

# **1. Youth Policy Governance**

The concept of Lithuanian national youth policy could hardly be understood without a broader historic context and appreciation of the time of changes that happened after the country regained independence from the Soviet Union in 1990. Due to the dramatic changes in the Lithuanian society after it regained independence, Lithuanian youth policy has to be shaped almost from scratch due to the changes in social and economic structure of the Lithuanian society, shift from planned towards the market economy, building of the nation state and establishing youth policy including the institutions which support it. Taking this into account it can be stated that youth policy in Lithuania is successfully developed.

In accordance with Article 4 of the Law on Youth Policy Framework of the Republic of Lithuania, youth policy means a purposeful activity intended to resolve youth problems and to seek to create favorable conditions for the formation of a young person and his integration into public life, as well as an activity, which has the purpose of achieving understanding and tolerance of society and individual groups thereof towards young people.

Youth policy is developed in multi-year programmes. The current National Youth Policy Development Programme covers the period 2011 to 2019. It aims to create a sustainable environment and conditions for the development of youth policy. Favorable and explicit legal regulation is a prerequisite for successful development of youth policy. Based on these regulations Lithuanian youth policy is developed in the following two main policy directions: 1) security of interests of youth through public policy domains aimed at youth i.e. education, culture, sports, work and employment, housing, health, creativity and related policies and 2) youth work i.e. youth education, aiming at enabling young people to learn from experience and experiment (voluntary activities, independence, autonomy).