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# **Recommendations for Lifelong Policy in the Republic of Lithuania**

**Under Work Package 2**

## **Recommendations for Lifelong Policy in the Republic of Lithuania**

The development of lifelong learning is gaining importance in both educational, social security and labour policy. Responding to the latest changes in the economic and cultural environment and to the challenges of the changing society, the Ministry of Education and Science initiated the implementation of the *Policy for Lifelong Learning Development*. After approving *the Strategy for Ensuring Lifelong Learning* in October 2008, activities are directed towards the enhancement of accessibility of adult education for various social groups across the country and to the development of general adult abilities.

Within the Republic of Lithuania lifelong learning policy is formed, implemented and coordinated by the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, institutions subordinate to these ministries, including other ministries and municipal administrations.

In Lithuania the area of lifelong learning is divided into lifelong learning, non-formal non-vocational learning and vocational training.

Based on the conclusions of the research *Lifelong Learning: Demand and Supply Analysis in the Courland Region (Latvia) and Klaip da and Kaunas Regions (Lithuania)*, which was performed during the project *Enhancing Lifelong Learning Capacity in the Borderline Region*, it was established that the main target group of non-formal education is economically active residents who feel no need for changing their job. It was also determined that in a quite large number of cases individuals perform work that is not related to the acquired education and vocation.

*The Strategy for Ensuring Lifelong Learning*, which was created to ensure the successful development of lifelong learning in the Republic of Lithuania, allows identifying problem areas where decision-making requires the development of the integral and universal system of lifelong learning. The main problem areas include vocational training, qualifications system, non-formal non-vocational education, infrastructure development, financing, personnel qualifications, informing and monitoring.

In order to develop lifelong learning processes and to motivate economically active residents to acquire new capabilities and to improve those in possession, it is necessary:

1. To recognize non-formal education, when ensuring a link between formal and non-formal education;
2. To motivate and to demand to use non-formal education as a tool for improving employees' abilities. This requires:
  - a) to add variety to the supply of non-formal education, by introducing training courses that meet new needs of national economy;
  - b) to raise the quality level of providers of non-formal education services, by creating a database of non-formal education programmes (i.e. by adding variety);
  - c) to engage branch associations in lifelong learning.