

7. SUMMARY FOR THE PUBLIC

A successful implementation of the Youth Guarantee Initiative (hereinafter – the YGI) is one of the key priorities in Lithuania. In strive for YGI objectives, a particular importance falls on the Youth Employment Initiative (hereinafter – the YEI), from the funds of which the measures assisting in dealing with the problems of young people not in employment, education and training (NEET) will be implemented. In dealing with such urgent issues as lack of motivation of young people to study and work, insufficient availability of vocational guidance (career) services and quality, lack of professional experience and qualification of young people, in Lithuania starting from 2014 the following actions related to NEET youth are implemented and/or planned for implementation: development of additional skills and competences of youngsters, psychological-social rehabilitation, minimal supervision, assistance in self-analysis, development of social and life skills, motivation, information about opportunities for young people, mediation with education institutions, search for volunteering place, vocational training for the unemployed, skills acquisition support, subsidised employment, job rotation, territorial mobility, voluntary practice, acquisition of professional skills under bilateral contract on acquisition of professional skills and other activities.

In order to reduce the youth unemployment and to ensure a smooth youngster's transition from education system to labour market, in Lithuania we strengthen the training in apprenticeship form by developing vocational training system and enhancing collaboration with social partners, especially with employers, also we encourage youngsters' practical training or study visits in particular undertakings.

We also strive to ensure that youngsters seeking for a job could use available integrated information on the labour market. In Lithuania we provide this information in labour exchanges by assessing the young person's abilities and drawing up his individual employment plan. Considering that it is important not only to provide information, but also to support the first steps in the labour market, we encourage youngsters' self-employment by subsidising and we support youth business development initiatives. Moreover, we encourage also the employers to hire young people without professional experience by reimbursing a part of remuneration.

We actively perform the expansion of the youth employment centres network that the supply of their services is ensured in each municipality already in 2016. Thus, the availability of services for young people, as well as their flexibility and attractiveness according to the needs of young people, motivation of young people and preparation to take actions in conscious and responsible development of personal and professional life would be increased, as well as conditions would be created for young people to participate in individual activities and to obtain personal, social, professional competences and professional experience, thus helping them to choose a profession, (re)integrate to the formal education system and/or to the labour market.

For a successful implementation of the YGI, we brought together a network of partners – in January 2014 the representatives of ministries, business, employers, employees and youth associations signed the Memorandum of Cooperation, also the Monitoring Commission for YGI Implementation was established, the dialogue with the Lithuanian Youth Council, youth associations and organisations working with young people is in progress.

Decreasing numbers of the youth unemployment demonstrate that purposeful measures taken are effective, however the youth still finds it difficult to gain a footing in the labour market.

According to the data by the statistical office of the European Union Eurostat, in Lithuania the unemployment peak of young people under the age of 25 has been reached in 2010 and represented 35.7 %. Since then, on average annually moderating by more than 4 percentage points, in 2014 it constituted 18.% and was by 3.8 percentage points lower than the EU average – 22.1 %. Despite

this, the unemployment rate of young people is still almost twofold higher than the overall unemployment rate in the country, which in 2014 represented 10.7 %.

According to Eurostat data, persons under the age of 25 not in employment, education and training (NEET) in 2013 in Lithuania constituted 11.1 % or 45 thousand of all young people. It is likely that their larger portion is still not registered in the territorial labour exchanges.

These statistical facts demonstrate that the implementation of the YGI, appropriate measures financed from the YEI resources are vital to the youth of Lithuania to ensure a smooth and sustainable integration of youngsters to the labour market by diminishing their discrimination and strengthening their position in the labour market.