



**EMEDUS**  
Europe Media Education

## **WP3. Formal Media Education**

# **LITHUANIA**



## 1. Education System

In Lithuania responsibility for education policy is shared between the Ministry of Education and Science, the regional and municipal governments and the governing bodies of schools.

The central government is responsible for the development of the national curriculum, study programs, education standards, the organization of examinations and funding rules.



County education departments prepare, implement and coordinate regional education programs and infrastructure.

Local Government is responsible for preschool, general education (primary and secondary), formal and informal adult training and all related funding. Each school has its own management team that sets regulations and takes decisions at a local level.

Compulsory education begins at 6-7 years of age in primary school. After four years, junior secondary school starts and lasts four more years till age 16. The final two years of senior secondary school overlaps with the four years of *Gymnasium*, which is a different branch of secondary education offering a higher level of study.

## 2. Policies in Media Literacy

Policies related to media literacy have focused exclusively on the development of new technologies. Within the education modernization programs, between 2002-2005, the government launched the *E-School Program Education for Information Society* in order to provide schools with new digital technologies and improve digital literacy for teachers.

The *Newest Strategy and Program for the Introduction of ICT into Lithuanian General and Vocational Education for 2008-2012* is currently being implemented through the *Centre of Information Technologies in Education (CITE)*. The program is involved in several European projects which promote the use of new technologies with programs such as ASPECT, INSPIRE, eQNET or eTwinning. The strategy encourages new teaching methods and ICT-based learning.

## 3. Media Literacy and National Curricula

In the Lithuanian education system media literacy is neither included as a specific subject nor mentioned as an interdisciplinary, cross-curricular activity. On the other hand, ICT is treated as a specific subject.

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*Discovery.* In junior high "Technologies" and "Computers" appear as specific subjects. IT is currently taught in grades 5-6 and from these levels this course is integrated into other subjects.

In the curriculum of senior secondary school students must choose between arts-related subjects, among which are found Modern Communicative Arts, or "Technologies," or a course that combines art and technology. This is the only reference that exists with respect to the media and communication within the curriculum.

Film literacy has been introduced in formal education through the program *Film at my school* organized by the NGO, *Meno Avilys*, which specializes in film with the objective of helping students develop a critical attitude towards the media and display their creativity.

#### 4. Tools to measure the Level of Competencies

Media literacy in students is only assessed in relation to ICT via an optional exam in IT at school or, as with the rest of the population, through the ECDL exam at any testing center. Accreditation in ECDL is outside the general education system and students have to pay for it.

There are three ways of assessing and accrediting ICT skills:

- Optional certification on the use of computers based on the *General Computer Literacy Standard* and administered nationwide.
- An IT exam, *the School Information Technology exam*, on the basic use of IT administered at school level.
- An optional examination, *the National Information Technology exam*, on the advanced use of technology (only a programming module) and administered nationally.

Teachers who receive formal training in ICT can also obtain certification. When they finish the part of the course related to technology, they can take an optional exam (ECDL). When they finish the pedagogical part, they take a specific exam and prepare a presentation on the use of ICT in their own teaching practices.

#### 5. Teacher Media Training

Teacher training focuses on ICT as part of a national strategy and an e-school program that began in 2002 with the following programs: "Computer Literacy

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Standard for Teachers" and "Computer Literacy Standard for School Librarians."

Currently, initial training in technology is carried out in computer rooms or computer labs in training centers or in-service educational institutions while training in teaching practice is done through distance learning.

There are collaborative networks such as the *Association of Lithuanian Teachers of Informatics* and the *Lithuanian Computer Society* that provide informal training and support for teachers, although participation in them is not very widespread.

The *Centre of Information Technologies in Education* (CITE) permanently provides information and services for the acquisition and use of learning and teaching programs. There are several web sites with educational programs such as Logo, Geometry Sketchpad and other sites that teach how to use these tools in class.

The *Provisions of the National Education Strategy 2003-2012* specifies the need to develop a new teacher training program that is appropriate to the knowledge society and provides new challenges for teachers such as:

- Individualizing educational content.
- Deliberately using ICT tools in the classroom in an organized and planned manner.
- Enabling teachers to cope with Web 2.0 technology identify problems and needs and help each other.

## 6. ICT in Schools

Not all schools are well equipped with computers and have good Internet access but most have fast broadband. Students very frequently use new the technologies, especially mobile phones, and demonstrate a greater mastery and confidence with them than their teachers who also frequently use ICT in class.

Teachers enjoy good opportunities for professional development and have the figure of an ICT coordinator who offers pedagogical support.

The main objectives of the *Newest Strategy and Program for the Introduction of ICT into Lithuanian General and Vocational Education for 2008-2012* are:

- to create digital content, new methods of learning and teaching and a digital infrastructure in schools.
- to develop a digital culture in education for the entire school community so that they can acquire digital skills.
- to apply ICT to education organization and management.

## Annex. Country Key Features

(a)	Languages	Lithuanian (official) 82%, Russian 8%, Polish 5.6%, other and unspecified 4.4% (2001 census)
	Population	3,515,858 (July 2013 est.)
	Major cities	VILNIUS (capital) 546,000 (2009)
	Government type	Parliamentary democracy
	GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)	\$64.8 billion (2012 est.)
	GDP real growth rate	3.5% (2012 est.)
	GDP per capita (PPP)	\$20,100 (2012 est.)
(b)	GDP composition by sector	Agriculture: 3.3% Industry: 28.4% Services: 68.4% (2012 est.)
(b)	GDP per head (PPS)	62.0 (year 2011) (Index, EU27=100)
(c)	Year of EU entry	2004
	Currency	Litas (Lt)
	Schengen area	Member of the Schengen area since 2007
(d)	Pupils and students (ISCED levels 1-6) (1 000)	652,4 (year 2011)
	Pupils at ISCED level 1 (1 000)	115,6 (year 2011)
	Pupils at ISCED level 2 (1 000)	227,6 (year 2011)
	Pupils and students at ISCED level 3 (1 000)	108,5 (year 2011)
	Students at ISCED level 4 (1 000)	13,7 (year 2011)

Source: Original authorship, using data from:

- (a) Central Intelligence Agency (2013). *The World Factbook 2013-14*. Washington, DC [Retrieved from: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>]
- (b) European Commission (2012). *Country Fact Sheet: Lithuania*. Directorate-General Regional

- Policy. Analysis Unit C3. European Commission [Retrieved from:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/information/brochures/pages/country2012/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information/brochures/pages/country2012/index_en.cfm)]
- (c) European Union (2013). Member states of the EU. European Union [Retrieved from:  
[http://europa.eu/about-eu/countries/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/about-eu/countries/index_en.htm)]
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## Sources

Association of Lithuanian Teachers of Informatics

<http://www.linma.org/>

Education in Lithuania

[http://www.european-agency.org/country-information/lithuania/lithuania-docs/education\\_lithuania.pdf](http://www.european-agency.org/country-information/lithuania/lithuania-docs/education_lithuania.pdf)

Film at my school

<http://www.kinasmokykloje.lt/lt/english-pages-124>

International Federation for Information Processing. Country Report: Lithuania

<http://ifip-education.ning.com/page/country-report-lithuania>

Lithuanian Computer Society

<http://www.liks.lt/en/>

Meno Avilys

<http://www.menoavilys.org/>

Ministry of Education and Science

<http://www.smm.lt/en/>

Provisions of the National Education Strategy 2003-2012

<http://www.smm.lt/uploads/documents/Lithuanian%20Education%20Strategy%202003-2012.pdf>