



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

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and in reply to its request has the honor to submit the national evaluation report on the third phase (2015 – 2019) of the World Programme for human rights education of the Republic of Lithuania.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

ENCLOSURE. 5 pages.



Geneva, 21 May 2020

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
GENEVA

Information from the Republic of Lithuania for the national evaluation report on the third phase (2015 – 2019) of the World Programme for human rights education

Integrating human rights issues into educational curricula

Human rights education policy developed by the Ministry of education, science and sports of the Republic of Lithuania, includes education, training, information campaigns, events and other activities aimed at providing learners with knowledge, skills and competences, strengthening their attitudes, enabling them to contribute to the development of respect for human rights in society and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The description of the achievements of preschool children, which is intended for educators working with preschool children, sets the basic skills necessary for the harmonious development of the personality. Developing self-esteem, self-awareness, communication skills with peers and adults - the basis for understanding human rights. These skills are developed in pre-school education, and in primary education, human rights issues are included in ethics and world education programs. In basic education, human rights issues are integrated into the curricula of citizenship, ethics, religion, history and other subjects, in secondary education - into the curricula of cognition of society, history, philosophy and other subjects. A separate basic course of civic education is included as a compulsory subject in grades 9-10 (the school chooses whether to teach this subject in grades 9 or 10). Civic education is integrated in and covered by various subjects and non-formal activities in all grades, it should be also noted that social activities are compulsory from 5th to 10th grade. In pursuit of the goal of educating ethics, students learn about fundamental human rights and responsibilities, and are encouraged to adhere to moral norms, human rights and responsibilities, tolerance, respect for other nations, equal opportunities, and justice in a democratic community.

In higher education institutions, human rights are an important part of law study programs and other social science study programs. Human rights issues are taught as a separate subject or part of a study subject that is not exclusively devoted to human rights, but to a large extent includes or is dedicated to a specific field of human rights. Human rights are both the subject of special study subjects devoted exclusively to human rights issues and part of other study subjects. Feedback in the teaching process, involvement of students in discussions, participation in seminars, public lectures, summer law schools, activities of student scientific societies, international doctoral conferences, competitions are encouraged.

Study programs are developed and research activities are organized taking into account examples of good practice, experience of foreign countries, which is exchanged in active cooperation with foreign universities, taking into account the recommendations of science and study quality evaluators.

For example the study program Legal Regulation of Public Administration and Human Rights is offered in universities, which aims to prepare highly qualified public law specialists on national and international legal regulation of the public sector and human rights protection.

Mykolas Romeris University has a Human Rights Laboratory, where human rights practitioners and researchers are cooperating. The laboratory conducts national and international human rights researches, trains practitioners on various human rights issues, assesses the impact of human rights on business and develops applicable proposals on how to improve the human rights situation. The laboratory specializes in non-discrimination, protection of the rights of migrants, refugees, other vulnerable people and others issues.

Respect for human rights principles is enshrined in the codes of ethics of higher education institutions, including provisions not to discriminate members of communities and other persons on the basis of gender, race, language, religion, political affiliation, skin colour, nationality, age, education, health and marital status.

Government of the Republic of Lithuania has entitled Ministry of Justice to implement legal education of the society. Plan to implement legal education of the society for the 2015 – 2016 consisted of providing legal information for different social groups, legal counselling, education of legal knowledge and capacity and also education for the school children of legal system's basics.

Programs, events, initiatives

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania promotes human rights and aims to introduce young generation with international human rights commitments and human rights institutions. For this purpose, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania organizes various educational activities together with other partners.

In 2018 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania in cooperation with the Seimas Ombudsmen's Office (the National Human Rights Institution) and the embassy of the United States of America in Lithuania organized for students an English writing competition marking the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This provided with a chance to express personal views or stories about the importance of human rights and share it with the people of Lithuania. The motto of the contest was to be creative and break stereotypes in talking about human rights.

In 2019 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania in cooperation with the embassy of the United States of America in Lithuania, the Lithuanian Youth and Children Center and the Schoolchildren Union of Lithuania organized for students a human rights-focused multimedia contest. This event created the opportunity for youth to express their opinion on human rights issue that they care about (disability rights, LGBT rights, immigrant rights, refugee rights, minority rights, anti-bullying, suicide prevention, human trafficking, women issues, etc.). Participants had to present

their ideas visually – make a short video (either a documentary or a drama), create a comic strip or a chapter from a graphic novel, use tools to make an animated short clip, paint a picture or mural, or come up with any other idea to visually present the issue and show the importance of civic engagement to address human rights issues in Lithuania.

Commemorating 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania in 2019 organized writing competition for 14 – 18 years old students, where they shared their vision on the future of Europe based on the values of Council of Europe. The participants of this competition afterwards took part in the discussion called “Our rights, our freedom’s Europe. The Council of Europe after seventy years”. Discussion addressed the following topics - democracy and human rights, role of the Council of Europe in response to rising populism, xenophobia, racism, disinformation as well as inclusive society and challenges of artificial intelligence for the human rights.

Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania implements legal education in the following areas: an examination of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, engaging in Europe day events (introducing work of EU institutions), publishing information on legal education. An examination on the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania is held every year. The main purpose is to engage society to check their legal knowledge and to learn Constitution as well as other main legal acts. More than 30 000 attendees participate in the event (mostly school children).

In 2014 Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania has implemented project – “I know my rights” in the 30 schools in the largest cities in Lithuania. The same project was repeated in 2015, when additionally 20 schools in the regions were visited.

In 2014 and 2015 Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania has prepared educational radio programs on legal knowledge. In 2015 educational campaign on legal knowledge was carried out in the regional newspapers and national television.

In the fall 2015 Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania has organized project on legal consultations when lawyers in fifteen cities of Lithuania provided more than 1300 persons with free legal advices.

In the same year internet page on legal education named www.teisingumas.lt was established. Main purpose was to provide as much as possible legal information and advices. In 2019 all the information was transferred to the internet page of the Ministry of Justice <https://tm.lrv.lt>.

Since 2015 the Baltic Academy has being organized every year. The Baltic Academy is a training program designed to create a democratic and inclusive culture in Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian schools. It aims to develop and enhance the competencies of education professionals and community actors, as well as to promote their joint activities and partnerships, deepen their knowledge and improve their practical skills in creating an inclusive learning environment through democratic citizenship and human rights education.

Objectives of the Academy are following:

To develop the competencies of teachers and school leaders, who contribute to the strengthening of democratic principles in the school;

Facilitate the exchange of effective practices and experiences on how to develop pupils' democratic competencies;

Encourage participants to develop school-level democratic citizenship and human rights education projects that contribute to a democratic and inclusive school environment for all and everyone;

Encourage dialogue and cooperation between the various countries involved;

Ensure the dissemination of the Council of Europe's democratic citizenship education and human rights education;

Strengthen the network of democratic citizenship education and human rights education consultants.

Every year, senior pupils are invited to participate in the Law Education Program and to deepen their knowledge of law. In the program, organized by the Lithuanian National Group of the European Association of Law Students, pupils have the opportunity to get acquainted with different branches of law in lecture cycles held in major Lithuanian cities, and then check their knowledge at representing clients in a court staging competition.

Civil society initiatives

There are non-governmental human rights monitoring and protection organizations, which are actively involved in human rights education, organize trainings, seminars and information campaigns. Great example of human right's promotion internet page could be www.manoteises.lt "My rights: human rights portal" which aims to provide information in national language on human rights, also to engage civil society and non-governmental organisations to share opinion on the issue.

In the year 2019 representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were provided with training course of Capacity Building for Human Rights Representation organized by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour. The aim of the training course was to provide theoretical and practical knowledge that would help NGOs representatives to protect fundamental human and community rights more effectively. The training took place within the framework of the NGOs institutional strengthening project AŠIS: strengthening the representation of family interests.

The National Forum on Human Rights is an annual event organized on Human Rights Day which invites the public to discuss the current situation and what could be done to make Lithuania a good place to live for people of all nationalities, races, genders, social statuses, beliefs, and convictions – for everyone. The National Forum on Human Rights is a unique event which unites the academia, the public and private sectors, and hundreds of participants. The topics for this year will invite the public to discuss everything from the protection of children's rights to youth activism and legal tech.

In 2018 Forum was organized in Vilnius for the first time and was dedicated for 70th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and focused on the theme of perspectives. In 2019, the Forum was dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and had motto is “Rights of a child – rights of a human”.

A summer school of European law is being organized at Vilnius University since 2004. It is an on-going international project initiated by the Faculty of Law of Vilnius University.

The International Summer School on Human Rights is organized at Mykolas Romeris University. The summer school examines human rights issues and exchanges expertise with human rights institutions.

Vytautas Magnus University is organizing periodically a summer school of international law. In the year 2017 at Vytautas Magnus University was opened Andrei Sakharov Centre for Research on the Development of Democracy, with a special focus on human and civil rights.

In the year 2019 Vytautas Magnus University, Faculty of Law, hosted an international scientific conference “Human Rights Issues in the Context of Globalization and Technological Innovations”.