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# **Recommendations for the Legislation in the Republic of Lithuania**

**Under Work Package 2**

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## **Recommendations for the Legislation in the Republic of Lithuania**

Lithuania has a favourable market for the implementation of lifelong learning tools, as there is an annual increase in the number of unemployed persons.

The Memorandum on Lifelong Learning emphasizes several problems that impede adult participation in learning activities. The document reveals the absence of highly qualified employees, the presence of poverty, which leads children to abandon school, the existence of challenges in adjusting qualifications of unemployed individuals to labour market needs, people of a different nationality, disabled persons and soldiers in mandatory military service, and the shortage of experience in integrating prisoners into society.

In Lithuania there are two important questions addressed in the development of lifelong learning:

- 1) The enhancement of learning methods and capabilities;
- 2) The recognition of newly acquired competencies.

The Law on Non-Formal Education (1998) of the Republic of Lithuania provides that the Ministry of Education and Science and non-governmental institutions for adult education have to establish information centres for adult education in order to compile and systematize data about adult education and training courses and to provide students with information (Article 13). In addition, the law regulates that providers of non-formal education services should ensure high quality programmes (Article 12). Lithuania has founded Information Centre for Adult Education. Each person aged 18 or over can choose non-formal adult education, which is provided by more than 60 adult schools, centres or comprehensive schools with adult classes in all municipalities, including public and private institutions.

Lithuania was actively involved in solving the problem of the recognition of achievements obtained through non-formal learning and self-directed learning. Article 11 of the Law on Non-Formal Adult Education adopted in 1998, which defines the rights of participants of non-formal adult education, states that after passing appropriate examinations at an educational, science and study institution, adult education participants can undergo knowledge assessments and receive officially recognized education documents for the full completion of the course or for the completion of a certain educational level and a separate module of the regulated programme.

In seeking to set lifelong learning processes into action, we recommend:

- 1) To draft a new law on non-formal adult education and to foresee the possibility of tutorial package and to supplement procedures for the recognition of competences acquired through non-formal education;
- 2) To encourage the dialogue between the labour market (demand for education) and providers of non-formal education (supply of education);

3) To improve financing mechanisms:

3.1. through the promotion of participation in international projects based on the lifelong learning concept;

3.2. through the promotion of education interest of different participants (companies, unemployed persons, individuals seeking self-improvement);

3.3. through the improvement of the material and technical base for participants' training.