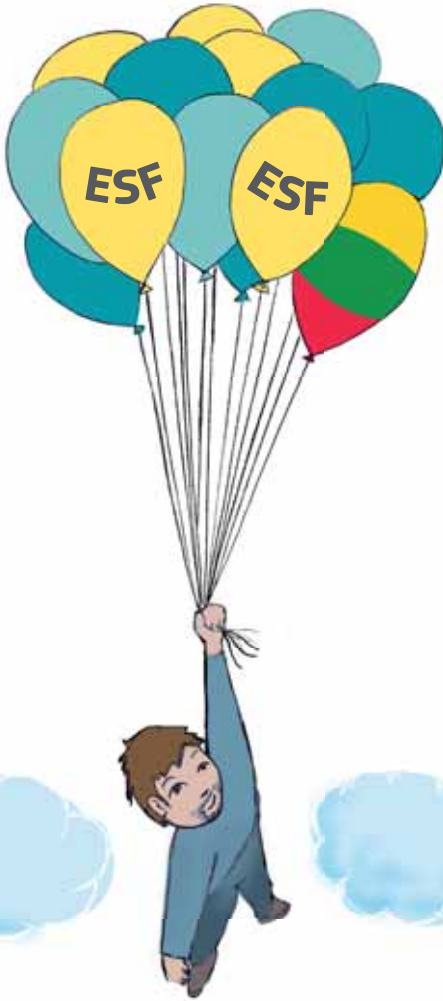




European  
Commission



# LITHUANIA

## AND THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

Lithuania is focusing on ensuring high-quality jobs and social inclusion, promoting lifelong learning, increasing the opportunities for its technical graduates and boosting the efficiency of public administration. Through these activities, ESF funding is helping citizens take an active and equal part in the country's economic future, with particular attention to those most affected by the recent rise in unemployment.

*Social  
Europe*

LITHUANIA

# INVESTING IN PEOPLE AND JOBS: THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LITHUANIA

To support its ongoing economic recovery, Lithuania is taking a range of measures aimed at improving education and training, creating new jobs and supporting innovation and enterprise. The purpose of many of these measures is to improve workers' productivity by giving them the new skills that offer better job prospects. Particular attention is being paid to those most affected by unemployment – the young, women with families, older workers and the long-term unemployed. A key aim here is to get people back to work and help them avoid falling into the trap of long-term unemployment. Lithuania is also looking to develop the high end of the jobs market, investing more money in research and development, including science and technology, and attracting more young graduates to this area of activity. The aim is to reverse the brain drain that resulted from the economic crisis and help more Lithuanians find highly skilled jobs and careers.

The crisis has led to more people living in poverty, so a key objective – with ESF support – is to alleviate poverty levels by targeting

those most at risk, such as the long-term unemployed, single parents, older women, etc. To do this, Lithuania is putting practical measures in place to remove obstacles to work, and helping those at risk to get back into a job and to be able to support themselves and their families. This includes encouraging more flexible working arrangements.

## ESF spending in Lithuania

For the period 2007-2013, Lithuania is receiving over EUR 1 billion of ESF funds. Co-funding from the Lithuanian government brings the total amount being spent on jobs to over EUR 1.2 billion. This is shared between several priority areas that include high-quality employment and social inclusion; boosting lifelong learning; increasing the competence of researchers and scientists; and more effective and efficient public administration.

*“Targeting 72.8% in work by 2020”*



# LITHUANIA'S ESF PRIORITIES

## Back to work with better skills

ESF activities are helping to ensure that the job losses which resulted from the economic crisis do not lead to more long-term unemployment. So ESF funding is supporting measures to improve skills, particularly for the more vulnerable groups, and make sure that education and training is adapted to offer better job prospects. This includes attention to areas such as computer literacy, foreign languages and general workplace skills. Over 200 000 people have already participated in training initiatives funded by the ESF, with many participants drawn from the unemployed, women, young people and older workers. Lithuania is also investing more in research and is training more science professionals, thereby creating better conditions for young graduates and promoting greater flexibility and mobility – with the aim of keeping them in the country.

In addition, the programme is supporting entrepreneurship. The 'Entrepreneurship Promotion Fund' was launched in 2010 with EUR 14.5 million of ESF funding. This fund combines training and loans and aims to help young people, job-seekers and older workers to become self-employed or to create their own businesses. So far, more than 3000 have been trained and over 150 loans provided. And to encourage job creation, further subsidies are given if these businesses are able to create a job for an unemployed person.

## Combating poverty together

By helping more people to find work, and adapting their skills to improve their chances, the measures in place are increasing people's job prospects and are contributing to reducing poverty and exclusion. In addition, there is support for employers to create new jobs, while public administration reforms are improving efficiency and the provision of public services to businesses and citizens.

*“Adapting education and training to needs”*

ESF projects are also improving the quality of vocational training and making sure it is available to those who need it most. For example, a training voucher scheme which allows job-seekers to choose the type of training that suits their own needs and aspirations was introduced at the beginning of 2012. And people in work are also benefiting through skill-enhancing measures such as the 'Development of Human Resources in Enterprises' and the 'Development of Human Resources INVEST+' programmes.

# THE ESF IN LITHUANIA: SOME EXAMPLES

## The Lithuanian e-Citizen

Knowing how to use a computer and get around the internet is quickly becoming a necessity, not just in the workplace, but also in order to access a growing number of services, including public e-Government services. The ESF project 'Computer Literacy Basics for a Lithuanian e-Citizen' has helped more people get online – particularly the older generation and those living in rural areas. The project attracted over 50 000 people, including 400 disabled citizens, who all took part in the courses on offer to improve their internet skills.

## Active employment for the young

Youth unemployment is particularly high in Lithuania, so the 'Be active in the labour market' ESF project set out to help young people under the age of 29 find a job. Its aim is to provide young people with the practical skills needed to enter the labour market; therefore it includes subsidised hiring and support of initial working experience. It is subsidised employment and it works – by the end of the project (January 2012), more than 6 000 young people had taken part and 83% were still employed after six months. As the project was so successful, the Lithuanian authorities are considering relaunching a similar one.



### Do you want to...?

- ...learn more about the ESF in Lithuania?
- ...understand better how the ESF works?
- ...see video clips on projects from across the EU?

Then visit the ESF website:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/esf/lithuania>

**TRAINING**  
**NEW JOBS**  
**INNOVATION**  
**SKILLS**