



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS NUOLATINĖ ATSTOVYBĖ  
PRIE JUNGTINIŲ TAUTŲ BIURO IR  
KITŲ TARPTAUTINIŲ ORGANIZACIJŲ ŽENEVOJE**

**MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA LITUANIE  
AUPRÈS DE L'OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES ET  
DES AUTRES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES À GENÈVE**

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and with the reference to its note verbale of 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2015 has the honour to transmit the answer of the Government of Lithuania to the questionnaire in relation to Human Rights Council resolution 27/12 on World Programme for Human Rights Education: adoption of the plan of action for the third phase.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania seizes this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 29 May 2015



**Office of the United Nations High Commissioner  
for Human Rights  
GENEVA**

## **Information provided by the Republic of Lithuania on the implementation of the second phase (2010-2014) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education**

### **A. Human rights education in higher education**

Human rights (HR) education is integrated into higher education curricula. HR is taught as a separate subject or teaching on HR is integrated into relevant disciplines. Students are encouraged to be active participants, to express their ideas, to give feedback, to actively participate in discussions, competitions, research. The quality of studies and research is periodically checked and evaluated and if needed the curricula is changed accordingly.

The exchange programs provide opportunities for students and professors to study abroad and for foreign students to come to Lithuania. Vilnius University belongs to the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation, where the main programme is European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation (E.MA).

HR norms are incorporated into the codes of ethics of the higher education institutions. The decision making process involves consultations and cooperation among professors, students, administration, consulting bodies, municipality, etc. As a rule, students are represented at the boards of the higher education institutions.

### **B. Human Rights training for civil servants, law enforcement and the military**

#### Training policies and other related policies

HR related training for civil servants in Lithuania is generally organized by a number of certified training institutions in cooperation with the Civil Service Department under the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Lithuania. HR related training courses for judges and prosecutors are also organized by Training Centre of National Courts Administration. In addition to general HR training, HR related courses for civil servants working in Internal Affairs section (law enforcement) and National Defence System (military) are also organized by specialised staff.

HR training in Internal Affairs section is included both into pre-service and in-service training programmes for police officers. These trainings are provided by experienced trainers of Lithuanian Police School. In-service training is also provided by Non-Governmental and other specialized institutions, such as Equal Opportunities Ombudsman Office and the Centre for Equal advancement. The majority of pre-service and in-service HR trainings are aimed at officials dealing with specific groups in vulnerable situations. Training courses cover the following topics: HR protection instruments in Lithuania, the rights of the most vulnerable persons, prohibition of torture, inhuman and humiliating behaviour, discrimination and intolerance, racial, ethnic, religious and other forms of discrimination.

In National Defence System, HR training for military personnel is incorporated in all levels of military training curricula. The content of the training courses is adapted for the audience and designed to cover the basic knowledge of HR requirements for military tasks. More specific training is given for soldiers and officers deployed to international missions and operations, especially for those who are dealing with the most vulnerable groups of affected population: elderly, women, children, widows and orphans. These soldiers and officers are usually appointed to CIMIC and Public Affairs positions.

It should be also noted, that national policies and regulations concerning profession of civil servants, law enforcement and military officers have been reviewed in order to make sure that they are consistent with HR standards.

#### Training processes and tools

The content of HR related training of civil servants, law enforcement officials and the military is developed according to the needs and current relevant situation in the area of HR, including the existing regulations and applicable standards. The training materials and textbooks promote HR principles.

For example, Lithuanian Police School carries out integrated trainings, which focus on the future police officer's lawful conduct (respect and promotion of HR) in such situations as public events and disorders or events during which relevant social groups (sexual, ethnic minorities, disabled people etc.) aim to protect their interests. In addition, police students are taught to properly respond to violence against persons in vulnerable situations; they are trained to provide assistance to victims of violence, as well as on topics of professional ethics, psychological endurance, communication and tactics of dealing with different groups of people. Training aims at providing knowledge about the convoy officers' tasks and organization of work, learners are encouraged to change the approach to arrested and detained persons and their protection. Students are taught to use force proportionately, they are explained the concept of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment and the consequences of HR violations.

In National Defence System (military), during pre-mission and in-theatre training military personnel is provided with basic knowledge of International Humanitarian Law, HR Treaties, HR obligations, and relevant UN resolutions, such as Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, Children and Armed Conflict etc. Military training is designed to reflect cultural, religious and ethical differences in order to avoid misbehaviour and promote HR amongst host society.

#### Learning and working environment

All civil servants, law enforcement officials and military personnel have to follow the principles of respective codes of conduct and professional ethics. Good practices are promoted, recognized and rewarded. For example, Lithuanian police officers are rewarded for their exceptional performance in all situations, including ones related to the protection of HR. These recognitions and rewards contribute to the future promotions of police officers. In National Defence System (military), the best practices and problems in operations are recorded as Lessons Identified and used as examples or behaviour patterns for future trainings of troops.

### **C. Overall human rights education national efforts**

#### National Plan for HR education or similar strategic document

National Public Legal Education Programme was adopted by Lithuanian Government's Decision No. 1120 of the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2008 on "National Public Legal Education Programme for the period 2009-2012" (hereinafter referred to as – the Programme). The Programme envisaged a number of measures, aiming at creating opportunities for public to gain legal knowledge and build capacity, so that they could properly exercise their rights and freedoms in existing legal system. Implementation of the Programme took into account the needs of different social groups, especially those of young people and adults that have not yet acquired relevant competences. The objectives of the Programme were the following: coordination of the activities of the public legal education system; formation of public legal awareness in the curricula of pre-school, pre-primary and secondary education as well as in non-formal education of adults; facilitation of legal self-education and systematic provision of legal

information and legal consultation for different social groups. Action plan for the implementation of the Programme was adopted accordingly.

Currently, the Ministry of Justice is in the process of drafting National Public Legal Education Action Plan for the period 2015-2016. In addition to the actions defined in earlier Action Plans, the new Action Plan will focus on a provision of legal information for different social groups, their legal consultation, raising public legal knowledge and building capacity to self-protection of individual's rights and freedoms.

#### Main challenges to advancing HR education

According to national public opinion surveys, young people is the most vulnerable social group in Lithuania. Public survey conducted in 2014 in Lithuania revealed that only 35 percent of persons aged 15-29 claimed to be interested in their civil rights and responsibilities, while even 61 percent of the same group of respondents claimed not to care about their civil rights, liberties and responsibilities.

In response to the findings of this survey, on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014, the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Education signed a memorandum on the cooperation in the field of public legal education. Both ministries committed themselves to renew the curricula of a non-compulsory subject "Law" and general civic education framework in secondary schools. In addition, both ministries will cooperate in mainstreaming the content of legal education into a curricula of vocational schools; in creation of legal framework professional development programmes for teachers and will continue active engagement in the field of public legal education.

In addition, in 2014 the Ministry of Justice organized training courses of Law basics "I know my rights" in 30 secondary schools in different regions of Lithuania. The training aimed at introducing young people to human rights and freedoms issues as well as Lithuanian legal system. A number of participating students reached around 1000.

Furthermore, in 2014 the Ministry of Justice for the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year organized a national public examination on knowledge of Lithuanian Constitution. The event is popular among Lithuanians and each year it gathers around 30 000 participants. Participation in this national public examination encourages the public to raise their awareness of Lithuanian legal system and citizen's rights and duties enshrined in Lithuanian Constitution.

#### Institution / department responsible for preparing the report

Information for the report provided by:

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