

Contribution to the Focus chapter of the Fundamental Rights Report 2022: Social rights and equality in light of the recovery from the COVID- 19 pandemic.

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Contents

1	Measures implemented to foster social rights and equal treatment in the recovery from the pandemic	3
2	Tools or mechanisms to monitor the effectiveness of national schemes to foster social rights and equal treatment in the recovery from the pandemic.....	11

1 Measures implemented to foster social rights and equal treatment in the recovery from the pandemic

Table 1.a: Measures implemented to foster social rights and equal treatment in the recovery from the pandemic

<p>Name of the measure in English</p>	<p>Component: Quality and accessible education for the entire life-cycle Reform: Modern general education as a basis for acquiring basic competences</p>
<p>Name of the measure in the national language(s)</p>	<p>Komponentas: Kokybiškas ir prieinamas švietimas visą gyvenimą kiekvienam gyventojui Reforma: Šiuolaikiškas bendrasis ugdymas – pagrindas įgyti bazines kompetencijas</p>
<p>Reference document for the measure <i>Include an url, where available</i></p>	<p>Council of the European Union (2021), Council Implementing Decision 2021/0196 (NLE) of 20 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Lithuania, Recovery and resilience plan for Lithuania (Ekonomikos gaivinimo ir atsparumo didinimo planas „Naujos kartos Lietuva“), official website of European Commission</p>
<p>Social rights covered by the measure <i>Delete as appropriate</i> <i>Multiple answers possible, but preference should be given to measures that apply to one discrete right</i></p>	<p>Right to education (Article 14)</p>
<p>Population group(s) covered by the measure <i>Delete as appropriate</i> <i>Multiple answers possible, but preference should be given to</i></p>	<p>The measure takes into account intersectionalities between different population groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children and youth; - Individuals from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds: children from families of lower socio-economic status, especially from rural areas in Lithuania.

measures that apply to discrete population groups	
Summary description of how the measure applies to the population group(s)	<p>The component 'Quality and accessible education for the entire life-cycle' is aiming consolidating the school network and improving a quality of education through improving preschool, primary and secondary education, vocational education and training and adult learning. Reform 'Modern general education as a basis for acquiring basic competences' includes the reorganisation of school network through the 'Millennium schools' project. This project is dedicated to improve school infrastructure and staffs' qualification. Such measures could help Lithuania tackle urban-rural gaps in access to quality education and in student outcomes by also better addressing pupils' learning needs. According to European Commission¹, this is expected to improve equity in education in the long-term mitigating the impact of socio-economic background on education and contributing to social cohesion.</p> <p>According to European Commission², participation rates of children in pre-school education remains below the EU average in Lithuania. Participation rates are lower in rural areas due to a lower demand and supply, as well as limited transportation services for children living at a distance from their pre-school premises. A shortage of public kindergartens makes it more difficult for children from a low socio-economic background to participate in pre-school education. Reform 'Modern general education as a basis for acquiring basic competences' includes the improvement of quality of pre-school services, access to pre-school education. According to the new legislation the access to pre-school services has to be guaranteed for all children from the age of 2 from 1 September 2025.</p>
Summary description of how the measure will impact (positively or negatively) social rights and equal treatment in the recovery	<p>This reform is expected to contribute to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights through a positive impact on improving educational performance in a long-term period. Measures aiming at ensuring access to quality of education across schools and regions contribute to creating the better prospects for all children including those living in rural areas.</p>

¹ European Commission (2021), COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT, [Analysis of the recovery and resilience plan of Lithuania](#), SWD(2021), 187 final Brussels, 2 July 2021.

² European Commission (2021), COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT, [Analysis of the recovery and resilience plan of Lithuania](#), SWD(2021), 187 final Brussels, 2 July 2021.

	According to European Commission ³ , reforms and investments are notably directed to improve the quality and efficiency of early childhood education, and general education.
Summary description of the extent to which the measure foresees the provision of enabling social services	This measure foresees integrated public service provision. It includes an increased access to pre-school education services. Access to pre-school services has to be guaranteed for all children from the age of 2 from 1 September 2025.
Entity or organisation responsible to implement the measure	The Ministry of Finance will be the managing authority which will coordinate the implementation of the Lithuania's recovery and resilience plan as a whole. In addition, following entities were mentioned as a responsible for implementation of this measure: The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania; Municipalities (local governments) of the Republic of Lithuania.
Duration of the measure	2021-2026
Budget allocated to implement the measure	Component: Quality and accessible education for the entire life-cycle - EUR 311.5 million or 14% of the total budget of the Lithuania's recovery and resilience plan. Reform: Modern general education as a basis for acquiring basic competences - EUR 246.32 million or 11% of the total budget of the Lithuania's recovery and resilience plan.
Summary description of how any foreseen impact assessment of the measure will be carried out	The impact assessment of the reform will be carried out mainly through monitoring PISA results and the average number of pupils per teacher in 2025 and 2030.

Table 1.b: Measures implemented to foster social rights and equal treatment in the recovery from the pandemic

Name of the measure in English	Component: A resilient and future-proof health system
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³ European Commission (2021), COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT, [Analysis of the recovery and resilience plan of Lithuania](#), SWD(2021), 187 final Brussels, 2 July 2021.

	Reform: Reform of the provision of long-term care services
Name of the measure in the national language(s)	Komponentas: Atspari grėsmėms ir pasirengusi iššūkiams sveikatos priežiūros sistema Reforma: Ilgalaikės priežiūros paslaugų teikimo reforma
Reference document for the measure <i>Include an url, where available</i>	Council of the European Union (2021), Council Implementing Decision 2021/0196 (NLE) of 20 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Lithuania, Recovery and resilience plan for Lithuania (Ekonomikos gaivinimo ir atsparumo didinimo planas „Naujos kartos Lietuva“), official website of European Commission, seen on 11 November 2021.
Social rights covered by the measure <i>Delete as appropriate</i> <i>Multiple answers possible, but preference should be given to measures that apply to one discrete right</i>	Right of access to preventive health care and to benefit from medical treatment (Article 35)
Population group(s) covered by the measure <i>Delete as appropriate</i> <i>Multiple answers possible, but preference should be given to measures that apply to discrete population groups</i>	The measure takes into account intersectionalities between different population groups. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Older people; - People in need of care (homecare or in residential settings); - Persons with disabilities.

Summary description of how the measure applies to the population group(s)	<p>Measures on long-term care focus on setting up of ten day-care centres across the country, providing equipment, vehicles and creating ninety mobile teams to contribute to developing outpatient services.</p> <p>Health outcomes in Lithuania persistently lag behind those in other EU countries. According to European Commission⁴, this is due to the suboptimal efficiency and quality of the healthcare system, which results in poor access to suitable healthcare services.</p>
Summary description of how the measure will impact (positively or negatively) social rights and equal treatment in the recovery	<p>Measures can serve to foster the social rights of and equal treatment for older people, people in need of care, persons with disabilities. Long-term care will become more available all over the country after the reform. Ninety mobile long-term care teams to contribute to developing outpatient services will be established in each out of 60 municipalities across Lithuania.</p>
Summary description of the extent to which the measure foresees the provision of enabling social services	<p>This measure foresees integrated public service provision. It includes increased access to long-term care services such as 10 newly established day-care centres and long-term care outpatient services. This measure will enable access to such services all over the country, especially in rural areas.</p>
Entity or organisation responsible to implement the measure	<p>The Ministry of Finance will be the managing authority which will coordinate the implementation of the Plan. In addition, following entity was mentioned as a responsible for implementation of this measure: The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania.</p>
Duration of the measure	<p>2021-2026</p>
Budget allocated to implement the measure	<p>Component: A resilient and future-proof health system - EUR 268 million or 12% of the total budget of the Lithuania's recovery and resilience plan. Reform: Reform of the provision of long-term care services - EUR 11 million or 0.5% of the total budget of the Lithuania's recovery and resilience plan.</p>

⁴ European Commission (2021), COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT, [Analysis of the recovery and resilience plan of Lithuania](#), SWD(2021), 187 final Brussels, 2 July 2021.

Summary description of how any foreseen impact assessment of the measure will be carried out	The impact assessment of the reform will be carried out mainly through monitoring the share of long-term care patients receiving outpatient long-term care services in 2025 (30%) and 2026 (60%).
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Table 1.c: Measures implemented to foster social rights and equal treatment in the recovery from the pandemic

Name of the measure in English	Component: More opportunities for everyone to actively create prosperity Reform: Guaranteed minimum income protection
Name of the measure in the national language(s)	Komponentas: Daugiau galimybių kiekvienam aktyviai kurti šalies gerovę Reforma: Garantuota minimalių pajamų apsauga
Reference document for the measure <i>Include an url, where available</i>	Council of the European Union (2021), Council Implementing Decision 2021/0196 (NLE) of 20 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Lithuania, Recovery and resilience plan for Lithuania (Ekonomikos gaivinimo ir atsparumo didinimo planas „Naujos kartos Lietuva“), official website of European Commission, seen on 11 November 2021.
Social rights covered by the measure <i>Delete as appropriate</i> <i>Multiple answers possible, but preference should be given to measures that apply to one discrete right</i>	The right to social security and social assistance (Article 34)

<p>Population group(s) covered by the measure</p> <p><i>Delete as appropriate</i></p> <p><i>Multiple answers possible, but preference should be given to measures that apply to discrete population groups</i></p>	<p>The measure takes into account needs of different population groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - individuals from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds (e.g., recipients of minimum income benefits); - people in precarious working conditions (e.g., part-time and temporary workers).
<p>Summary description of how the measure applies to the population group(s)</p>	<p>This measure will include increasing coverage of the unemployment insurance scheme, introducing additional benefits to single elderly and disabled people, improving the pension indexation mechanism. Changes will be implemented following a comprehensive analysis (which will be finished at the end of 2022) of the minimum income scheme and will include changes to the key legal acts, i.e. the Law on cash social assistance, the Law on the determination of reference indicators of social security benefits and the basic amount of penalties as well as Law on social insurance for sickness and maternity.</p> <p>According to European Commission⁵, this measure is an effort to reduce social inequalities, to assess and reform minimum income scheme. However, the positive impact of such measure will depend on the concrete solutions proposed and their effective implementation.</p>
<p>Summary description of how the measure will impact (positively or negatively) social rights and equal treatment in the recovery</p>	<p>Measures can serve to foster the social rights of and equal treatment for individuals from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds and people in precarious working conditions (such as unemployed persons, especially women who usually receive very low unemployment benefits, 65+ persons, persons with disabilities). The access to social and financial support will become more equal. This measure will be implemented mainly through changes of legislation. Additional benefits to single elderly people were introduced from November 2021⁶. Coverage of the unemployment insurance scheme will be increased from the first quarter of 2023. Law</p>

⁵ European Commission (2021), COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT, [Analysis of the recovery and resilience plan of Lithuania](#), SWD(2021), 187 final Brussels, 2 July 2021.

⁶ Lithuania, The State Social Insurance Fund Board under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, 2021. Single Person's Benefit: When Shall I Apply to SODRA and What to Do? ("[Vienišo asmens išmoka: kada kreiptis į „Sodra" ir kaip tai padaryti](#)"), official website, seen on 7 January 2022.

	on social insurance for sickness and maternity will be improved from the first quarter of 2024. The pension indexation mechanism will be improved from the second quarter of 2024.
Summary description of the extent to which the measure foresees the provision of enabling social services	This component foresees integrated public service provision. It includes increased access to social security benefits. More individuals from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds and precarious working conditions will be able to receive social security benefits. The mechanisms of distributing social benefits will be more equitable.
Entity or organisation responsible to implement the measure	The Ministry of Finance will be the managing authority which will coordinate the implementation of the Plan. In addition, following entity was mentioned as a responsible for implementation of this measure: The Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania.
Duration of the measure	2021-2026
Budget allocated to implement the measure	Component: More opportunities for everyone to actively create prosperity - EUR 109 million or 5% of the total budget of the Lithuania's recovery and resilience plan. Reform: Guaranteed minimum income protection - EUR 0.4 million or 0.02% of the total budget of the Lithuania's recovery and resilience plan.
Summary description of how any foreseen impact assessment of the measure will be carried out	We were not able to find how the impact of the 'Reform: Guaranteed minimum income protection' will be carried out in the Plan.

2 Tools or mechanisms to monitor the effectiveness of national schemes to foster social rights and equal treatment in the recovery from the pandemic

Table 2: Tool or mechanism to monitor the effectiveness of national schemes to foster social rights and equal treatment in the recovery from the pandemic

<p>Name of the monitoring tool or mechanism in English</p>	<p>The Plan does not provide any specific tools or mechanisms to monitor the effectiveness of national schemes to foster social rights and equal treatment in the recovery from the pandemic.</p>
<p>Name of the monitoring tool or mechanism in the national language(s)</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>Reference document for the monitoring tool or mechanism <i>Include an url, where available</i></p>	<p>Council of the European Union (2021), Council Implementing Decision 2021/0196 (NLE) of 20 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Lithuania, Recovery and resilience plan for Lithuania (Ekonomikos gaivinimo ir atsparumo didinimo planas „Naujos kartos Lietuva“), official website of European Commission.</p>
<p>Organisation(s) involved in the monitoring tool or mechanism <i>Delete as appropriate</i> <i>Multiple answers possible</i></p>	<p>The Ministry of Finance and the Central Project Management Agency shall be tasked with the monitoring of the plan, whereas line ministries shall be responsible for its implementation. The Plan does not identify any specific tools or mechanisms to monitor the effectiveness of national schemes to foster social rights and equal treatment in the recovery from the pandemic. However, according to the Plan, gender equality and equal treatment in general will be monitored by already existing mechanisms by the following bodies and entities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equality body: Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson (Lygių galimybių kontrolieriaus tarnyba) - National human rights institution: The Seimas Ombudsmen's Office of the Republic of Lithuania (Lietuvos Respublikos Seimo kontrolieriu istaiga) - Organisation(s) of persons with disabilities: Commission for the Monitoring of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under the Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson

	<p>(Žmonių su negalia teisių stebėsenos komisija prie Lygių galimybių kontrolieriaus tarnybos)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Office of the Ombudsperson of Child's Rights (Lietuvos Respublikos vaiko teisių apsaugos kontrolieriaus įstaiga)
Summary description of how these organisation(s) are involved in the monitoring tool or mechanism	No specific information was provided on how these organisation(s) are involved in the monitoring tool or mechanism in the Plan.
Summary description of the functioning of the tool or mechanism used to monitor the effectiveness of schemes adopted to foster social rights and equal treatment in the recovery	No specific information was provided on the functioning of the tool or mechanism used to monitor the effectiveness of schemes adopted to foster social rights and equal treatment (such as how the monitoring will be done; the periodicity of meetings and evaluations; etc.) in the recovery Plan.
Summary description of the obligations, standards and benchmarks against which the effectiveness will be evaluated	According to European Commission ⁷ , the Plan contains some measures that are expected to contribute to addressing the country's challenges in the areas of gender equality and equal opportunities for all. All reforms and investments included in the Plan are designed to reduce existing social, economic and territorial disparities. As regards gender equality, gender mainstreaming has to be taken into account in the implementation phase in order to continuously monitor impacts for women or men. The plan also aims to assess possibilities to introduce a gender equality dimension when designing state and municipal budgets.
Summary description of what the tool or mechanism foresees when non-compliance with obligations and standards is identified, with a particular	No specific information was provided on what the tool or mechanism foresees when non-compliance with obligations and standards is identified, with a particular emphasis on enforcement and remedial action in the Plan.

⁷ European Commission (2021), COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT, [Analysis of the recovery and resilience plan of Lithuania](#), SWD(2021), 187 final Brussels, 2 July 2021.

emphasis on enforcement and remedial action	
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