



**NATIONAL PROGRAMME OF LITHUANIA
FOR THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF COMBATING POVERTY AND
SOCIAL EXCLUSION (2010)**

2009

CONTENTS

1. NATIONAL CONTEXT AND ENVISAGED CHALLENGES.....	3
1.1. Review of the implementation of a policy of reducing poverty and social exclusion	3
1.2. Legal and institutional framework of the implementation of the policy of reducing child poverty and social exclusion	4
2. PRIORITIES, OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF COMBATING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION 2010.....	5
2.1. National priorities for the European Year	5
2.2. National objectives and targets of the European Year and their implementing measures	6
2.2.1. Objective – to strengthen family status by eliminating child poverty and social exclusion.....	6
2.2.2. Objective – to strengthen community role in reducing child poverty and social exclusion.....	7
2.3. Public information.....	8
3. CONSULTATIONS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND INTERESTED PARTICIPANTS.....	9
3.1. National Implementing Body.....	9
3.2. Process of consultations, its results and follow-up	10
4. CALL FOR PROPOSALS AND SELECTION PROCEDURE	10
5. MECHANISMS OF MONITORING AND EVALUATING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN YEAR FOR COMBATING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION 2010	11
ANNEX 1 – INDICATIVE TIMELINE FOR ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN YEAR FOR COMBATING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION 2010.....	13
ANNEX 2 – PRELIMINARY NEED OF FUNDS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN YEAR FOR COMBATING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION 2010	14
ANNEX 3 – NATIONAL IMPLEMENTING BODY.....	15
ANNEX 4 – SCHEME FOR RECEIPT AND EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS	16

1. NATIONAL CONTEXT AND ENVISAGED CHALLENGES

1.1. Review of the implementation of a policy of reducing poverty and social exclusion

The aim of the National Programme of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010 (hereinafter referred to as the programme) is to strengthen one of political obligations assumed by Lithuania as a Member State of the European Union, i.e., to combat poverty and social exclusion in accordance with objectives and main principles of European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (hereinafter referred to as the European Year) as well as activity priorities of the European Year specified in Decision No. 1098/2008/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2008 on European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (2010) (OJ 2008 J 298, p. 20).

Lithuania along with other Member States is participating in the common process of strengthening social protection and social inclusion, which is organised on the basis of Open Method of Coordination, and is pursuing common EU objectives, taking into consideration current and foreseen demographical, social and economic challenges that influence the situation for both, men and women. In the European Year Lithuania will primarily focus on the solution of problems of child poverty.

Country's integration in the European Union positively affected the growth of living standards, however, the global financial crisis that has hit the country caused the slowdown of the economic growth, reduced employment, growing unemployment and the lack of funds required for the fulfilment of assumed obligations, and the implementation of priorities for the reduction of poverty and social exclusion for 2008 – 2010, such as: to eliminate child poverty and increase support for a family, to increase the potential of the work force for both, men and women to effectively and fully participate in the labour market, and to improve accessibility to high-quality services.

One of the most acute problems is related to children without parental care. According to the data presented by the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Agency under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour (hereinafter referred to as the CRPA), in 2008, 2 691 children were deprived of parental care due to various reasons. Total number of children deprived of parental care at the end of 2008 amounted to 12 306 children, which constitutes approximately 2 per cent of all children in Lithuania. The majority of children are deprived of parental care due to subjective grounds, such as inadequate behaviour of parents. Only one in every eight children left without parental care is an orphan.

At the end of 2008, the CRPA registered 11 350 families raising 25 483 children in the list of families at social risk. Children raised in families at social risk constituted approximately 4 per cent of all children living in the country. The CRPA indicated alcohol abuse as one of the main reasons causing growing social risk in families. In 2008, 58 per cent of children raised in all families at social risk, were growing in families at social risk where alcohol was abused.

A substantial proportion of children deprived of parental care are placed in child care institutions. According to the data presented by the CRPA, in 2008, in Lithuania were 105 child care institutions that took care of 4 802 children. The environment in child care institutions does not correspond to the natural family-like environment, and children raised there do not fully acquire independent living skills, therefore, they cannot be fully prepared for an independent life in society.

The National Report of Lithuania on Social Protection and Social Inclusion Strategies (2008-2010) provides that Lithuania, seeking to achieve its priority objective i.e. the elimination of child poverty, shall implement relevant measures, thereby seeking that by 2012 the proportion of children deprived of parental care will be reduced from 1,7 to 1 per cent of all children living in Lithuania, the proportion of children raised in families at social risk will be reduced from 4 to 2 per cent, and the proportion of children living in child care institutions will drop from 40 to 30 per cent.

The implementation of measures of this programme includes a consistent consideration of gender equality and priorities placed on the possibilities of harmonising family and work-related responsibilities for men and women as well as on the promotion of positive parenthood.

1.2. Legal and institutional framework of the implementation of the policy of reducing child poverty and social exclusion

There is a sufficient legal framework created in the Republic of Lithuania that helps solve problems causing child poverty. In order to implement provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, on 20 May 2003, by Resolution No. IX-1569 of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, a Concept of the State Policy on Child Welfare was approved (*Official Gazette*, No. 52-2316, 2003). Seeking to create assumptions for child welfare, the State Policy Strategy on Child Welfare and Its Implementing Measures Plan for 2005-2012 was approved by the Resolution No. 184 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 17 February 2005 (*Official Gazette*, No. 25-802, 2005). In order to establish a family as a fundamental social institution and create favourable social and economic environment, the National Demographic (of Residents) Policy Strategy was drafted and approved by the Resolution No. 1350 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 17 February 2005 (*Official Gazette*, No. 25-802, 2005), and the Implementing Measures Plan for the National Demographic (of Residents) Policy Strategy for Family Welfare for 2008-2010 was approved by the Resolution No. 948 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 5 September 2007 (*Official Gazette*, No. 98-3977, 2007). Measures designed for the harmonisation of family and work-related responsibilities are carried out as a part of the implementation of the Programme of Equal Opportunities for Men and Women for 2005-2009 approved by the Resolution No. 1042 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 26 September 2005 (*Official Gazette*, No. 116-4202, 2005). Seeking to prioritise child care (guardianship) in a family, the Strategy of Reorganisation of Child Care (Guardianship) and Its Implementing Measures for 2007–2012 was approved by the Resolution No. 1193 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 31 October 2007 (*Official Gazette*, No. 118-4817, 2007). To strengthen accessibility, quality and efficiency of pre-school and pre-primary education, a Programme for the Development of Pre-school and Pre-primary Education and Its Implementing Measures Plan for 2007–2012 was approved by the Resolution No. 1057 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 19 September 2007 (*Official Gazette*, No. 106-4344, 2007). In order to implement complex measures designed for the elimination of violence against children, a National Programme for the Prevention of Violence against Children and Assistance to Children for 2008–2010 was approved by the Resolution No. 1057 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 24 April 2008 (*Official Gazette*, No. 51-1892, 2008). Seeking to ensure that all children are enrolled in compulsory education curricula, a Programme to Return to School Children Not Attending School and Its Implementing Measures was approved by the Resolution No. 1261 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 24 November 2008 (*Official Gazette*, No. 104-5558, 2008).

At national level the policy of reducing poverty and social exclusion is formed and implemented by the following bodies: the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania.

At regional level the policy of reducing poverty and social exclusion is formed and implemented in Lithuania by districts, municipalities and bodies attached to them, and the Association of Local Authorities in Lithuanian.

The non-governmental sector actively participates in the sphere of reducing poverty and social exclusion in Lithuania, and is represented by the National Anti-Poverty Network of Organisations (www.skurdas.lt), which was established in 2006 and comprises more than 300 organisations, including women organisations. On 7 October 2006, in the General Assembly of the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) held in Toledo, Spain, Lithuanian Anti-Poverty Network of Organisations became a member of the EAPN.

2. PRIORITIES, OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF COMBATING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION 2010

2.1. National priorities for the European Year

Lithuania, taking into account current situation and challenges, will seek the following priorities for the European Year:

Recognition of rights. Children who are in a situation of poverty and social exclusion must be prevented from violence and become fully fledged citizens. The European Year places a focus on informing the public about problems encountered by children deprived of parental care or children living in families at socially risk, and on an increased public awareness of the necessity to integrate these children into society, seeking its fully fledged development. The aim is to establish a public attitude that the rights of a child to grow in an appropriate family environment and have all possibilities of preparing themselves for independent living must be ensured. Another priority is placed on the reduction of all kinds of violence in private space and on the promotion of relationships based on mutual respect.

Shared responsibility and participation. Poverty and social exclusion are phenomena of multidimensional nature, therefore, it is vital to strengthen full cooperation, involving as big as possible number of interested participants. The organisation of European Year activities is based on the principles of subsidiarity and solidarity. The aim is to establish that a right to make decisions belongs to the smallest social community which is capable of solving problems. Mutual support of individual social groups is also encouraged.

Cohesion. By raising public awareness of the problems arising from families at social risk and large numbers of children deprived of parental care, during the European Year the public is encouraged to participate in activities that help improve quality of life for children and create equal opportunities for all children to use available resources and develop their potential abilities.

Commitment and concrete action. The efficiency of measures for fighting poverty and social exclusion is ensured by the maturity of political obligations at all governmental levels and joined commitment of all interested participants to common objective, i.e., to eliminate child poverty and social exclusion. It is vital to raise awareness for fathers and mothers from families at social risk of their duties and responsibilities in respect of their child. It is also important to improve opportunities for men and women to harmonise their family and work-related obligations by increasing corporate social responsibility and promoting the development of the family friendly workplace. The awareness should be raised of the fact that poverty and social exclusion, particularly of children, are society weakening factors that also reduce quality of life and future prospects for society.

2.2. National objectives and targets of the European Year and their implementing measures

Taking into account common objectives of the Open Method of Coordination to eliminate poverty and social exclusion, objectives and main principles laid down in the Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (2010), and key priorities chosen in the National Report on the Lithuanian Social Security and Social Inclusion Strategies for 2008–2010, seeking to eliminate poverty and social exclusion, the following objectives and targets of the European Year are established:

2.2.1. Objective – to strengthen family status by eliminating child poverty and social exclusion.

In order to achieve this objective, the following targets have been set:

- 1) to seek positive developments in society so that the number of children deprived of parental care is reduced;
- 2) to seek that children deprived of parental care are raised in a family or a family-like environment;
- 3) to promote initiatives encouraging the pursue of positive family values including the encouragement of positive parenthood.

Seeking the above objective and targets, the measures provided for are being implemented at national, regional and local levels. Bodies responsible for the implementation of these measures are the following: the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, as the National Implementing Body and a non-governmental organisation who has won a tender. The measures are implemented with the funds allocated from the EU budget and the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the contributions from each of the party being equally shared by 50 per cent.

The objective and targets set out in the item 2.2.1. are carried out by implementing the following measures:

- 1) Organising an opening event. During it, the beginning of the European Year and set objectives and priorities are officially announced. It is the event of national level which will be attended by politicians of national, regional and local levels, representatives from various population groups prepared to fight child poverty and social exclusion, social partners and non-governmental organisations combating poverty and social exclusion. It is planned to organise the opening event, dedicated to mark the beginning of the European fight against poverty and social exclusion, in cooperation with one of the most popular TV channels.

- 2) Preparing TV and radio programmes and publishing articles in periodicals at local level. The measure is aimed at informing local communities on child poverty problems,

encouraging communities and municipalities to cooperate and implement initiatives that help solve these problems at local level.

3) Carrying out scientific research. The aim of the research is to find preventative measures that would help solve problems of child poverty and social exclusion and foster family values.

4) Increasing information campaign at national level. Events are organised in towns and villages by attracting interested participants of national level, including socially responsible enterprises, community action plans dedicated to reduce child poverty and social exclusion are presented, various supplementary material is dispersed which encourages both, men and women to cherish family values, strengthens mother's and father's role in family life and seeks to reduce the number of children deprived of parental care or living in families at social risk to minimum.

5) Creating websites dedicated to the European Year and constantly updating them. The websites comprise detailed information about the implementation of objectives and priorities for the European year at national and local level, and offers educational Internet game raising public awareness of poverty and social exclusion and promoting tolerance and community in society.

6) Organising various initiatives. An initiative "Give a Book to Children Living in Child Care Homes" will be organised. An initiative "Help the Weak" is organised to children of child care institutions. The aim of this initiative is to boost self-confidence of children living in child care institutions. Business organisations and municipalities are encouraged to employ children living in families at social risk and in child care institutions for summer work. The aim is to make the majority of the initiatives continuous and contributing to the reduction of social exclusion of children by encouraging their active integration into society.

7) Organising a closing event. The aim of the event is to evaluate the results of activities carried out during the European Year. Another aim is to increase incentives to continue commenced activities and active participation of all stakeholders.

2.2.2. Objective – to strengthen community role in reducing child poverty and social exclusion

In order to achieve this objective, the following targets have been set:

- 1) to encourage initiatives seeking to positively influence the integration of families at social risk into society;
- 2) to disseminate good practice of communities by ensuring the provision of complex services to children of pre-school and school age;
- 3) to stimulate the integration of children living in child care institutions into community.

The objective and targets set out in the item 2.2.2. are carried out by implementing the following measures:

- 1) Organising community forums. During forums the situation of child poverty and social exclusion in the region is presented, community action plans are drafted with the aim of reducing child poverty and social exclusion. Communities exchange good practice by providing children from families at social risk with complex services. Institutionalised children present interactive performances (forum theatre) to forum participants, which reveal problems of child poverty and social exclusion and seek possible solutions to them together with responsible community representatives, fathers and mothers;
- 2) Promoting activities in communities. Community tenders (e.g. action plan for reducing child poverty and social exclusion) and trade fairs are organised on the topic of child poverty and social exclusion seeking to attract community's attention to urgent problems.

2.3. Public information

Measures for information dissemination about objectives, key principles, targets and measures of European Year activities are chosen with regards to target groups, accessibility of information to the general public and the most vulnerable population groups, as well as the amount of funds allocated for the performance of this function.

The Ministry of Social Security and Labour will begin information dissemination about the European Year in 2009 as soon as the European Commission approves its status as the National Implementing Body. The Ministry will present this information on its website www.socmin.lt and on the website dedicated to strengthen social inclusion, i.e. www.socialmap.lt, in which separate sections of the website will be created to present news on the European Year. Information will also be placed on websites of project promoters who are implementing measures provided for in the National Programme for European Year; electronic network of women non-governmental organisations will also be used. Newsletter communication system will additionally be used for effective information dissemination.

Information dissemination on the European Year will be strengthened by the election of National Ambassadors of the European Year (hereinafter referred to as the Ambassadors), which will begin in 2009. Ambassadors will be elected from mayors of 60 municipalities. Main criteria for the selection of Ambassadors are the following: employed measures and achieved results of a municipality in the fight against child poverty and social exclusion. Candidates to Ambassadors should be able to prove with their work done in municipalities that they represent that they contributed to the creation of welfare for children, encouragement of integration of children who are at social risk or suffer from poverty into society, and cultural, public and community life. A wish to be the best and elected Ambassador would promote competition among the majority of country's mayors. Representatives of the non-governmental sector which is represented by the Network of Anti-Poverty Organisations, representatives of communities, Pupil's Parliament and other children organisations are invited to share their opinions on mayors who are fit to become Ambassadors. National and local media is also actively participating in the process of electing Ambassadors. Results of the election to Ambassadors are presented in opening conference of the European Year.

Information on European Year initiatives is presented to the public through reports of news agencies, reviews, discussions and reports prepared by broadcasters. In 2010 a competition for representatives of the media will be announced. The proposed topic of the competition is "We Are against Violence against Children". The competition would be organised in cooperation with the Lithuanian Journalist Union. The journalists are awarded for the best photography, publication in the press, TV video report, radio report that scrutinise issues closely related to objectives and priorities of the European Year. On 2 October – the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty – the competition will end and the results will be announced.

Leaflets, posters, material distributed during events as well as other means of information about European Year activities are marked with the logo of the European Year and aim at increasing information dissemination and ensuring the promotion of activities that are in part financed by EU funds intended for the implementation of the European Year.

At the end of 2009 a competition will be announced for the best video clips covering the topic of child poverty and social exclusion. The main aim of creators of video clips is to draw public attention to the problems of child poverty and social exclusion in Lithuania

and to provide some useful food for thought on how to help disadvantaged children. An authoritative evaluation commission, consisting of publicly well-known representatives of art, such as, designers, singers, painters, actors, and film creators would select the best video clips from all works presented for the competition. The video clips submitted for the competition would be shown on the website of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, www.socmin.lt. Population will be able to share their opinion too. Members of the commission will consider public opinion in evaluating video clips. Successful video clips will be shown during events held in 2010.

An initiative “Give a Book to Child Care Homes” will be organised. During this event residents, libraries, and book stores will be encouraged to give books to children living in child care homes. An initiative to give books for educational purposes will be promoted amongst the public while institutionalised children will be encouraged to learn and improve their knowledge. The initiative will help strengthen social solidarity in the public.

In the opening event held at national level and officially announcing the beginning of implementation of National Programme of European Year, a charity event will also be organised. Money raised during the event will be donated to disadvantaged children. An analogous event is planned to be held during the closing ceremony too, which will take place in December 2010. The organisation of opening and closing events should include cooperation with one of TV programmes experienced in organising social, support and charity events.

Public or private organisations that will carry out activities relating to reducing poverty and social exclusion as well as priorities provided for in the national programme in 2010, are invited to address the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, as the National Implementing Body, regarding the right to use the logo of European Year activities, even though their activities will not be financed with European Year funds.

Indicative timeline for activities of National Programme of European Year is provided in Annex 1, and a preliminary need of funds required for the implementation of measures is provided in Annex 2.

3. CONSULTATIONS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND INTERESTED PARTICIPANTS

3.1. National Implementing Body

The Ministry of Social Security and Labour, as a National Implementing Body (hereinafter referred to as the NIB), taking into consideration multidimensional nature of and accumulated experience in the process of reducing poverty and social exclusion, will seek the involvement of the widest possible number of interested participants in the preparation of and during the events marking the European Year. In order to achieve the above goal, the NIB intends to perform the following main functions:

- 1) in cooperation with the media and non-governmental organisations, to inform the public about initiatives and events of the European Year held in Lithuania and the EU;
- 2) to form a monitoring group for the European Year; representatives from various public authorities and non-governmental organisation and social partners will participate in the activities of this group. To organise meetings of the group and offer possibilities of active participation in the preparation and implementation of the European Year Programme;
- 3) to submit information on the results of European Year implementing activities to the media and the general public, by employing various means of information;

4) to provide consultations to legal and natural persons on the possibilities of active participation in the project.

The NIB structure is provided in Annex 3.

3.2. Process of consultations, its results and follow-up

During the preparation of the National Programme of European Year, meetings with representatives of non-governmental organisations were arranged. The meetings primarily focused on objectives and priorities pursued in the implementation of the Lithuanian National Programme of the European Year. It has been resolved that Lithuania, taking into account the most acute problems posed by poverty and social exclusion, chooses fight against child poverty as its priority area, including poverty and poverty in a family inherited from generation to generation, in single-parent families or large families in particular, with an additional focus placed on the solution of problems of social exclusion encountered by institutionalised children.

It has been established that fighting child poverty should be strengthened not only at national but also at local level, by encouraging communities to draft multidimensional integrated strategies or action plans (hereinafter referred to as action plans). The best results are achieved when action plans at local level are drafted in cooperation with all interested participants. In the European Year, meetings are organised on a permanent basis during which consultation process is strengthened providing possibilities of exchanging information among different representatives of communities, among representatives of communities and municipalities or representatives of national level. Cooperation and consultations among representatives of different levels should acquire legal nature and become priority measure in solving poverty and social exclusion problems.

4. CALL FOR PROPOSALS AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

The NIB is responsible for the allocation of the European Year Programme grants to projects. It has delegated a part of the functions relating to the evaluation of applications to the Support Foundation European Social Fund Agency (hereinafter referred to as the ESFA).

The NIB sets project selection criteria, conditions and rules for funding. Pursuant to them applicants shall submit project applications, and the ESFA shall evaluate these applications. The ESFA can use services of independent experts when required.

During the implementation of the European Year Programme, 2 calls for project proposals will be announced. During the first call applications are submitted with regards to the implementation of the national project, which will be carried out by the project applicant-promoter designated by the NIB. During the second call for proposals, Lithuanian non-governmental organisations that meet the conditions and criteria set in the description of conditions can submit applications.

The evaluation of applications is carried out in 2 or 3 stages, during which the ESFA evaluates how applications meet the conditions of, criteria and priorities for funding.

The following criteria for application evaluation are provided for:

- 1) The project is in line with priority objectives and targets set in the European Year Programme;
- 2) The project corresponds to national strategic documents;
- 3) The project is targeted at least at two objectives of the European Year Programme;

4) Implementing measures for at least 3 targets, established in the European Year Programme are implemented during the project;

5) In organisational respect the applicant is capable of implementing the project in appropriate manner and due time.

The evaluation process is carried out in the following stages:

1) During the evaluation of administrative compliance, it is verified whether the application is filled in, complete, and all indicated documents and annexes to the application are submitted. Having established that the application meets all requirements of administrative compliance, it is submitted for the evaluation of the next stage.

2) During the evaluation of eligibility for funding, it is established whether the applicant and the project meet set criteria and requirements, whether the amount of eligible costs was authorised for the project, as well as the maximum authorised amount of funding.

3) The evaluation of usefulness and quality is organised when the total value of applications of the stage of evaluation of eligibility for funding exceeds the budget of the call. During this evaluation, it is determined which eligible for funding projects most closely meet project selection criteria indicated in the description of conditions of funding. At this stage of the evaluation projects are given scores. Projects that are given highest scores receive funding.

Having evaluated all received applications, the ESFA submits an evaluation report to the NIB for evaluation and approval. The supervisory committee on the European Year Programme implementation evaluates the report and submits recommendations for the financing of projects. A decision regarding the financing of projects is approved by the order of the Minister of Social Security and Labour.

Having adopted the decision regarding the allocation of a grant, a tripartite agreement on the financing and administration of a project is signed between the NIB, the ESFA and the project developer.

Information on grants awarded to projects is available on websites www.esf.lt and <http://esf.socmin.lt>. A scheme for receipt and evaluation of applications may be found in Annex 4.

Pursuant to provisions of Strategic Framework Document of European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (2010), calls for proposals are organised in the following procedure in 2009:

2009	Processes relating to the selection of projects
July	Preparation of descriptions of conditions of financing projects and submission to the Commission
August	Calls for proposals
September	Submission of applications
October	Evaluation and selection of applications, adoption of decisions regarding the financing of projects

5. MECHANISMS OF MONITORING AND EVALUATING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN YEAR FOR COMBATING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION 2010

In order to ensure coherent and high-quality activities in all spheres of the European Year, the implementation of the National Programme of European Year is undergoing constant monitoring and evaluation. The NIB plays a main role in the monitoring and evaluation process.

Lithuania, as a participant in the process of reducing poverty and social exclusion coordinated at EU level, has formed a monitoring group which has been monitoring processes of reducing poverty and social exclusion for several years and gained experience in the sphere. In the preparation for marking the European Year, the monitoring group has been updated and its functions expanded, including the monitoring of processes of drafting National Programme of the European Year and the implementation of its measures, as well as encouraging initiatives seeking that envisaged measures are effectively and in due time implemented.

The ESFA participates in the process of monitoring programme implementation. Final beneficiary together with applications for payment submit reports on project implementation to the ESFA, describing process of implementation of project activities and achieved results. Documents supporting activities are also submitted. Having verified the report on project implementation and application for payments, an application to appropriation manager regarding the transfer of funds to the project promoter is submitted to the NIB.

At least once during the duration of the project, the ESFA carries on-the-spot verifications of the implementation of projects, thereby seeking to ensure that the project is implemented without any infringements to conditions laid down in the agreement on the financing and administration of the project, as well as to monitoring rules of project implementation of the European Year. These rules also comprise reference (typical) forms for documents, such as: application for payment, checking and approval sheet, application to the appropriation manager, project report, form for control lists, etc.

The ESFA, carrying out administration of projects designed for the implementation of the European Year, prepares summarised information on the process of implementation of projects and achieved results and submits it to the NIB on a quarterly basis.

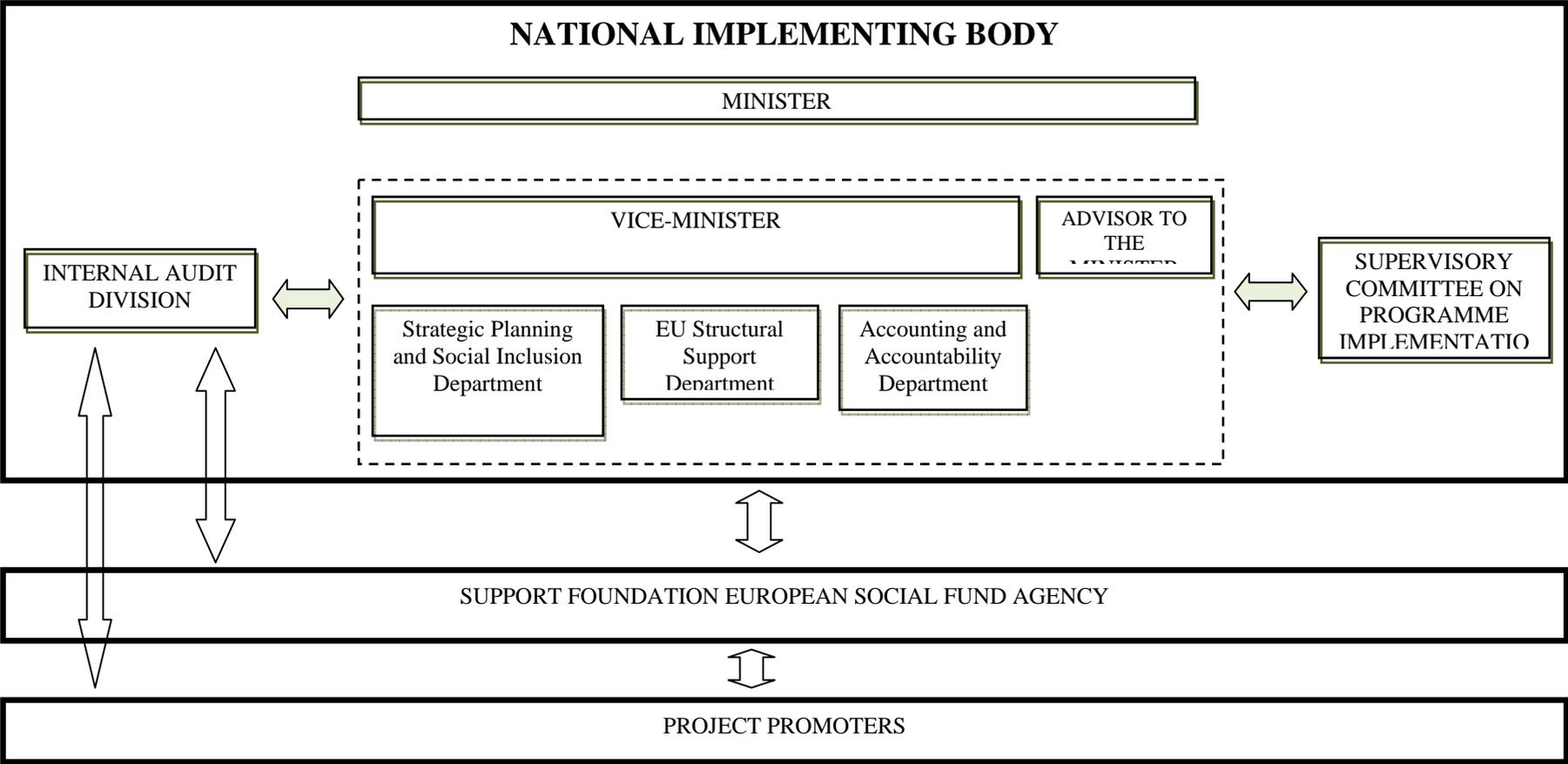
In order to strengthen monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of this programme, the NIB sets up a supervisory committee on the programme implementation, which establishes selection criteria for projects, submits recommendations on the financing of projects and monitors the quality of project implementation as well as the implementation of the programme.

After the deadline for the programme implementation passes, an evaluation of the whole programme implementation is carried out by independent experts. Evaluation report together with the final report on the European Year implementation is submitted to the European Commission.

National Programme of the European Year
for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010
Annex 2

PRELIMINARY NEED OF FUNDS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN YEAR FOR COMBATING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION 2010

Programme targets	Name of the measure	Group of measures	Responsible promoters	Measure implementation level	Expected results	Preliminary need of funds LTL, thousand
1. Objective – to strengthen family status by reducing child poverty and social exclusion						
1.1. To achieve positive developments in society so that the number of children deprived of parental care is reduced	1.1.1. opening and closing events are organised	meetings and events	NIB	national	Politicians' and public attention is drawn to child poverty and social exclusion	150
	1.1.2. Educational Internet game raising public awareness on poverty and social exclusion	information, promotion and educational campaign	NGO	national, regional, local	Information dissemination about poverty and social exclusion	50
1.2. To seek that children deprived of parental care live in family environment	1.2.1. Preparation of TV and radio programmes and articles in periodicals at national and local levels	information, promotion and educational campaign	NIB NGO	national, regional, local	Strengthening of family status as a value. Dropping number of children deprived of parental care	600
1.3. To promote initiatives stimulating positive family values	1.3.1. Scientific research	opinion surveys and polls	NIB	national, regional, local	Conclusions and proposals regarding preventative measures targeted at solving problems of children deprived of parental care	70
	1.3.2. Creation of a website and its constant updating	information, promotion and educational campaign	NIB NGO	national	Dissemination of good practice on measures reducing child poverty and social exclusion	30
2. Objective – to strengthen community's role in the reducing child poverty and social exclusion						
2.1. To promote initiatives that positively influence integration of families at social risk into communities	2.1.1. Organisation of community forums	meetings and events	NGO	regional, local	Raising of the issue of families at social risk, mobilisation of communities to solve this problem	70
	2.1.2. Drafting of action plans for communities intended to reduce child poverty	meetings and events	NGO	regional, local	To prepare community action plans to reduce child poverty and social exclusion	60
2.2. To disseminate good practice of communities by ensuring the provision of complex services to pre-school and school aged children	2.2.1. Active information campaign at local level	information, promotion and educational campaign	NGO	regional, local	Services are improved for children of pre-school and school age from families at social risk	80
2.3. To strengthen integration of institutionalised children into community	2.3.1. Organisation of various initiatives	information, promotion and educational campaign	NGO NIB	national, regional, local	Communities are increasingly encouraged to search for adequate solutions for the integration of institutionalised children into community.	90



Scheme for receipt and evaluation of applications

