechanisms and other funds.
30. to further develop opportunities for debate between public institutions and young people?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	During the year 2009-2010, Council of Youth Affairs held in total five extended meetings on the following topics: Migration of Youth; Youth and Culture; Voluntary activities; Youth entrepreneurship; Unemployment of Youth. These extended meetings gave an opportunity for the members of the Government and Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania, Representatives from the business sector, Youth policy makers, NGO's representatives, students to debate on the above mentioned topics. In addition, National Working Group gives the opportunity to discuss the priorities and issues related to the topics consulted during the consultation periods of structured dialogue. NWG created in 2010 continues its work successfully and gives the opportunity for National Youth Council, National Agency and representatives of national and municipal institutions to discuss relevant EU issues.
Additional comments on participation (for example references, web-links, project examples).	National Youth Council comments on this chapter, that mainly, initiatives come from EU and Council of Europe. The best practices are being applied, but the government doesn't take concrete actions to improve the situation. The situation in the national level is significantly better than in the regional: the work of the National Council for Youth Affairs is constant and stable and the resolutions and positions the Council accepts is considered when it comes to decision making. When it comes to the regional level, technically, the system is created but it does not work in practice: the Councils of Youth Affairs in some local municipalities are whether not formed or badly formed, not recognized or are not taken seriously. The regional municipality workers do not tend to consult the youth or regional youth councils; therefore the youth has no impact to the situation.
SECTION 3: ON VOLUNTEERING and the implementation of the Recommendation on the mobility of young volunteers	
31. To create more opportunities for mobility of young volunteers?	NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	All the opportunities for mobility are available only through the European Voluntary Service.
32. To raise awareness about opportunities for mobility of young volunteers?	NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	No concrete actions have been made in this section. All the initiatives for raising the awareness for mobility are organized only through the European Voluntary Service.
33. To assure quality through the development of self-assessment tools?	NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	There is still a discussion going on, however, no particular plan has been made.
34. To promote cross-border mobility of youth workers and young people in youth organisations?	NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	
35. To give particular attention in this context to young people with fewer opportunities?	NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	All the opportunities and special attention for young people with fewer opportunities is available only through the European Voluntary Service.
36. To promote the recognition of skills acquired through voluntary activities through instruments such as Europass, Youthpass and Member State instruments?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	Youthpass was used in order to evaluate the learning processes and recognize competences gained in European Volunteer Service ("Youth in Action" programme). There is no specific instrument established to validate volunteering in national level. There is no impact study carried out if Europass is used as assessment or recognition tool of voluntary activities. Even voluntary activities in Europass does not play important role, Europass is used as promotion tool.
37. To promote intergenerational solidarity through voluntary activities?	NO, but we plan to take concrete measures in this field in 2012.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	According to the Decision No. 940/2011/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 September 2011, the year 2012 shall be designated as the 'European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations' with intergenerational solidarity being one of the top objectives of the European Year. Due to the member states commitment to take measures to achieve the objectives of the said decision, Lithuania, among other countries, must prepare a work programme, which outlines details of the national activities planned under the European Year. As for the present, the said programme is still being prepared, nevertheless it is aspired to promote volunteering to achieve the objectives of the European year and it is already possible to say that part of the activities and measures are likely to be implemented by the non-governmental organisations assisted by volunteers.

Additional comments on volunteering (for example references, web-links, project examples).

In 2011 the Law on Volunteering was approved by the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania, which can be considered as the great improvement of the situation on volunteering in the country. The law describes the principles of voluntary work, the requirements for a volunteer, describes the rights and duties and other.
http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_bin?p_id=402802 (Lithuanian language).
http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=412533 (English language).

SECTION 4: On the implementation of the additional fields of action of the EU Youth Strategy	
38. To support the development of youth work and other non-formal learning opportunities as a way of addressing early school leaving?	YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	In the end of 2010 the amendments on the Law on Minimum and Medium Child Care were adopted and Open Youth centres were added to the list of the institutions which can provide minimum care service. According to the above mentioned law - "Open Youth Centre is an institution or its department, which provides the social, psychological, pedagogical services for the youth and providing the minimum care measures for the children of 14-18 years old". The obligation for a child to take part in the activities of Open youth centre as the care measure (or supervision) might be applied.
39. To strengthen the use of the range of tools established at EU level for the transparency and validation of skills and the recognition of qualifications?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	Youth workers portfolio was used in the system of youth work accreditation and the process of recognition. Youthpass is mainly used for the assessment of Youth in Action activities. In 2011 the Education Development Centre under the Ministry of Education and Science started a reform of children (up to 18 years old) non-formal education system. The main idea of this reform is to separate formalized complementary education orientated towards systemic development of the competences in a specific fields/themes (e.g., art, sports, music schools) and non-formal education aimed to develop child's personal and social competences (e.g., programmes run by NGOs or private persons etc.). As the source of financing a pupil's voucher for non-formal education will be introduced. These plans are welcomed by NGOs and youth workers providing programmes of non-formal education for children and young people. In the frame of this reform the set of competences gained in non-formal activities are being created and Youthpass as well as 8 key competences are used as basics, valuable assessment and recognition tool.
40. To promote learning mobility of all young people?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	Lithuania participates in the EC Lifelong Learning Programme, Youth in Action Programme, the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Government of Lithuania financed NordPlus Framework Programme and implements Structural Funds supported projects, among the key objectives of which is promoting mobility of people in all age groups.
41. To make the broader public aware of the value of non-formal learning?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	The Draft of the new Concept of Children Non-formal Education has been prepared and discussed with different actors and stakeholders. The Concept shall ensure variety of the opportunities provided by elective (non-formal) children education and its accessibility through separating formalised complementary education oriented towards systemic development of the competences in a specific fields/themes and non-formal education aimed to develop child's personal and social competences (e.g., programmes run by NGOs or private persons etc.). The source of financing a child's voucher for non-formal education is foreseen. In October 2011 a pilot project aimed to start a reform of children (up to 18) non-formal education system has been started. The pilot project involves 4 municipalities that will be testing a pupil's voucher for non-formal education. The results of the pilot project will be used implementing a reform of children non-formal education system on national level. The Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour recognise non-formal education cooperating with governmental organizations, NGOs. Comments from Lithuanian Youth Council (which chose the 3rd answer): a pilot project create a financing system for non-formal education; unfortunately, the pilot project is the only concrete action, because the long term project will not be implemented in year 2012 due to lack of financing and is postponed for an indefinite period.
Additional comments on education & training (for example references, web-links, project examples).	

B. HEALTH & WELL-BEING	
42. To follow up the Council Resolution on the health and well-being of young people and encourage youth fitness and physical activity by applying the EU Physical Activity Guidelines?	YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	In 2011 National Sport Development Strategy for 2011-2020 was approved by the decision of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania. A considerable part of it focuses on enhancing young people's participation in voluntary sport activity, as well as in sport for all initiatives and environment application to local community needs. Web-link: http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=395701&p_query=&p_tr2=2 (In Lithuanian language)
43. To encourage healthy lifestyles for young people via physical education, education on nutrition, physical activity and collaboration between schools, youth workers, health professionals and sporting organisations?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	The legal acts can be mentioned: Order of the Minister for Health of the Republic of Lithuania and the Minister of Education and Science, dated 16 August 2007, No. V-684/ISAK-1637 "On the procedure of the recognition of school as a health promoting school" (Official Gazette, 2007, No. 91-3656). http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=303088&p_query=&p_tr2=2 Order of the Minister of Health dated 11 November 2011, No.V-946 "On the procedure of catering organization of preschool education, general education schools and children's social care institutions" (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 140-6573) http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=411986&p_query=&p_tr2=2 Order of the Minister of Agriculture dated 9 February 2010, No. 3D-89 "On the School Fruit Programme 2010-2013 school year strategy" (Official Gazette, 2010, No. 19-910). http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=407915 In addition, one of the goals of National Youth Policy Development programme for 2011-2019 seeks to encourage youth wellness and physical activity.
44. To increase knowledge and awareness of youth workers and youth leaders of health issues?	YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	The Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour together with partners (Lithuanian Youth Council, Agency of International Youth Co-operation, Ministry of Social Security and Labour, National Association of Non-formal Education) had set up a certification system for the Youth workers. Since 2011 this came out as a pilot project, however, the following competences for the youth worker are closely related to the health issue and the trainings on following topics are included for them: 1. First Aid is compulsory for all, who works with youth; 2. The Knowledge on Specific Topics (bullying, psychology of addiction, professional boundaries, work with problematic or disabled youngsters, etc.)
45. To encourage peer-to-peer health education?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	Since 2010 the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour implements the National Antidiscrimination Programme for 2009-2011. According to this programme peer-to-peer education programme "The Guide of Bullying" was prepared in 2011. Also, the trainings on bullying prevention (as a part of psychological health) were organized for the representatives of youth organizations. As for the health and education areas, the order of the Minister for Health of the Republic of Lithuania and the Minister of Education and Science, dated 16 August 2007, No. V-684/ISAK-1637 "On the procedure of the recognition of school health promoting school" (Official Gazette, 2007, No. 91-3656) can be mentioned. http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=303088&p_query=&p_tr2=2
46. To facilitate access to existing health facilities by making them more youth friendly?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	Health care procedure for schools was approved by the Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Lithuania and the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania in 2005 (Official Gazette, 2005, No. 153-5657). http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=268649&p_query=&p_tr2=2
Additional comments on health & well-being (for example references, web-links, project examples).	
C. SOCIAL INCLUSION	
47. To realise the full potential of youth work and youth centres as means of inclusion?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour is working to ensure the quality of services which are provided by the Open Youth centers (annually provides financial support, training courses and advices to the staff of Open youth centers). The open youth centers are focused on socially vulnerable youngsters as well as the young people with fewer opportunities or facing social exclusion. In the end of 2010 the amendments on the Law on Minimum and Medium Child Care were adopted and Open Youth centers were added to the list of the institutions which can provide minimum care. According to the above mentioned law - "Open Youth Center is an institution or its department, which provides the social, psychological, pedagogical services for the youth and providing the minimum care measures for the children of 14-18 years old". The obligation for a child to take part in the activities of Open youth center as the care measure (or supervision) might be applied.</p>
<p>48. To adopt a cross-sectoral approach when working to improve community cohesion and solidarity and reduce the social exclusion of young people, addressing the inter linkages between e.g. young peoples education and employment and their social inclusion?</p>	<p>NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>49. To support the development of intercultural awareness and competences for all young people and combat prejudice?</p>	<p>NO, but we plan to take concrete measures in this field in 2012</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The measures for the promotion of intercultural participation of young people in economic, civic, public life as well as promotion of the integration of young people from minority groups are approved in the Plan of Measures 2011-2013 for the Implementation of the National Youth Policy Development Programme for 2011-2019. Ministry of Culture as well as Ministry of Education and Science together with the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour are responsible for implementation of these measures in 2012-2013.</p>
<p>50. To address the issues of homelessness, housing and financial exclusion with a particular focus on young people?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>In Lithuania young people experiencing financial exclusion, homelessness are supported by the general procedure. Cash social assistance is one of the measures which affect the reduction of poverty and social exclusion. Poor families and single persons are provided cash social assistance (social benefits, compensations for heating, cold and hot water, free meals for children in schools, assistance for pupils in the preparation for school, discounts on kindergarten fees, etc.). Seeking to support families raising school-age pupils and develop healthy diet habits of pupils at school in accordance with the Law on Social Assistance for Pupils, pupils from low-income families are entitled to free meals and assistance for pupils in the preparation for school. Additional initiatives are necessary also.</p>
<p>51. To promote access to quality services e.g. transport, e-inclusion, health, social services?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>A transportation service is provided for pupils living away and for persons with disabilities. Social services are given for young people by the general procedure after the assessment of need for social services. For example, by virtue of disability, unemployment, existing dependency, for social risk persons, for persons, who are in a crisis situation. The social services are provided in the day care centres, at home, in the stationary institutions. According to the guidelines for culture policy, the services are provided for the society (for example, the legal acts approved: 2011 Guidelines for Lithuanian culture policy development - http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=410468)</p>
<p>52. To promote specific support for young families?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>According to the Law of States Assistance for Accommodation Acquisition or Rent and Tenements Renovation, young families have a right, under the conditions regulated by the said law (for example, asset and income of a family must not reach values determined by the Government), to apply for a grant to reimburse a part of a credit taken to acquire an accommodation. Also, under respective conditions (low income and asset, family must possess no accommodation or the size of their possessed accommodation should not reach determined sizes), young families can also apply for social accommodation rent in the municipality they live in.</p>
<p>53. To engage young people and youth organisations in the planning, delivery and evaluation of European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in 2010?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	Exceptionally youth organisations were not included in the planning, delivery and evaluation of European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in 2010 (EY2010). Young people and youth organizations were involved in the planning and delivery of EY2010 as part of other organizations, which implemented the National EY2010 program. These organizations were the National Anti-Poverty Network and PI "Gymnasium". A majority of the team of PI "Gymnasium" are the teenagers.
Additional comments on social inclusion (for example references, web-links, project examples).	

D. CREATIVITY & CULTURE

54. To support the development of creativity among young people by following up the Council conclusions on promoting a Creative Generation: developing the creativity and innovative capacity of children and young people through cultural expression and wider access to culture?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	Since 2006 Ministry of Culture coordinates the Inter-institutional Programme for Children and Youth Cultural Education for 2006-2011, approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. Each year over 80 projects are partly funded from the state budget in order to promote young peoples' creativity and cultural education. The Ministry of Culture has set up four prizes for art and culture creators, as well as prizes for young artists. Guidelines for Lithuanian cultural policy development also provide the means for a programme. Lithuanian museums and cultural centres, libraries have developed over 300 educational programmes to promote creativity.
55. To make new technologies readily available to empower young people's creativity and capacity for innovation, and attract interest in culture, the arts and science?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	On 30 November 2006 the Government of Lithuania approved the Reading Promotion Programme, which aims to encourage people of all ages and of all social groups in the population to read more, improve their reading skills, as well as to raise the prestige of reading. The Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education and Science are responsible for the Reading Promotion Programme, which is implemented in period 2006 - 2011. During the existence of Reading Promotion Programme, various events and campaigns were organized. During the first year of the Reading Promotion Programme the website of the Programme www.skaitymometai.lt was developed as a tool for communication and the dissemination of information. Web-link: http://www.skaitymometai.lt/index.php?530400038 Lithuanian museums and cultural centres, libraries have developed over 300 educational programmes to promote creativity.
56. To provide access to environments where young people can develop their creativity and interests and spend a meaningful leisure time?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	Since 2007, the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour is financing and supervising these institutions, which implement the principles of open youth work in their activities. Since that time around 8000 young people took part in these activities. Since 2011, the Department of Youth Affairs is giving the financial support not only to the Open youth centres, but also to the Open youth spaces. Also, The National Youth Policy Development Programme for 2011 - 2019 raises the goal to encourage youth to take part in the activities of the Open Youth Centres and Spaces, in order to increase the number of visitors up to 112 000 till 2019, also to increase the number of Open youth spaces and Open youth centres up to 350.
	In order to improve the conditions and activities of cultural centres, as well as to develop the culture in the regions, the Programme for Modernisation of Cultural Centres for 2007-2020 and the Programme for the Development of the Culture in the Regions were approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (web-links: http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=281234 ; http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=347437 ; http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=409806)
57. To promote specialised training in culture, new media and intercultural competences for youth workers?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Due to the initiative of the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour in 2010, the methodology of Youth workers' preparation and certification was prepared in order to implement the project „Partnership between governmental and non-governmental sectors in order to implement the integrated youth policy“. It is a first attempt to create a national model, which connects the formal and non-formal education and includes the topics of intercultural learning, cultural learning and new media in the training system. Guidelines for Lithuanian Cultural Policy Development also provide the measures for a programme in 2011 (web-link: http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=410468).</p> <p>Guidelines for Lithuanian Cultural Policy Development aim to develop cultural competence and creativity of the human. The measures are the following: to develop and implement digital literacy tools; develop and implement digital literacy tools; adjust the museum expositions and exhibitions for children and young people. It is foreseen to implement civil, ethnic and philological education projects; to carry out ethnic, and other non-formal preschool education projects; develop and implement cultural institutions of informal education programs to reduce social and economic disparities.</p>
<p>Additional comments on culture & creativity (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	

E. YOUTH & THE WORLD

<p>58. To raise the awareness of young people about global issues such as sustainable development and human rights?</p>	<p>NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>59. To provide opportunities for young people to exchange views with policy-makers on global issues (e.g. via participation in international meetings, virtual platforms/fora etc.)?</p>	<p>NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>60. To encourage young people to participate in green volunteering and "green" patterns of consumption and production (e.g. recycling, energy conservation, hybrid vehicles, etc.)?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>61. To promote entrepreneurship, employment, education and volunteering opportunities with countries or regions outside of Europe?</p>	<p>NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>62. To encourage young people to participate in development cooperation activities either in their country of residence or abroad?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Young people in Lithuania have an opportunity to participate in development cooperation activities not only in their country but in partner countries as well. As an example could be given a development cooperation project “Green capital” implemented by Lithuanian Children and Youth Center in 2011 in Georgia. Climate change is a global problem at present days and there a risk exists that present youngsters will meet climate change influence deeper than we feel it now and exactly they will be forced to solve this question. During Georgia economy development process country will face the same problems which are facing European countries and Lithuania as well. The aim of this project is to share collected knowledge and personal experience with Georgia children and youth and present them practical material about how every person, including youngsters, could influent reduction of climate change process.</p> <p>The project aims to organize a contest „Journalistic Research“, which will create possibilities for young people to put their attention on their every day consumption habits and how it influence on greenhouse gas emission. During this contest the most active contest participants will be elected, who will be invited to the Conference in Tbilisi. In the frame of the conference programme Lithuanian and Georgian Active Youth Collaboration Platform will be established, which will develop the implementation of this project in both countries - Lithuania and Georgia.</p>
<p>Additional comments on youth & the world (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	

SECTION 5: EVALUATION OF THE STRUCTURED DIALOGUE

<p>63. Has your government carried out any specific measures or is it planning to do so based on the conclusions from the European Youth Week, which presents a number of recommendations on how the structured dialogue can be improved at the national and the European levels?</p>	<p>NO, but we plan to take concrete measures in this field in 2012.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The National Working Group works constantly on the implementation of the structured dialogue. The initiative comes from the group itself, not from the government. Any special documents have no influence - the real situation is the most important aspect of the group’s work.</p>
<p>64. Has your Government supported the establishment of a National Working Group?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer. If yes, how has this been supported? If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here</p>	<p>National Working Group was established by the Order of the Minister of Social Security and Labour in 2010. The responsibilities of all the actors involved in the process of NWG are defined in the procedure, approved by the order mentioned. The meetings of NWG are initiated and organised by the Ministry together with the National Youth Council. The meetings usually take place in the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.</p>
<p>65. Does the National Youth Council play a leading role in the National Working Group?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If your answer is NO please elaborate and indicate who plays a leading role. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Partly. As the National Working Group was established by the Order of the Minister of Social Security and Labour in 2010, the leading role of the meetings of NWG is given to the Ministry. However, National Youth Council takes the leading role in the consultation process with young people. Formally, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour leads the work. The National Youth Council is not being given a leading role formally, but in practice it does most of the work - questionnaire publishing and evaluation, reports and other.</p>
<p>66. Does the competent national ministry play an active role in the National Working Group?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>National Working Group was established by the Order of the Minister of Social Security and Labour in 2010.</p>
<p>67. Given the cross-sectoral character of the EU Youth Strategy, have other national ministries played an active role in the National Working Group?</p>	<p>No</p>

<p>If your answer is YES please elaborate and indicate who plays an active role. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
68. Does your Government provide financial or other support for the National Working Group?	Yes
<p>If your answer is YES please elaborate (maximum 300 words) If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>National Working Group was established by the Order of the Minister of Social Security and Labour in 2010. The meetings of the National Working Group takes place in the ministry. However, no financial support is provided from the national budget.</p>
69. Is the competent national ministry aware of the process of consultations, and subsequent results, undertaken by the National Working Group in response to guiding questions issued by the European Steering Committee for the structured dialogue with youth?	Yes
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The meetings of the National Working Group takes place in the ministry. Representatives of the ministry are involved in the work of the group.</p>
70. Has your Government taken any initiatives to follow up the points that were raised as priority areas in the conclusions of the structured dialogue on youth employment, as outlined in the Council Resolution on the structured dialogue?	No, but we intend to take relevant initiatives/measures in 2012
<p>Please elaborate If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The problem of youth employment is mentioned in the National youth policy development programme for 2011-2019. In implementation of the programme better youth employment opportunities will be ensured by creating favourable conditions for young people to participate in the labour market. Web-link: http://www.socmin.lt/index.php?-460861425</p>
71. Would your Government support a structured dialogue with young people and youth organisations in other fields than those covered by the overall thematic priorities, and individual Presidency priorities, agreed at European level?	Yes
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer</p>	<p>As the consultations with young people are very important in every question related to youth, we would support the structured dialogue in the fields, which are important and relevant to youth. Presently in preparation of the legal acts or programming documents the discussions with representatives of youth (mainly National Youth Council) are already held in Lithuania.</p>
72. Does your Government consider the National Working Group already established in your country to be sufficiently inclusive in its composition to ensure a participatory process open to all young people?	No
<p>If your answer is NO please elaborate</p>	<p>Partly. National Working Group was established by the Order of the Minister of Social Security and Labour in 2010. Main actors in the youth field take part in the work of NWG, either national or regional levels are represented, however it is planned to include additional members of youth information sphere (i.e. Eurodesk).</p>
73. What are the methods of consultation with young people that have been applied within the structured dialogue in your country?	Online surveys and meetings are the main tools to process the consultations.

If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	
74. Do youth researchers and those engaged in youth work play a role in carrying out the structured dialogue in your country?	Yes
If your answer is YES please elaborate If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	
Youth researchers take part in the work of NWG. In addition, young people in the regions are also consulted by the youth affairs coordinators in municipalities. National Agency for YiA takes an important role in NWG.	
75. Would your Government support efforts to enhance the visibility and transparency of structured dialogue at national level?	Yes
Please explain the reasons for your answer.	
The Ministry would support to enhance the visibility of structured dialogue. The need to promote the information on the structured dialogue in the websites of the stakeholders (i.e. National Youth Council, Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour) was already discussed during the meeting of NWG.	
76. Based on the experiences gained since 2010, does your Government feel that the format and working methods employed at EU Youth Conferences contribute to a successful conduct of structured dialogue?	Yes
Please explain the reasons for your answer.	
As the consultations with young people are very important in every question related to youth, therefore, the consultations and discussions with young people are very useful either in national level or in the EU Youth Conferences. The possibility to discuss the questions raised during the EU Youth Conferences gives the understanding of the importance of participation to the dialogue as well as more effective results.	
77. Based on the experiences gained from the first two cycles of the structured dialogue, does your Government have particular recommendations for the further development of the structured dialogue?	Yes
Please explain the reasons for your answer.	
Firstly, timeline for consultations has to be set up according to the events for youth. Sufficient time for consultations has to be considered. Secondly, the previous periods of consultations show, that it is very important to organise the dialogue with youth in youth friendly forms and methods. In addition, youth friendly language used for the questionnaires ensured better and more answers from young people.	

SECTION 6: ON EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

Presentation of good practice # 1	<p>National Employment Office implements the project “Be active in labour market” (ESF funding), which is addressed to young unemployed people (until 29 yrs). Project lasts until 31/01/2012; budget - 6,37 m EUR (planned to attract 5230 young unemployed into active labour market measures and reach 50 % their employment within 6 months after participation in the project). 7 projects financed under the ESF measure “Integration of persons at social risk and socially excluded persons into the labour market” of Human resources development operational programme were addressed to young people leaving childcare institutions at the age of 14-29 in order to facilitate their integration to society (planned to achieve 821 participants).</p> <p>Employment promotion fund under Financial engineering measure “Employment promotion” of Human resources development operational programme have been created (ESF funding). Young entrepreneurs in the age of 15-29 are one of the priority groups. The Fund plans to grant loans and/or subsidies - microcredits of up to LTL 86,000 (24907 EUR) - as of the middle of 2012. Total amount of Fund makes 14,5 m EUR.</p>
Presentation of good practice # 2	<p>There are support possibilities for youth under Rural Development Programme for Lithuania 2007-2013 Lithuanian: setting up of young farmers, modernization of agricultural holdings, improvement of economic value of forests, first afforestation of agricultural land, first afforestation of non-agricultural and abandoned land, non-productive investments in forests, diversification into non-agricultural activities, support for business creation and development, encouragement of rural tourism activities. Mostly the young applicant under these measures can be young farmer (a farmer, who is less than 40 years old) and (or) youth not less than 18 years old.</p> <p>For the implementation of the projects, priorities of the Rural Youth Committee in 2012 are: promoting entrepreneurship among rural youth; to organize the leisure time for rural youth; to encourage the community of rural youth; to encourage the volunteer work of rural youth; the development of the rural youth-friendly spaces; to promote the ecological awareness. 31 project proposals submitted, budget for the youth committee - 587000 LTL (170000 EUR).</p>
Presentation of good practice # 3	