

2005-12-13 Nr. A5-4

BILATERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN LITHUANIA AND NORWAY  
IN THE CHILD AND YOUTH POLICY FIELDS

WORK PLAN 2005-2007

Based on the agreement signed by the Lithuanian Minister of Social Security and Labour and the Norwegian Minister of Children and Family Affairs<sup>1</sup> on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2005, the administration of the two Ministries have agreed on the following Work Plan for the period until 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2007.

Themes to be covered by this work plan are:

- Alternatives to institutional child care (foster families and alternative methods).
- Youth entrepreneurship.
- Youth participation.
- Juvenile justice (including counselling on conflict resolution).
- Family counselling and conflict mediation in families.

The two partners have agreed on the following activities:

**Second half 2005:** Visit of a delegation from the Lithuanian Ministry of Social Security and Labour to Norway in order to establish the Work Plan and receive information on Norwegian policy in the child and youth field  
(7 – 10 September)

Visit of a delegation from the Norwegian Ministry of Children and Family Affairs to Lithuania in order to finalise and sign the Work Plan and receive information on Lithuanian policy in the child and youth field  
(12-13 December 2005)

**First half 2006:** Visit of a delegation from Norwegian municipalities to partners in Lithuania<sup>2</sup>, on the invitation of the Lithuanian State Council for Youth Affairs<sup>3</sup>  
Date: 29-31 March 2006  
Participants: 2 persons from each Norwegian municipality, including representatives of the Ministry (total: 10 -15 persons)

Invitation of Norwegian participants and experts to a seminar (4-5 days) in Lithuania on youth participation, youth entrepreneurship and youth initiatives, on the invitation of the State Council for Youth Affairs  
Date: 6-10 June 2006  
Participants: approximately 10 participants from Norway, including representatives of the Ministry

<sup>1</sup> From the 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2006 the Norwegian Ministry of Children and Family Affairs will be changed to the Ministry of Children and Equality.

<sup>2</sup> The two ministries have started the preparation of the cooperation between municipalities in the two countries. The cooperation should be based on the bilateral agreement and thus include participation of experts/civil servants in the field of child policy/child welfare and youth policy. The interest of the municipalities participating in the previous agreement, Kvam and Marijampole, Mandal and Alytus, Opegård and Sirvintos, Oslo (townships) and Vilnius, as well as Klaipeda County and Nordland County Municipality, should be investigated. There could be 5 to 7 municipalities (10 to 15 persons) participating in the exchanges (preferably the same people being involved in the 2 activities).

<sup>3</sup> From the 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2006 Lithuanian State Council for Youth Affairs will be changed into Youth Department under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.

**Second half 2006:** Visit of an expert delegation from Lithuania to Norway in order to study measures targeted at children and young people with behavioral problems and the work on juvenile delinquency

Date: September 2006

Participants: 7-9 persons (including interpreter)

Visit of a delegation from the Lithuanian Ministry of Social Security and Labour to Norway. Evaluation and possible amendment to the Work Plan

Date: November 2006

Participants: 2-4 persons

**First half 2007:** Visit of a delegation from Lithuanian municipalities to partners in Norway<sup>4</sup>

Date: April/May 2007

Participants: 2 persons from each Lithuanian municipality, including representatives of the Ministry (total: 8-10 persons)

**Second half 2007:** Invitation of Lithuanian participants and experts to a second seminar in Norway on youth participation, youth entrepreneurship and youth initiatives, on the invitation of the Ministry of Children and Equality.

Date: June 2007

Participants: preferably the same 10 participants from Norway who participated in the seminar during the first half of 2006

Conference in Lithuania on the achievements from the bilateral cooperation and exchange of examples of good practice in the field of child and youth policy with participation of the Ministers from the political side, representatives of municipalities and NGOs.<sup>5</sup> Adoption and Family Mediation will be the topics of the main interest. Costs of the conference will be shared by both participating parts from Lithuanian and Norwegian side

Date: October 2007

Participants: (should be discussed in the future)

Visit of a delegation from the Norwegian Ministry of Children and Equality to Lithuania, combined with the Conference. Evaluation of the Work Plan and renegotiation of the bilateral agreement

Date: October/November 2007

Participants: 3-4 persons

The Work Plan will be evaluated and if needed amended during the second half of 2006.

The Norwegian Ministry of Children and Equality will continue the support to the Norwegian Youth Council (LNU) in order to promote the bilateral cooperation with the Lithuanian Youth Council (LIJOT).

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<sup>5</sup> Ministries should take care to involve representatives from the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Agency under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour (Lithuania) and Directorate of Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Norway) to participate in common bilateral activities when appropriate

The implementation of the Work Plan from the Lithuanian side will be carried out by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour and the Department of Youth under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.

From the Norwegian side the Ministry of Children and Equality will be responsible for the implementation of Work Plan.

Signed in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2005 in two copies in the English language.

On behalf of Lithuanian Ministry  
of Social Security and Labour



**Ms Violeta Murauskaitė**  
Secretary of the Ministry  
of Social Security and Labour

On behalf of Norwegian Ministry  
of Children and Family Affairs



**Mr Bjørn Faaberg Hansen**  
Senior Adviser  
of the Department of Children and Youth  
Policy