



## OPENING DOORS FOR EUROPE'S CHILDREN

[WWW.OPENINGDOORS.EU](http://WWW.OPENINGDOORS.EU)

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES. ENDING INSTITUTIONAL CARE.

### LITHUANIA



**IN 2007 THE LITHUANIAN GOVERNMENT APPROVED A “PLAN TO OPTIMISE THE NETWORK OF CHILDCARE INSTITUTIONS” WHICH AIMED TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN PER INSTITUTION TO A MAXIMUM OF 60 DIVIDED INTO UNITS OF NO MORE THAN 12 BY 2015. UNFORTUNATELY, IN PRACTICE, THE PLAN HAS LED TO A REORGANISATION OF INSTITUTIONS RATHER THAN A DEINSTITUTIONALISATION STRATEGY. IT HAS FOCUSED MAINLY ON REORGANISING AND RENOVATING EXISTING INSTITUTIONS, INSTEAD OF CLOSING THEM DOWN AND ESTABLISHING OTHER FORMS OF ALTERNATIVE CARE.**

Nonetheless in November 2012, the Government approved “Strategic guidelines for deinstitutionalisation of disabled and children deprived of parental care” and established a working group to further develop DI plans.

In 2012, 10,389 families comprising 21,303 children were recorded to be at risk of breakdown, mainly because of alcohol misuse and neglect. Services to support families and prevent their breakdown focus mainly on financial assistance and children’s material conditions (living environment, clothing, food, hygiene), rather

than children’s emotional well-being and their relationships with their parents. Due to a lack of human resources, social workers’ involvement is limited to giving advice rather than providing substantial family-strengthening services.

These deficiencies have resulted in a strong reliance on institutional care, poor preventative services for families and no satisfying reintegration of children from alternative care into their families. Institutional care continues to be financed both through State budgets and from EU Structural Funds.



Hope & Homes  
for Children

eurochild

## NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COORDINATORS



SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES LITHUANIA IS A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION OPERATING IN THE FIELD OF CHILD WELFARE IN LITHUANIA SINCE 1992. THEY FOCUS ON PROVISION OF FAMILY STRENGTHENING SERVICES, FAMILY-BASED CARE, LEAVING CARE, AS WELL AS ACTIVELY ADVOCATE FOR THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF PARENTAL CARE OR AT RISK OF LOSING IT. AS A MEMBER OF SOS KINDERDORF INTERNATIONAL THEY CURRENTLY RUN AN INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN CALLED "CARE FOR ME! QUALITY CARE FOR EVERY CHILD" WITH A STRONG FOCUS ON DI IN LITHUANIA AND JOIN HANDS WITH EVERYBODY WHOSE AIM IS TO ENSURE CHILD'S RIGHT TO LIVE IN A CARING FAMILY ENVIRONMENT OR TO HAVE APPROPRIATE ALTERNATIVE CARE OPTIONS.

[WWW.SOS-VAIKUKAIMAI.LT](http://WWW.SOS-VAIKUKAIMAI.LT)



SAVE THE CHILDREN LITHUANIA IS NON-GOVERNMENTAL, NON-RELIGIOUS AND NON-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION WHOSE PRIMARY FUNCTION IS TO ADVOCATE FOR CHILD'S RIGHTS AND PROMOTE PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD. MAIN WORKING AREAS: REDUCTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND CHILDREN EXPLOITATION; REDUCTION OF CHILDREN SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND INSTITUTIONALIZATION; CHILD'S RIGHTS GOVERNANCE; INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS. SAVE THE CHILDREN LITHUANIA IS A FULL MEMBER OF SAVE THE CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL.

[WWW.GELBVAIK.LT](http://WWW.GELBVAIK.LT)

## FACT FILE

**3.6% OF THE CHILD POPULATION LIVE IN FAMILIES CONSIDERED 'AT RISK' AND REQUIRE SOCIAL SUPPORT.**



**EFFORTS AT REFORM HAVE FOCUSED ON REORGANISING THE EXISTING INSTITUTIONS RATHER THAN CLOSING THEM.**



**INSTITUTIONAL CARE IN LITHUANIA HAS BEEN FINANCED BOTH THROUGH STATE BUDGETS AND USING EU STRUCTURAL FUNDS.**



The Opening Doors campaign operates at EU level and in 12 countries across Europe.

Working with a network of national partners in each participating country, we are building civil society capacity to advocate at national level.

We are calling on the EU and national governments to prioritise the transition from institutional to family-based care and deliver quality care for children across Member States, pre-accession countries and within the EU neighbourhood.

We believe that the end of institutional care for children in Europe is possible and within our reach – putting the best interests of children back at the heart of Europe's child protection systems.

