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Public consultation regarding the goals of the National Development Program in youth politics

10 October 2019
Best Western Hotel, Vilnius

CONTEXT

The Government is currently developing the National Progress Program (NPP) for the period starting from 2021, one of the goals of which is increasing the population's social well-being and inclusion, strengthening health, and improving Lithuania's demographic situation. Therefore, it is important to ensure that the goals, measures, and indicators of youth politics are integrated into the aforementioned strategy. During the process of drafting proposals on the goals, measures, and indicators of the NPP, it is important to ensure consultations with the social partners: youth organizations and organizations working with youth, youth researchers, municipal coordinators for youth affairs, business associations, and other persons working with youth, implementing one of the cornerstone principles of youth politics – horizontality.

OBJECTIVE AND GOALS OF THE PC

The aim of the public consultation (PC) is to ensure inclusion of youth organizations and organizations working with youth, public institutions, and other persons concerned into the development of the NPP, seeking to ensure that the future program complies with young people's expectations, needs, and priorities.

The aim was pursued through the following goals:

to develop a draft for proposals of the goals, measures, and indicators of the NPP; to organise a discussion (no less than 50 participants) with representatives of the key target groups, which will focus on the discussion of the goals of the program, justification thereof, indicators of achievement, and possible measures; to draw up a result report and make it available to the participants and the public; to incorporate the results of the consultation into the development of the program.

PROGRAM

The PC consisted of 3 parts:

- introductory part on the introduction of the National Progress Program in the area of youth politics;
- work in groups based on target audiences;
- presentation of the results of the work groups and summary of the event.

Dudly

MODERATOR	Mantas Zakarka Former Head of the Lithuanian Youth Council, youth politics expert
CONSULTATIONS COORDINATORS	Monika Simaškaitė Aušrinė Diržinskaitė
PARTICIPANTS	53 representatives of interested groups took part in the PC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representatives of youth organizations (27) - Representatives of public institutions (16) - Social partners (10)
SUMMARY	<p>To sum up the results of the discussion, it may be pointed out that the participants of the discussion often proposed revising or even amending the wording of NPP's strategic objectives, goals, and indicators and even some of the extensions to make them clearer and more accurate. Many concrete proposals were made during the discussion, including the suggestions to define the terms with precise definitions and methods of measurements, to extend the goals or add new goals to the objectives.</p> <p>The key proposals of the target groups encompassed the following objectives of the National Progress Program in the area of the development of youth politics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to increase the employability of job-seekers as well as the efficiency and effectiveness of the employment support system; - to improve the environment for the family, with the aim to increase the birth rate and quality of life and facilitate reconciliation of work and family obligations; - to reinforce the principles of social activity and social responsibility in the society and spirit of community; - to strengthen the social dialogue and the quality of jobs; - to encourage the return of Lithuanians living abroad to Lithuania; - to improve personal and public health; - to strengthen the national security; - to ensure quality education. <p>It may be concluded that a large number of the comments will be useful in the preparation of the draft of the National Progress Program.</p>
FURTHER STEPS	The results of the PC will be used in the preparation of the NPP's draft: in the formulation of the goals, measures, and indicators, identification of long-term and sustainable changes sought among young people and in youth politics.

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