



Vocational Education in Lithuania

Strengths, Weaknesses,
Opportunities and Threats
(SWOT)



Education System in Lithuania

- Education is an essential element in the implementation of the Lithuania lifelong learning strategy.
- There is a thorough legal framework regulation education in Lithuania: Law of Education, Law of Higher Education, Law of Vocational Education and Training, Law of Special Education, Law of Non-formal Adult Education, etc.



Education System in Lithuania

- Every resident in Lithuania is granted the right to learn and acquire an educational background and qualification.
- Children start attending primary school at the age of 5-6 years.
- For children under 16 years age, primary and basic education is compulsory.



Educational Institutions in Lithuania

- Educational institutions in Lithuania may be split into state, municipality and private.
- Studies at state and municipality general education and vocational training institutions are free of charge.
- Higher education studies are free of charge for the best-performing students.
- Fees for studies at private education institutions are subject to the regulations of the institutions.

The education System in Lithuania

20+						
19	Profesinė Mokykla (II pakopa) Vocational School (stage II)	Profesinė Mokykla III pakopa Vocational School (stage III)	Profesinė Mokykla VI pakopa Vocational School (stage VI)	Kolegija Non-University Higher Education	Universtetas Vientisosios studijos University Higher Education	Universtetas University Higher Education
18					Vidurinė Mokykla Secondary School	Gimnazija Gymnasium Secondary School
17						
16	Jaunimo mokykla Youth school	Profesinė Mokykla (I pakopa) Vocational School (stage I)	Pagrindinė Mokykla Lower Secondary School			
15						
14						
13						
12						
11			Pradinė Mokykla Primary School			
10						
9						
8						
7			Išimokyklinis Ugdymas Pre-School Education			
6						
5						
4						
3						
age						




The Lithuanian Education system and Levels

- The **pre-school** education is for children aged from 5 to 6 years and is organised by nurseries, nursery-kindergartens and kindergartens.
- **Pre-primary preparatory** education is a 1 year programme for children who turn 6 years of age (but not earlier than 5 years) and is organised by kindergartens and primary schools.

The Lithuanian Education system and Levels

- **General primary education** is for children aged 6/7 - 10/11 years, and provided by pre-school kindergartens and primary schools. (It is accessible to children with special needs). Its duration 4 years (1-4 grades).
- **General lower secondary (basic) education** is provided by general basic schools, youth schools, special children's education and care residence, hospital and sanatorium schools. Is lasts for 6 years (5-10 grades). (It is also accessible to children with special needs).



The Lithuanian Education system and Levels

- **Stage I of vocational training** is for children over 14 years, who have not completed lower-secondary education but seek to acquire vocational qualification. They study for 2 years.
- The learners who have completed 5 years of lower-secondary education (9 grades) and prefer to acquire vocational qualification as well as lower-secondary education can choose separate 3 years programmes.



The Lithuanian Education system and Levels

- **Upper-secondary education** lasts for 2 years (11-12 grades) and can be acquired at secondary schools, gymnasiums and vocational schools. Upon the completion of upper-secondary education and the passing of maturity examinations, graduates are awarded a maturity certificate. There are also special schools for disabled/disturbed children.
- Adults may acquire a general education at general training schools for adults (training centers).



The Lithuanian Education system and Levels

- **Stage II of vocational training** is for young people from the age of 16 who have acquired a general basic education and seek to acquire a vocational qualification. It lasts for 2 years. It is also available to persons with special needs.
- **Stage III of vocational training** is for young people from the age of 16, who get a secondary education and a professional qualification. Its duration is 3 years.

The Lithuanian Education system and Levels

- **Stage IV of vocational training** is for people with an upper-secondary background who seek to acquire a vocational qualification. Its duration is 1-2 years. It may also be provide to persons from the age of 18 with special needs.
- **Higher education studies** are provided by universities (university higher education) and colleges (non-university higher education) and are for persons who graduated secondary schools or gymnasia. The institutions are either publis or private.

Labour Market Vocational Training

- The purpose of labour market training is to help people within a comparatively short period (up to 6 months) to acquire a marketable professional qualification. The basic groups of the training programmes are:
handicrafts, wholesale and retail sales, accounting and tax, management and administration, work organization, computer literacy, mechanics and machine shop works, electricity and power, motor vehicles, food, textiles, garment and footwear production, leather and wood processing, construction and civil engineering, hospitals, restaurants and public catering, travelling, tourism, entertainment, home services, hairdresser's and beauty parlours, transport services.



Labour Market Vocational Training

- Training services are for persons who have at least the basic (10 grades) or the secondary (12 grades) background. The minimum admission age limit is 18 years, and in certain cases it may be reduced to 16 years.
- Labour market training in Lithuania is supervised by the Lithuanian Labour Market Training Authority under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.



Career Information Points

- CIPs provide vocational information services: information on issues of career choices, training and employment opportunities in the country and abroad and on the situation within the labour market and vocations and are meant for learners, their parents and teachers. CIPs are set up at general education and training schools, youth centers, education centres, non-formal education institutions and etc. At present, the network of CIPs is being expanded.



Vocational Education SWOT

- About 60 percent of people today work in the areas which require a vocational qualification. It means that labour market needs more qualified specialists graduated from vocational schools.
- However, most learners aim at higher education at universities or colleges.
- Once having been underrated vocational education is getting more and more popular. The amount of learners entering vocational schools has grown up to 40 percent.




The Growing Image of Vocational Education in Lithuania (Strengths)

- According to Education Ministry there were 5200 learners who had entered vocational schools in 2008; 8500 in 2010; and 8250 in 2011.
- The growing image of vocational education has been achieved due to education reforms. The best-performing students who acquire a vocational qualification get 2 additional points when entering a college, and 1 point when entering a university to study the same specialty.
- The learners entering vocational schools are more motivated and interested in future career perspectives provided by the schools.



The Growing Image of Vocational Education in Lithuania (Strengths)

- More and more learners who have upper-secondary education background get interested in vocational education.
- Some persons who have graduated from colleges come to study at vocational schools because they need practical skills.




Some Facts about Vocational Schools in Lithuania

- There are 69 schools all over Lithuania.
- There are about 46,300 learners who attend the schools.
- About 10 percent of these learners continue their studies entering higher education institutions.
- About 4,000,000 Lt are going to be invested to develop vocational education by the year 2013.



Weaknesses

- There are several professions in Lithuania which have historically acquired negative image, like welders and agricultural workers. According to labour market specialists 1,400 welders, 1,300 agricultural workers, and 2,000 seamstresses are needed. Seamstresses' work has always been low-paid which makes it unattractive to young people.
- Most learners are still interested in getting a higher education, but after completion of the studies, they lack practical skills and are not able to get employed.



Greater Employment Opportunities (All Over Lithuania)

■ **Specialists:**

- Sales Managers
- Bookkeepers/Financiers
- Transport Managers
- Computer Specialists
- Electrical Technicians
- Doctors
- Nurses

■ **Workers:**

- International Freight Transport Drivers
- Seamstresses
- Shop-assistants
- Concrete Workers
- Bartenders/Waiters
- Cooks
- Excavator Drivers
- Locksmiths
- Welders
- Butchers

Average Employment Opportunities (All Over Lithuania)

■ **Specialists:**

- Administrators
- Insurance Agents
- Logistics Specialists
- Electrical Engineers
- Construction Engineers
- Mechanical Engineers
- Sewing Technologists
- Eatables and Drinks Technologists
- Woodworking Technologists
- Land Surveyor
- General Education Teachers
- Accountants

■ **Workers:**

- Shop-assistants
- Security Workers
- Bartenders/Waiters
- Confectioners
- Finishers
- Bricklayers
- Roofers
- Plumbers
- Electricians
- Loading Transport Drivers
- Tractor Drivers
- Woodworkers
- Locksmiths (Repairers)



Little Employment Opportunities (All Over Lithuania)

■ **Specialists:**

- Social Educators
- Social Workers
- Economists
- Tourism Managers
- Environmental Engineers
- Foresters
- Psychologists
- Primary Education Teachers
- PreSchool/Pre-Primary Education Teachers

■ **Workers:**

- Florists
- Carpenter
- Petrol Station Operators
- Spinner
- Weavers
- Hairdressers
- Manicurists
- Beautician



Threats

- There are two professions that are getting more and more popular, they are Hotel Worker and Babysitter. However, these professions have no perspectives in Lithuania. The persons choose these professions in order to leave Lithuania for some other country. Thus, there is an issue how to prevent young specialists from migrating to other countries after getting free of charge education at the expense of Lithuanian taxpayers.



Thank You!