



**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**

No. SN-80-52

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 reference to its note verbale of the 29th April 2015 has the honour to transmit the answer of the Government of Lithuania to the questionnaire in relation to Human Rights resolution 27/31 on civil society space.

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



Geneva, 9 July 2015

Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner for Human Rights
GENEVA





**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS UŽSIENIO REIKALŲ MINISTERIJOS
JUNGTINIŲ TAUTŲ, TARPTAUTINIŲ ORGANIZACIJŲ IR ŽMOGAUS TEISIŲ
DEPARTAMENTAS**

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Duomenys kaupiami ir saugomi Juridinių asmenų registre, kodas 188613242

Nuolatinei atstovybei prie JT biuro ir kitų tarptautinių organizacijų Ženevoje	2015-07-18 į 2015-05-06	Nr. (21.3.17)-3-4026 Nr. (80.1.6.1)S80-70
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**DĖL INFORMACIJOS JT VYRIAUSIOJO ŽMOGAUS TEISIŲ KOMISARO
ATASKAITAI**

Atsakydami į jūsų raštą, teikiame prašomą informaciją apie pilietinės visuomenės erdvę Lietuvoje pagal Jungtinių Tautų (JT) Žmogaus teisių tarybos rezoliuciją 27/31. Prašome šią informaciją perduoti JT Vyriausiojo žmogaus teisių komisaro biurui.

PRIDEDAMA. Lietuvos atsakymai į klausimyną, 3 lapai.

Direktorius

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Lithuania's contribution to the Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, pursuant to Human Rights Council Resolution 27-31 on civil society space

2015-06-30

The Rules of Procedure of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Law on the Fundamentals of Legislation lay down the main principles of consulting with the society. The society and its groups (non-governmental organizations that protect human rights) are consulted in order to find out the society's opinions about specific problems and ways to solve them, to better assess the positive and negative outcomes of the proposed legal regulation and the cost of its implementation, to secure its transparency and to provide the society with the opportunity to influence the content of a particular decision.

The Rules of Procedure of the Government also stipulate that draft legal acts (except those that cannot be published under the laws of the Republic of Lithuania) shall be posted on a website (a subsystem for the registration of draft legislation on the Seimas Legislative Information System for the publication of draft legislation) to receive feedback. Not only does this system provide the public with access to legislative proposals but also enables people to submit their comments and suggestions concerning legislative initiatives, draft legislation as well as monitored legal regulation.

The public must also be consulted during the drafting of the reports of the Republic of Lithuania on the implementation of international commitments. Following the Procedure for the drafting and submission of reports under the UN Conventions on the protection of human rights a member of which is the Republic of Lithuania, as well as reports for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) carried out by the UN Human Rights Council, all draft reports must be made available to all non-governmental organisations that wish to get acquainted with them. Moreover, the institutions drafting a report are obliged to consider the remarks and suggestions received and to make respective corrections or additions

The government institutions maintain dialogue with the civil society on the issues related to their work. For example, the Ministry of Justice, which coordinates the implementation of the UPR recommendations holds annual meetings between members of civil society and representatives of the institutions implementing the recommendations. Institutions of the national defence system cooperate with the civil society organizations and associations with the aim to spread information and raise the awareness about the national defence, to strengthen relations between the Lithuanian Armed Forces and society. Representatives of civil society are invited to observe the process of drafting into Continuous Mandatory Military Service. They observe the process of compiling the draftee lists to ensure that the principles of transparency, objectivity and impartiality are observed. Since 2011 the Ministry of Social Security and Labour (MSSL) organises a call for project proposals related to the activities of NGOs on human rights. The purpose of funding of such NGOs is to select projects which are consistent with the set priorities and which are aimed at increasing tolerance, developing respect for people, reducing discrimination, and securing equal opportunities. Project proposals may be submitted by non-governmental organisations (associations and public establishments, charity and support funds, religious communities and societies etc.) that work in the area of protection of human rights and the rights and obligations of which are not exercised/performed by state or local authorities.

Issues related to disabled persons

In Lithuania, issues and decisions, relevant to disabled persons and related to the drafting of legal acts and strategic documents as well as allocation of funds are discussed, on a regular basis,

with non-governmental organisations representing disabled persons. NGOs representatives are included in working groups entrusted with the drafting of programmes aimed at the implementation of disabled persons' social integration policies.

Organisations representing disabled persons have taken an active part in the drafting of the National Programme on the Social Integration of Disabled Persons for 2013-2019 and the related actions plans. The organisations are also involved in the implementation of the programme's measures as well: funding is provided to projects on community rehabilitation services aimed at integration of disabled persons, projects on the support for associations' activities etc. Implementation of such projects contributes to increasing access to services for disabled persons, supports the independence of disabled persons, and enhances the role of the non-governmental sector.

Disabled persons and their organisations are included in the process of monitoring the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. They are represented in the Council for the Rights of Disabled Persons. The Council is a collegiate body formed, on the principle of equal partnership, from representatives of the authorities and disabled persons' associations working and experienced in the area of disabled persons' social integration. The Council deals with the most important issues of social integration of disabled persons and assists the Minister of Social Security and Labour and other Ministers to implement the social integration policy that meets the needs of disabled persons. In addition, the Council makes recommendations to the Minister of Social Security and Labour on the allocation of the state budget funds earmarked for the National Programme on the Social Integration of Disabled Persons, makes proposals for the drafting of legal acts, and performs other important functions in the area of securing of disabled persons' rights.

In 2014 the Department for the Affairs of Disabled Persons under the MSSL conducted a survey of organisations active in the area of social integration of disabled persons. The purpose of the survey was to analyse the opportunities for developing partnership between the NGOs on the one part and state and local authorities on the other part in the resolution of issues relevant to disabled persons. At the same time, the survey aimed at identifying NGOs' expectations and obtaining specific proposals for better cooperation.

Based on the analysis of the survey results, an Action Plan on Cooperation with Non-Governmental Organisations of Disabled Persons was prepared for 2014-2015. It contains measures to promote partnership between the NGOs representing disabled persons and the authorities by organising both formal and informal meetings on a regular basis. Prior to submitting draft legal acts on disabled persons' social integration for consideration and approval, they will be presented to and discussed with umbrella organisations of disabled persons. In addition, the plan includes measures to strengthen the activities of the Council for the Rights of Disabled Persons: follow up on the decisions made by the Council, ensuring that meetings of the Council are held at least once in a quarter, updating statistical data on a regular basis etc.

Issues related to children

There is a close cooperation between Lithuanian authorities and non-governmental organisations in the implementation of the child's rights protection policy. Since 2005, the Child Welfare Council established by Order of the Minister of Social Security and Labour has been making proposals to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for the improvement of the state and local authorities' activities and inter-departmental cooperation in the field of child welfare, promoting cooperation between the authorities and NGOs, and hearing children's opinions on relevant issues in the process of their consideration.

It should also be noted that since 2005, the MSSL has been organising calls for project proposals from NGOs working with children and families in crisis and helping children – victims of violence and their family members. The purpose of funding the NGOs is to select priority projects aimed at reducing violence and abuse against children, with a focus on the prevention of violence

against children and on intervention, with the respect to all types of violence/abuse (physical, emotional and sexual) and all its forms.

The MSSL also organises calls for proposals from other NGOs working in the child welfare area, the purpose of which is to select priority projects and provide funding to the NGOs organising educational and representation activities in the child welfare area.

Since 2002, the MSSL has been financing, through a project selection process, children's daycare centres maintained by NGOs. In this way, the Ministry cooperates with the NGOs in the resolution of social issues related to children of pre-school and school age from problematic families, organising after-school activities for such children, and carrying out social work with the parents.

Good practice on equal opportunities for women and men

From 2005 and onwards, Lithuania implements the National Programme on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men. This Programme aims to ensure consistent, complex and systematic resolution of gender equality issues in all fields and implementation of the Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men of the Republic of Lithuania, in compliance with the European Union and international obligations in the field of gender equality.

Ministries responsible for the implementation measures of this Programme are encouraged to actively cooperate with local non-governmental organizations, social partners and academics.

Furthermore, since 2014, article 3 of the Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men of the Republic of Lithuania established an obligation for all state and municipal institutions and enterprises to ensure equal rights for women and men to be established in all legislation developed and adopted by the latter, to develop and implement programmes and measures aimed at ensuring equal opportunities for women and men, to provide administrative and public services without infringing equal rights of women and men, to support the programmes implemented by public institutions, associations, charities and other non-governmental organisations, which help to ensure equal opportunities for women and men.

Tripartite Council on economic and social issues

Tripartite Council of the Republic of Lithuania is the main institution harmonizing interests of trade unions, employers' organizations and government institutions in Lithuania. The present Tripartite Council is comprised from representatives of trade unions, employers and the Government. Sitzings of the Tripartite Council are also attended by experts of various sectors (depending on subjects considering in the meetings). The Council deals with all most relevant issues of economic and social development, national macroeconomic and social stability. The Tripartite Council is competent to assess different problems in relation to issues discussed, formulate and present conclusions and proposals to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, ministries, Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania and the public. Decisions passed by the Council have an advisory status.

The following commissions have been presently functioning at the Tripartite Council: Commission on Labour Relations, Commission on Culture Affairs, Commission on Youth Affairs, Commission on Education, Commission on Monitoring Consumers' Rights, Commission on a Social Dialogue in Civil Service, Commission on Energy and Commission on Tripartite Consultations on Implementing of International Labour Standards. The commissions have been set up on the basis of the tripartite principle, like the Tripartite Council. NGO representatives are also members of many commissions. The purpose of these commissions is to address the issues within their competence, analyze legal acts and draft laws, as well as submit their opinion and proposals to the Tripartite Council.