**13/12/2012**

**ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON PARTICIPATION OF PERSONS LIVING IN POVERTY SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON EXTREME POVERTY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

In the Republic of Lithuania, individuals suffering from poverty and social exclusion usually are involved in state programmes, their development and implementation through different non-governmental organisations or communities representing various social groups. Individuals living in poverty are not usually singled out as a separate target group in a programme or measure, but in the below-mentioned programmes groups of persons partly should be attributed to individuals with low incomes and living in poverty.

Below, information is provided in reply to the questions of the questionnaire separately by programmes under implementation/completed.

**The National Youth Policy Development Programme for 2011–2019[[1]](#footnote-1)**

1. **What is the subject and aim(s) of the programme or policy in question?**

The National Youth Policy Development Programme for 2011–2019 approved by the resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania formulates youth policy priorities, goals, activity directions, as well as the objectives of the state and society for the period of 2011–2019.

In 2011, the Plan of Measures 2011–2013[[2]](#footnote-2) for the Implementation of the National Youth Policy Development Programme for 2011–2019 was approved with the view of implementing youth policy priorities, goals, activity directions, as well as the objectives of the state and society within the coming three years. The development programme seeks: to ensure the development of social security, education and health care systems, which meets the needs of young people; to develop a conscious, public-spirited, patriotic, mature, cultural and creative young personality, capable of being an active part of diverse society; to develop and coordinate the system of youth work and to ensure the development of youth employment infrastructure; to create favourable conditions for consistent and high quality activities of youth organisations and organisations working with youth, seeking more active youth involvement in organised activities; to ensure interdepartmental and cross-sectoral cooperation in developing coherent, fact and knowledge based youth policy. In developing youth policy, interdepartmental cooperation on the local self-government and international levels is strengthened; priority is given to the promotion of youth employment, strengthening of the potential of youth organisations, development of youth work; and another important aspect is youth information and consultation on relevant issues.

In 2011, development of youth work was one of the most important measures from the Plan of Measures 2011–2013 for the Implementation of the National Youth Policy Development Programme for 2011–2019. Youth work comprises social, informational, educational, cultural or any other kind of activities implemented together with young people or their groups, based on their needs, seeking to involve and integrate a young person in social environment and empower him to consciously and actively participate in private and social life.

1. **How is the participatory process structured and managed and what are its desired outcomes?**

A working group on drafting the description of a youth worker has prepared a draft Description of a Youth Worker**.** A draft Description of the Activities of Open Youth Centres and Spaces has also been prepared.These drafts have been coordinated with concerned institutions**[[3]](#footnote-3)** and scheduled for approval in 2012.

1. **What measures are taken to ensure that persons living in poverty can participate?**

Since open youth work, the principles of open youth work, etc. are still hardly known on both national and regional levels, the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour (hereinafter referred to as the Department of Youth Affairs) initiates and organises meetings of diverse nature, delivers presentations and participates in different format meetings, discussions, events, seeking to implement the National Youth Policy Development Programme for 2011–2019, in particular with regard to its measure – to develop the activities of open youth centres and spaces.In 2011–2012, activity programmes, aimed at ensuring successful functioning of open youth centres and spaces and involving young people in acceptable and meaningful activities in a youth-friendly environment, were financed under the tenders for financing activity programmes of open youth centres and the tenders for financing activity programmes of open youth spaces.

Besides, in 2011, with a view to strengthening youth organisations and encouraging young people to participate in social life as well as be active and aware Lithuanian citizens, national and regional youth structures and youth organisations were reinforced: 49 programmes and projects targeted at the strengthening of youth organisations were financed.

Funded organisations provided social and psychological consultations, informed and consulted beneficiaries and ensured the development of voluntary activities, long-term employment of youth participating in the activities of programme implementers, development of the key social, educational, emotional and professional competences, empowerment to assume responsibility and actively participate in social life, through the organisation of various trainings, seminars, conferences and other events.

37,500 young people participated in the programmes and projects implemented in 2011. The share of young people involved in the activities of various youth organisations of the total number of young people in Lithuania accounts for 12 per cent.

1. **What are the particular challenges faced, or obstacles that have to be overcome, to ensure meaningful participation by those living in poverty?**

The share of young people involved in the activities of various youth organisations of the total number of young people in Lithuania accounts for 12 per cent. Young people are mainly represented by youth organisations are those active in their social life, however the challenge is still for those young people, who are not organised as well as young people not in employment, education or training. Therefore, there is a need to involve not organised youth and to promote and strengthen youth work.

1. **How successful is the process in terms of the levels of participation of persons living in poverty? If available, please include information on how the process is evaluated, including if the participants are able to give feedback.**

In 2011, in Lithuania, seeking not only to ensure successful functioning of already operating open youth centres and spaces, but also emergence of new open youth work implementers, consultations were constantly provided with regard to the issues of the establishment of open youth centres, fund raising, qualifications and functions of specialists working there, and organisation of activities.The Department of Youth Affairs provided a total of 60 consultations to various persons planning to set up open youth centres or develop open spaces in their municipalities, as well as to already operating institutions and organisations and stakeholders engaged in open work.With a view to ensuring qualitative implementation of open centre and space projects financed in 2011, 21 individual methodical consultations were provided to organisations which received funding within the framework of the tender for financing activity programmes of open youth centres and spaces. These consultations focused on the most relevant problems of a specific centre or area and situations as well as preparation of problem solving plans and recommendations.

1. **What is the impact (actual or envisaged) of the participatory process on the design or implementation of the legislation/policy/programme?**

12 open youth centres and 9 open youth spaces are presently functioning in Lithuania. There is the need and objective to have at least one open youth centre and open youth spaces in every municipality by 2019 (approved by National Programme for the Development of Youth Policy), improve competences of staff and ensure the range of adequate services to children and youth at risk.

**National Social Integration Programme for Persons with Disability 2010-2012,** approved by the Order No. A1-194 of the Minister of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania of 17 May 2010.

1. **What is the subject and aim(s) of the programme or policy in question?**

The aim of the programme is to aspire equal opportunities and improving quality of life for people with disabilities through planning and implementing their social integration actions in compliance with the international and domestic goals and obligations of the state. One of the goals of the programme is to make involvement of the disabled people in social and political life more active.

Participation of the disabled and organisations representing them is related with both the programme as a whole, and its development and implementation, and with its individual measures. Some measures are implemented by public organisations representing people with disabilities.

1. **How is the participatory process structured and managed and what are its desired outcomes?**

The Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Department for the Affairs of Disabled under the MoSSL (hereinafter referred to as the Department) and Council for the Affairs of Disabled are involved in the process development and facilitation. Majority of municipalities have their Commissions for the Affairs of Disabled consisting of responsible municipal officials, representatives of disability organisations. The commissions deal with the matters relevant for the disabled residents of the municipality.

One of the main institutes representing people with disabilities and their organisations is the Council for the Affairs of Disabled (hereinafter referred to as the Council) founded in 1992, which consists of representatives of disability organisations vice-ministers representing state authorities (ministries). The Council for the Affairs of Disabled holds its meetings in the premises of the Department for the Affairs of Disabled under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour. Minutes of the meetings of the Council for the Affairs of Disabled are accessible to public on the website of the Council for the Affairs of Disabled. Public reaction, suggestions and feedbacks regarding social integration of people with disabilities are submitted directly to the Department for the Affairs of Disabled under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour or to organisations representing the disabled. The above-mentioned suggestions are discussed in the Council for the Affairs of Disabled.

Disabled people and organisations representing their interests take part through submitting their feedbacks and suggestions in writing, at the meetings, during the meetings of the Council, online - in the section of public consulting.

Information is provided to organisations, municipalities in writing, online, in the publications dedicated to the disabled, mass media, Universal information system for rehabilitation and integration of people with disabilities. Disability associations implementing projects must publish information about the actions and outcomes of the project under implementation following the publicity requirements approved by the director of the department.

Public consulting is provided on the website of the Department, Universal information system for rehabilitation and integration of people with disabilities (http://www.unriis.lt) hosts public discourse clubs. Staff of the Department handle oral, written inquiries and on the phone.

1. **What measures are taken to ensure that persons living in poverty can participate?**

As it was already mentioned, organisations representing people with disabilities and vice-minister representing state authorities (ministries) rather than individuals take part in the activities of the Council for the Affairs of Disabled.

Participants are identified by disability organisations submitting feedback, type of disability. Target groups of immediate beneficiaries of the social integration programme for people with disabilities and other policy measures are stipulated.

Expenses of natural persons incurred in relation with their participation are not included. Projects supporting activities of disability associations are used to finance the activities of umbrella associations representing interests of the disabled (operating expenses and salaries for involvement in the project are covered for them).

Organisations representing people with various disabilities (physical, sight, hearing, intelligent, mental, internal diseases) are welcomed to take part in policy development. People with various types and gravity of disabilities are able to receive services or other benefits and to take part in the projects financed from the national budget. Representatives to take part in the decision making process are appointed by Disability organisations.

1. **What are the particular challenges faced, or obstacles that have to be overcome, to ensure meaningful participation by those living in poverty?**
* Low motivation, poor education of people with disabilities;
* Not always accessible information (e.g. not everyone has internet access);
* Not all disabled people are socially active;
* Quality of representing people with disabilities is determined by the qualifications of human resources of appropriate disability organisations;
* Financing assigned to projects implemented by disability organisations and other measures implemented by the Department is below the existing demand.
1. **How successful is the process in terms of the levels of participation of persons living in poverty? If available, please include information on how the process is evaluated, including if the participants are able to give feedback.**

The mechanism currently in place to deal with social integration of people with disabilities and to ensure involvement of people with disabilities is quite effective.

In order to assess participation of people with disabilities (as beneficiaries and/or recipients of services) when planning national budget funds, strategic planning methods are followed, assessment criteria of different levels are developed (to assess effect, outcome, product).

In order to assess involvement of people with disabilities in development of social integration programme and other policy measures for people with disabilities, activity report of the Council for the Affairs of Disabled under the MoSSL is annually drawn and submitted to the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.

1. **What is the impact (actual or envisaged) of the participatory process on the design or implementation of the legislation/policy/programme?**

The Council for the Affairs of Disabled discusses strategic documents related with social integration of people with disabilities. Taking into account recommendations and conclusions presented by the Council for the Affairs of Disabled, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour works on appropriate improvements to the strategic draft documents.

When preparing legal acts regulating implementation of the social integration programme for people with disabilities or other measures of social integration policy for disabled, documents are coordinated with the members of the Council for the Affairs of Disabled, disability organisations or through public consultation. Received suggestions are summarised and presented to legislators, coordination certificates containing received suggestions are drawn. In the process of preparing legislation, certificate on decision effect assessment is drawn.

Annual activity plans and meeting minutes of the Council for the Affairs of Disabled under the MoSSL are drawn.

Draft resolutions, laws of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and their draft amendments are coordinated in the draft legislation information system (TAPIS) of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania.

1. **What are the lessons learnt from the process? What additional changes would have been necessary to case the constraints on the participation of persons living in poverty?**

In order to avoid restrictions on participation of people with disabilities, information must be provided not only on internet but also through other modes accessible to the disabled (e.g. in Braille writing, adapted easy-to-understand text, etc.). Support to movement of the disabled is important in Lithuania. Authorities shaping and implementing political measures must have disability friendly environment.

**Action Plan on Roma Integration into Lithuanian Society 2012-2014**

1. **What is the subject and aim(s) of the programme or policy in question?**

The goal of the action plan of Roma integration into Lithuanian society 2012-20104 (hereinafter referred to as the Action plan) is to encourage Roma participation in social life, to reduce social exclusion, to enhance awareness and social tolerance among Roma community. A workgroup has been formed to monitor implementation of this action plan, which includes a representative of the Lithuania Gypsy Community called Gypsy Fire and various human rights organisations.

 **2. How is the participatory process structured and managed and what are its desired outcomes?**

In order to ensure the most efficient implementation of the Action plan measures possible, the workgroup is regularly consulting Roma organisations, with the help of which efforts are made to include the maximum number of Romani suffering from poverty and social exclusion into the measures under implementation.

 **3. What measures are taken to ensure that persons living in poverty can participate?**

Organisations representing Romani, the largest of which are Lithuanian Roma Community Roma Fire and Public enterprise Roma Society Centre are invited to join workgroups and to attend various events related with Roma integration.

**4-7.** Involvement of Roma organisations in the events related with Roma integration or participation in discussions on various strategic documents concerning Roma integration are not consistent or productive. Participation of Roma organisations in this kind of activities is more of selective nature. Representatives of Roma organisations are avoiding sensitive problems for Lithuanian society, such as crimes, drug trafficking, etc. and usually do not attend events dealing with these problems. Roma organisations usually show their interest in such topics as social benefits, social housing provision. Lithuania does not have yet an alternative efficient mechanism for Roma inclusion.

**Programme on the Return of Political Prisoners and Exiles and Their Families to Lithuanian 2008-2012**

1. **What is the subject and aim(s) of the programme or policy in question?**

Programme on the return of political prisoners and exiles and their families to Lithuania 2008-2012, the aim of which is to ensure that all families returning to Lithuania during the programme implementation are provided with the possibility of getting housing in Lithuania and integrating into life of the country. Participation of the Lithuanian Union of Political Prisoners and Deportees in organising and coordinating implementation of measures under this Programme is discussed in the programme.

1. **How is the participatory process structured and managed and what are its desired outcomes?**

Implementation of the Programme on the return of political prisoners and exiles and their families to Lithuania 2008-2012 is organised and coordinated by a permanent inter-institutional commission formed by the order of the Minister of Social Security and Labour, with the Lithuanian Union of Political Prisoners and Deportees in its composition. The permanent inter-institutional commission submits proposals to the Ministry of Social Security and Labour on assignment of funds from the national budget for implementation of the above-mentioned Plan. The commission is meeting in the premises of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour. Minutes of the meetings held by the permanent inter-institutional commission to handle the issues of the return of political prisoners and exiles and their families to Lithuania and their social integration are published on the website of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour (http://www.socmin.lt).

1. **What measures are taken to ensure that persons living in poverty can participate?**

Political prisoners and exiles in the Permanent inter-institutional commission formed to handle the issues of the return of political prisoners and exiles and their families to Lithuania and their social integration are represented by the Lithuanian Union of Political Prisoners and Deportees.

**4, 5, 7** We consider the current mechanism dealing with the matters of political prisoners and exiles and ensuring involvement of political prisoners and exiles is quite effective.

1. **What is the impact (actual or envisaged) of the participatory process on the design or implementation of the legislation/policy/programme?**

The Permanent inter-institutional commission discusses the issues of assignment of national budget funds to the implementation of the plan of the return of political prisoners and exiles and their families to Lithuania 2008-2012. Decisions of the commission are recorded in the minutes and published.

**Support programme carried out by Heifer Baltic Foundation.**

1. **What is the subject and aim(s) of the programme or policy in question?**

The purpose of the Baltic Charity Foundation programme in Lithuania is to overcome in particular high levels of poverty and to take care of land through work with rural communities.

1. **How is the participatory process structured and managed and what are its desired outcomes?**

The process of participation is structured. Disadvantaged individuals having found out about the support granted by the foundation apply to their local community. Local community together with the foundation decide on the possible type of support project to be implemented. Applications are drawn. Once financing is secured, the project is implemented, the target group of which is disadvantaged community members who showed initiative. Project participants take part in training community activities in order to obtain new skills and knowledge. With the new knowledge acquired they can start their own business or integrate into labour market and society.

1. **What measures are taken to ensure that persons living in poverty can participate?**

Projects of the Baltic charity foundation are aimed at the most vulnerable society groups, deprived of not only money but knowledge and skills as well. Thus, all the activities are dedicated to empower individuals suffering from poverty, who are accessed through local communities.

1. **What are the particular challenges faced, or obstacles that have to be overcome, to ensure meaningful participation by those living in poverty?**

The foundation faces the following challenges in its activities: in the beginning people suffering from exclusion are too shy to join the community activities, but gradually they are entrusted with certain tasks, they start feeling secure.

1. **How successful is the process in terms of the levels of participation of persons living in poverty? If available, please include information on how the process is evaluated, including if the participants are able to give feedback.**

Project results are assessed every half year. Every 3 years, the programme effect assessment is conducted. After taking part in the training cycle and having received live presents, people are not left at their own devices. They donate their first female offspring of their animal to the other family living in poverty. This way the projects become sustained and include the entire community.

1. **What is the impact (actual or envisaged) of the participatory process on the design or implementation of the legislation/policy/programme?**

The proof of the success of people’s participation is changing rural communities. Not only community members with medium incomes and their families are involved in their activities, but also families living in poverty. They gain higher self-confidence and feel themselves as equal members of their rural community. A connection among community members with different levels of income is established. Incomes of disadvantaged individuals after the receipt of animals or plants are growing, thus the poverty is gradually overcome.

1. **What are the lessons learnt from the process? What additional changes would have been necessary to case the constraints on the participation of persons living in poverty?**

More personal work with people suffering from poverty or social exclusion must be carried out. This goal can be achieved by the head or leaders of communities. People need support not in terms of money but through knowledge, possibilities to acquire skills or initial contribution in order to make it possible for people to earn money themselves.

**The National Programme for the 2010 European Year** (see more details inadded **- Final activity report on Implementation of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in Lithuania**)

1. **What is the subject and aim(s) of the programme or policy in question?**

The Year 2010 was intended to highlight the problem of poverty and social exclusion in all European Union. Lithuania, like other European countries, prepared the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The implementation of the National Programme for the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (hereinafter referred to as the Programme for the 2010 European Year) envisages two main goals: consolidating the family status and strengthening the role of communities while reducing child poverty and social exclusion.

The National Programme for the 2010 European Year was aimed at drawing attention of society to the problems experienced by children deprived of parental care or children living in social risk families, increasing public awareness of the necessity to integrate these children in society seeking their full development, establishing an attitude that the child’s right to be raised in adequate family environment and have all opportunities to prepare for an independent life should be defended.

1. **How is the participatory process structured and managed and what are its desired outcomes?**

The aims of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (hereinafter referred to as the 2010 European Year) concerned the strengthening of full participation of the stakeholders in assuming joint responsibility for the implementation of decisions adopted.

In 2009, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the MoSSL) was designated and approved the National Implementing Body (hereinafter referred to as the NIB) by the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania[[4]](#footnote-4) and the Decision of the European Commission[[5]](#footnote-5). The Strategic Planning and Analysis Department of the MoSSL was responsible for the preparation and submission of the National Programme for the 2010 European Year and the National Application to the European Commission.

The drafters of the National Programme for the 2010 European Year referred to experience acquired in the overall process of strengthening EU social inclusion, organised by the Open Method of Coordination. Having regard to the multifaceted nature of the process of reducing poverty and social exclusion as well as to gained experience, the MoSSL sought to involve the biggest possible number of stakeholders in the preparation and implementation of the Programme for the 2010 European Year.

The order of the Minister of Social Security and Labour[[6]](#footnote-6) renewed the Group for Monitoring the National Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion Strategies for 2008–2010 and the National Programme for the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion and their Implementing Measures (hereinafter referred to as the Monitoring Group). The Monitoring Group consisted of representatives from nine ministries, a representative of the President of the Republic of Lithuania, and representatives from other state institutions, municipalities and non-governmental organisations working in the field of reducing poverty and social exclusion.

The Monitoring Group presented observations and proposals to the MoSSL concerning the priorities, goals and measures to be selected when preparing the National Programme for the 2010 European Year. The Group participated in the preparation and implementation of a public awareness raising campaign, and submitted proposals for the selection of the most important dates and the Ambassadors of the 2010 European Year.

In Lithuania, when implementing the National Programme for the European Year, 3 projects supported by the European Union and the Ministry of Social Security and Labour were carried out. The Public Relations Division of the MoSSL implemented the National Project “Stop poverty”. The other two projects were implemented by two non-governmental organisations which won the tender: **the Lithuanian National Anti Poverty Network** (hereinafter referred to as the Network) carried out the project “Poverty Reduction Formula 10 x 10 = 0” and the public institution “Gimnazistai” carried out the project “Don’t Lose”.

Persons living in poverty participated in different actions of these three projects *( see more details in**added Final activity report on Implementation of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in Lithuania, Annex 3 “The European Evaluation Questionnaire” and in Annex 4 National Evaluation – Full Report of the 2010 European Year*

1. **What measures are taken to ensure that persons living in poverty can participate?**

During the implementation of the National Programme for the 2010 European Year, the members of the Monitoring Group were informed about ongoing activities and invited to participate in the events. The Monitoring Group encouraged a wider involvement of stakeholders and social groups in the process of reducing poverty and social exclusion, highlighting positive outcomes to be disseminated as good practice and pointing out the existing problems and challenges.

In 2010, through the meetings of communities, forums and the meetings of implementers of the National Programme for the 2010 European Year, the consultation process among representatives of individual communities, representatives of communities and municipalities or representatives at the national level was strengthened. Ways and forms for cooperation and consultations between different level representatives to acquire an aspect of continuity and become a priority measure in solving child poverty and social exclusion problems were also looked for.

During the implementation of the National Programme for the 2010 European Year, the rules of procedure, regulations, descriptions of project funding conditions and other related documents were prepared for ensuring participation of persons living in poverty in various activities of all three projects. *(see more details in**added Final activity report on Implementation of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in Lithuania and Annex 4 National Evaluation – Full Report of the 2010 European Year (part 3 and annex 2)*

1. **What are the particular challenges faced, or obstacles that have to be overcome, to ensure meaningful participation by those living in poverty?**

One of the major challenges has been persons’ living in poverty low motivation to actively participate in programme preparation and implementation.

In order to include a broader number of people living in poverty, are faced with the problem of accessibility. Many representatives from outlying areas are inconvenient to come to the capital to meet for two or three hours. Therefore, the preparation, the coordination and other works have been carried done mostly in email support. *(see more details in**added Final activity report on Implementation of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in Lithuania, Annex 4 National Evaluation – Full Report of the 2010 European Year).*

1. **How successful is the process in terms of the levels of participation of persons living in poverty? If available, please include information on how the process is evaluated, including if the participants are able to give feedback.**

With a view to ensuring the harmony and quality of all activities of the European Year, the NIB coordinates the permanent process of monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the National Programme for the European Year. The evaluation was internal; it was carried out in several stages and lasted for 24 months (from June 2009 until May 2011).

At the first stage, the function of supervision and evaluation was carried out by the Monitoring Group. It submitted observations and proposals to the NIB regarding the national priorities, goals and measures for the 2010 European Year and helped to draft a programme corresponding to the aims of the stakeholders and the current situation in Lithuania.

At the second stage, during the implementation of the National Programme for the 2010 European Year, the evaluation was carried out by the Monitoring Group, the ESFA, which was assigned the biggest number of functions, and the Supervisory Committee, which was the major part of NIB management and control.

The third evaluation stage commenced upon completion of the National Programme for the 2010 European Year. Having systematised and evaluated the material, the ESFA submitted final reports of the implementation of projects under the National Programme for the 2010 European Year, which were considered and evaluated by the Supervisory Committee. At the sitting of the Committee, held in December 2010, NGO representatives, who had implemented the projects under the National Programme, presented the activities and outcomes and expressed their opinions.

The final report was prepared on the basis of the summary and analysis of the information presented in all documents related to the National Programme for the 2010 European Year as well as on the data of the semi-structured interview by phone, conducted on the basis of the ECORYS questionnaire. The evaluation also took account of the information about the 2010 European Year presented on the Internet and in the media.

Having evaluated the engagement of four major target groups in the activities of the 2010 European Year, the conclusion can be drawn that non-governmental organisations were engaged most actively. The engagement level by public and municipal institutions was quite high. The engagement of the media and people in the situation of poverty was successful and visible only in individual activities.

As to the engagement of people in the situation of poverty, the following activities were the most effective: meetings of rural communities and the opening and closing events of the 2010 European Year organised by the NIB. In community gatherings organised by the Heifer Baltic Foundation the problems of children and their families experiencing poverty or social exclusion in a specific community and possible solutions were discussed. Individuals with various addictions participating in the project “Guru” were invited to the opening event of the 2010 European Year as suppliers of catering services and waiters. Children residing in child care institutions took part in the closing event of the 2010 European Year and the creation of the social performance. *(see more details in**added Final activity report on Implementation of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in Lithuania, Annex 4 National Evaluation – Full Report of the 2010 European Year)*

1. **What is the impact (actual or envisaged) of the participatory process on the design or implementation of the legislation/policy/programme?**

In total, 61,804 people participated in the activities aimed at the implementation of the National Programme for the 2010 European Year.

Some figures are formal. The majority of activities were conducted in open air, in public spaces where all those who wished to participate or passers-by who did not register in the lists could take part in them; therefore, it was impossible to attribute them to a certain group. For example, the volume of the target group engaged in poverty sculptures was measured in portal DELFI.LT and shopping centres “Akropolis” by means of the number of votes for the favourite sculptures in special polling boxes. The exact number of participants of certain activities, for example, the viewers of certain TV programmes such as “Gimnazistai” (“High School Pupils”) or documentary “A Trip to the Stars”, is even more complicated to calculate.

What part of the society received the information about the 2010 European Year is difficult to evaluate. The number of individuals who participated in the activities of all partners having received non-financial support is unknown; moreover, it is not known how many individuals received this information via the Internet and media. Nevertheless, taking into account rather complicated socio-economic circumstances and having compared the achievements with the Programmes for the European Year implemented previously in Lithuania, it can be stated that the results were quite good *(see more details in**added Final activity report on Implementation of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in Lithuania, Annex 4 National Evaluation – Full Report of the 2010 European Year (part 3 and 4).*

1. **What are the lessons learnt from the process? What additional changes would have been necessary to case the constraints on the participation of persons living in poverty?**

In general, it is necessary to strengthen the NGOs representing people experiencing poverty and social exclusion, skills and opportunities.

Also, we should strengthen the social responsibility of each member of society and pay more attention to developing citizenship.

1. 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 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 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). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Draft in the system of draft legal acts of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania: <http://www.lrs.lt/pls/proj/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=122943&p_query=&p_tr2=&p_org=&p_fix=n&p_gov=n>. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Resolution No. 175 On the Designation of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour as the National Implementing Body for the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 9 March 2009 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Decision No. C(2009)6697 of the European Commission of 7 September 2009 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Order No. A1-314 On the Formation of the Group for Monitoring the National Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion Strategies for 2008–2010 and the National Programme for the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion and Their Implementing Measures of the Minister of Social Security and Labour of 12 May 2009 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)