

THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND



Support to Education and Training: 2014-2018

LITHUANIA

SUMMARY

ESF Thematic Objective 10 funding is used to support education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning. Over 548 million euro has been allocated to such operations in Lithuania, with 212 566 participations having taken place by the end of 2018. This factsheet summarises the main actions, outputs, results and lessons learned so far in the use of this funding in Lithuania.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

Early school leaving (ESL) rate (%)



► Lithuania has maintained a **very low early school leaving (ESL) rate**, achieving the EU target rate of 10% or lower. Men, however, drop out of education twice as often as women, while 18-24 year olds in rural areas are also more likely to drop out of education than in other regions.

► **Student outcomes** in reading, mathematics and science are below the OECD and EU average.

Tertiary educational attainment rate (%)
(30-34 year olds)



► The **tertiary educational attainment rate** is very high overall (57.6% in 2018 compared to the EU average of 40.7%), with women having a higher attainment rate than men (68.2% compared to 47.5% in 2018). However, there is a mismatch between the quality of higher education provision and the needs of the labour market.

► The qualification level of the labour force is affected by the limited **participation of the adult population in education and training**, and the poor quality and content of available programmes. However, the participation rate has slightly increased in recent years (5.1 in 2014 compared to 6.6 % in 2018), although it remains well below the EU average.

Participation rate in education and training by adults
aged 25-64 (%) (last 4 weeks)



EXPLANATORY NOTES

ESF European Social Fund

TO10 Thematic Objective 10

OP Operational Programme

IP Investment Priority

* Figures present the situation for ESF operations under Thematic Objective 10 and its four Investment Priorities (IPs) for the programming period 2014-2020 implemented up to the end of 2018, as reported on 1 October 2019. In many instances, operations are not yet complete at this stage, or have only recently started.

* As one person could participate more than once in ESF operations over time, the number of participations is reported. These figures exclude Technical Assistance.

* Where the breakdown of participants according to employment status, age, and level of education does not add up to 100%, it means that it was not possible to include characteristics of a number of participants in some OPs.

Support to Education and Training: 2014-2018

ESF PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS IN LITHUANIA

- ▶ There is **one multi-fund Operational Programme (OP)** in Lithuania, which includes ESF.
- ▶ The OP has the following priorities relevant to Thematic Objective 10 (TO10):
 - ▶ Improve the **quality, efficiency, public access and labour market relevance** of tertiary education, vocational and adult training.
 - ▶ Develop **monitoring and evaluation systems** in education, and to improve teachers' qualifications.
 - ▶ Promote **social and financial incentives** to the students from underrepresented social groups to take part in higher education.

43% of total ESF funding¹...

€548 957 555

...is allocated to the following TO10 investment priorities: **early school leaving (22%), access to quality tertiary and equivalent education (42%), and enhancing access to lifelong learning (37%).²**

Allocation of ESF TO10 funds



STATE OF PLAY

62% of planned resources under TO10 had been allocated in 2018, with 17% spent.

Number of overall participations in TO10 programmes by the end of 2018:

212 566

- ▶ **160 297** participations in operations to reduce and prevent early school leaving
- ▶ **19 372** participations in operations to improve the access to, and quality of, tertiary and equivalent education
- ▶ **32 897** participations in operations to enhance access to lifelong learning

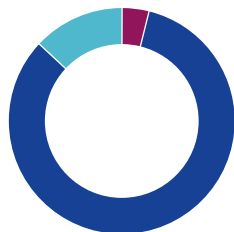
¹ This includes EU-only funding and co-financing from the Member State.

² The total does not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Support to Education and Training: 2014-2018

PARTICIPANT PROFILES WHEN RECEIVING SUPPORT

Employment status



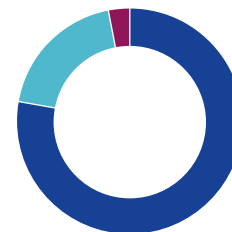
0.5% (1 225) Unemployed
77.5% (164 786) Inactive³
22% (46 555) Employed

Sex

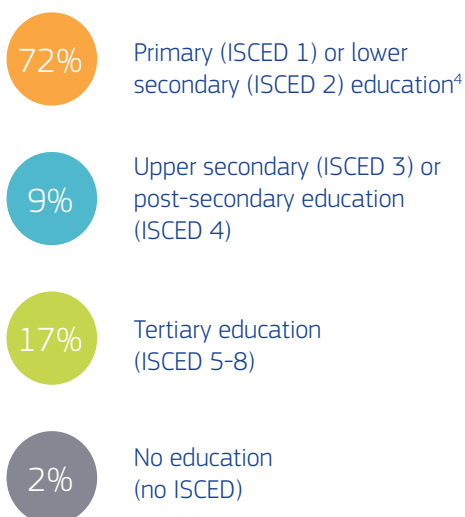
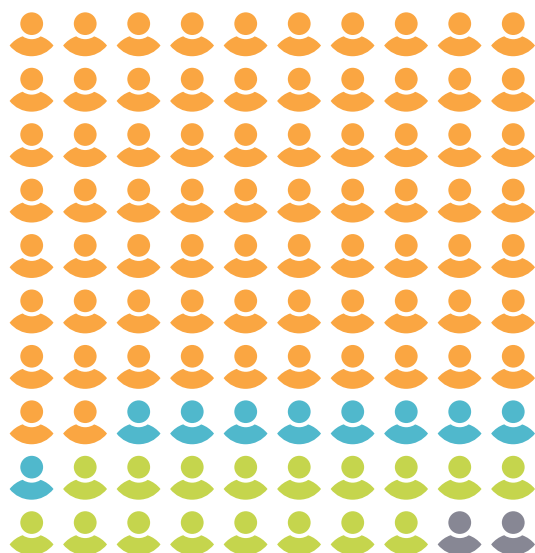


51% Women
49% Men

Age



78% (166 523) <25 years
19% (39 974) 25-54 years
3% (6 069) >54 years



348
Migrants

140
Other disadvantaged

1 531
Participants with disabilities

23
Homeless

Key achievements to date of ESF T010 operations in Lithuania include⁵:

- ▶ **15 888** successful results have been achieved to date following participation in an activity funded by ESF T010, of which:
 - ▶ **60** inactive participants went on to engage in job searching
 - ▶ **183** participants went into education or training
 - ▶ **15 567** participants gained a qualification
 - ▶ **78** participants moved into employment upon leaving
- ▶ National 2023 targets have been achieved and exceeded for numbers of people completing doctoral studies and gaining nationally recognised qualifications, as a result of participating in ESF activities.
- ▶ By the end of 2018, the number of people who had successfully completed training and were applying the obtained knowledge at work 6-12 months after taking part in ESF activities was 93% of the target.

³ The inactive population can include pre-school children, school children, students, pensioners and housewives or -men, for example, provided that they are not working and not available or looking for work.

⁴ ISCED is the UN reference classification for organising education programmes and related qualifications by education levels and fields.

⁵ Participants' data are collected when starting an operation. Data on results are collected at the end of an operation or even later. Because of this time lag the two sets of data (participations and results) should not be directly compared.

LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR

► Access to education and training

Operations funded by ESF TO10 support people in a wide range of fields of education and training in Lithuania who would not otherwise receive national funding, e.g. facilitating access for all to pre-primary education and funding internships for post-doctoral researchers.

► Support for non-formal education

In Lithuania, ESF funding has supported the introduction of a national level voucher scheme which has led to a large increase in the number of children participating in non-formal education. The project also illustrates the benefits of a large-scale strategic project led by national authorities.

► Tackling bullying

ESF funding in Lithuania has contributed significantly to tackling the problem of bullying in schools. In 2018, 1 666 schools used ESF funds to introduce anti-bullying and other preventive programmes, in addition to 689 schools in 2017.

► Coherence with other EU funds

The multi-fund OP contributes to good coherence with other EU funds in the field of education and training. For example, pre-primary education receives investments from ERDF for infrastructure improvements and ESF for improving the quality of education and facilitating the inclusion of target groups.

► Implementation challenges

The wide-ranging and ongoing educational reforms in education - restructuring of teacher training, optimising the network of Lithuanian universities, changes to vocational training legislation and subsequent restructuring of the vocational training system - contributed to a slow start in terms of allocation and expenditure of TO10 funds.

► Less addressed target groups

TO10 operations in Lithuania have been less successful in addressing particular target groups, including people living in rural areas, those with special educational needs, people speaking another language, as well as employees with low and intermediate skills levels or working in small or micro enterprises.

PROJECT EXAMPLES

► Scientist and researcher networks

The operation aims to develop students' ability to carry out R&D activities in scientific networks inside and outside Lithuania, and to promote postdoctoral fellowships.

► Lyderių laikas 3 (Time for Leaders 3)

This operation aims to consolidate a leadership-friendly policy environment in the Lithuanian education system by providing training for educational staff, as well as staff in government and municipal administrations.

► Increasing access to tertiary education

The aim of the operation is to improve access to tertiary education for students with disabilities or special needs. Students receive a monthly allowance from the State Studies Foundation which they use to enable them to access tertiary education. 4 200 students are expected to benefit from the programme in the period 2015-2021.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

2014-2020 m. Europos Sąjungos fondų investicijų veiksmų programos tarpinis vertinimas (Mid-term Evaluation of the Operational Programme for the EU Funds' Investments in 2014-2020) (2019). Veiksmų programos pažangos vertinimo galutinė ataskaita. 15/03/2019. <http://www.visionary.lt/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2014-2020-m-vp-pazangos-vertinimo-ataskaita.pdf>

European Commission, Study supporting the evaluation of ESF support to education and training (Thematic Objective 10)

The ESF in Lithuania: <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=387&langId=en>

Website of the ESF in Lithuania: <http://old.esf.lt/en/>

