



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Lifelong learning in Lithuania

Legal framework

- ✓ **The Strategy for Assuring Lifelong Learning** was approved in 2008. The purpose of this Strategy is to define both development directions and implementation measures of lifelong learning in the fields of vocational and adult education. The document describes guidelines for development of comprehensive, coherent and efficient lifelong learning system in correspondence with the national priorities and individual needs that creates opportunities to acquire, upgrade or change qualification and competences for better employment, integration into the society and improving quality of life.
- ✓ **The National Education Strategy 2003-2012** (approved in 2003) establish that the mission of education is to “create conditions enabling lifelong learning, which encompasses continuous satisfaction of cognitive needs, seeking to acquire new competences and qualifications that are necessary for the professional career and meaningful life“.
- ✓ The **policy of Lifelong learning** is supported by several national legal acts: The Law on Education (1991, new edition 2003), the Law on VET (1997, new edition 2007), the Law on Non-formal Education (1998), The Law on Higher Education (2000), The Law on Support for Employment (2006)

Responsible bodies for implementation of the policy

- ✓ Ministry of Education and Science
- ✓ The Ministry of Social Security and Labour

Key facts

- ✓ Based on the statistical data, in 2007, 46 % of population aged 25-64 has attained qualification at post secondary (both tertiary and non-tertiary) level.
- ✓ According to the data of Lithuanian Department of Statistics, in 2006 the activities of non-formal education in Lithuania involved about 55 percent of Lithuania’s population. In 2003, this number reached merely 28 percent.
- ✓ The programme of Lithuanian Virtual University for 2007-2012 was approved in 2007 for promotion of e-learning and the development of e-learning infrastructure. The Programme aims to further develop Lithuanian Distance Learning Network (LieDM) and to create information technology based and integrated e-learning space, providing lifelong learning possibilities. Currently LieDM unites 77 institutions: universities, colleges, adult education centres and VET institutions. The network provides 10 master level programmes and more than 1070 distance learning courses in various areas.
- ✓ The Description of Procedure for Recognition of Prior Learning Achievements was approved in 2008 to facilitate recognition of non-formal learning as well as work experience for persons enrolled in formal VET. Prior leaning encompasses learning according to formal and non-formal programmes as well as experience gained individually or work experience.
- ✓ The main way for adults to legitimate non-formal VET and informal learning achievements or work experience is the equivalency examination. Persons with at least one year's work experience and who are over 18 can apply VET institutions for the recognition of competence acquired outside formal education. The procedure starts with the identification of non-formal or informal learning achievements through the analysis of certificates on non-formal education and other related documents provided by individual.