

# Introduction to the Lithuania Education System

# Early childhood education

# Early childhood education

- Early childhood education starts from 2 years (nursery) or from 3 years (kindergarten)
- Municipalities are responsible for organising ECEC. There are some private kindergartens too
- It can take place at kindergartens and multi-functional centers
- Group sizes of child day care 20 in public kindergartens
- Client fees for day care are calculated based on the regulations in municipalities

# Pre-primary education

- Pre-primary education is compulsory for children aged 6 at tooks 1 year.
- Pre-primary education is provided in kindengardens and primary schools, where specially classes for pre-primary education are established
- Teachers in pre-primary education have completed studies at Universities of Applied Sciences (study programs in early childhood and pre-primary education) or at Universities (pre-primary or primary education)

**School education**

# Primary education

- Children start the school at the age of 7.
- Primary education in Lithuania means grades 1-4 (ages 7-10)
- Primary education is provided within:
  - multi-functional centers (combines kindergardens and primary schools);
  - primary schools;
  - pro-gymnasiums;
  - basic schools.

# Basic education

- Basic education in Lithuania means grades 5 - 10
- Basic education is provided within:
  - pro-gymnasiums (grades 5-8);
  - basic schools (grades 5-10);
  - gymnasiums (grades 9-10);
  - Vocational schools (grades 9-10).

# Schoolday are

- The school year starts at 1st September.
- The duration of the education process for primary level is 175 days; for the basic level is 185 days.
- There are 4 one week holidays through a school year
- The minimum number of lessons per week varies from 5 (primary education level) to 6-7 (basic education level)
- Homework is common starting from the first grade
- Schools organize various afternoon activities. Children could go for free to one of activities in their school. There are music, sport, art, dance schools for kids afternoon activities.



# Primary School

- Children has the same teacher for the primary education. Exceptions may be for musics, physical training and religious classes
- Primary school teachers schould complete a university degree in primary education (bachelor level)
- National tests appears at grades 2 and 4 and include reading, writing, maths, and world knowleding (for grade 4 only)

# Basic School

- Children have different teachers for different subjects starting from grade 5
- Teachers should have a university degree in particular subject and pedagogical qualification
- Annual grade in each subject must be at least 4 in order to be transferred to a higher grade

# Secondary education

# Upper secondary education

- Covers grades 11-12
- Basic education is provided within:
  - Gymnasiums
  - Vocational schools may have gymnasium classes
- After secondary education children may continue education at university level

# National examination at the upper secondary education

- General upper secondary education ends with exams
- Students who are planning to continue their education at university level should take at Lithuanian, Maths (except Art studies) + at least one more exam from a provided list (History, Foreign Languages, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, IT, Engineering technologies)

# Vocational education

# Vocational education

- It is eligible to study at vocational training institutions from the age of 14.
- Initial vocational training aimed at obtaining the first qualification is also provided for:
  - those who have obtained basic or secondary education;
  - those who have not obtained basic education;
  - who have studied in special education programs.

# Vocational education

- The nominal duration of vocational qualifications is from 5 months to 2 years or up to 3 years if the person is also studying in the secondary education program.
- Continuous professional training intended to improve a person's existing qualification or to acquire another qualification or competences that meet the professional standard in order to acquire a qualification (or part of it). The duration of the programs is from 3 months to 11 months.
- Vocational teachers are generally required to have a bachelors degree in relevant subject



# University education

# Studying at university

- In the universities bachelor studies usually is four years (240 ECTS credits) degree studies (with some small exampions)
- Students are admitted to study for a bachelors degree after taking three national exams (Lithuanian, Maths, and one more related to the study area) with the corresponding average mark
- Students are admitted to study for a master's degree with bachelors (or professional bachelors) degree from relevate study area
- Masters degree studies could be 1,5 or 2 years long (90 – 120 ECTS credits)

# Universities of applied sciences

- Provides professional bachelors (3 years, 180 ECTS) only
- Some study areas are not possible for UofAS (medicine, veterinary, biochemistry, physics, etc.)
- The most typical study areas for UofAS (nursery, cosmetology, early childhood education, biomedical diagnostics, etc.)
- UofAS graduates could continue master level studies at universities

# Teachers training

- Bachelor level teachers training programs (physics and math education; languages education; history and geography education; physical training; arts education, etc.)
- Minor degree pedagogical studies for science, language, arts bachelors students
- One year non – degree pedagogical studies for persons who completed bachelor studies
- Retraining courses



**Thank you!**