



## **Reaching the heights for the rights of the child**

### **Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2016-2021**

#### **High-Level Launching Conference**

**Sofia, 5-6 April 2016**

#### **Statements**

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**Vice-Minister of Social Security and Labour**  
**Lithuania**

Honourable Chairperson,  
Distinguished delegates,

First of all I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the organisers of this conference for the opportunity to discuss the development of child rights policies and share the experience.

The Council of Europe is an essential actor in the building of a Europe based on respect for human rights and approaching child rights policy which facilitates children access to the human rights and their full participation in society.

Lithuania, being actively involved in the activity of the Council of Europe on the issues of children, takes all necessary measures for securing the rights of the child and improving the well-being of the child. As part of the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child, Lithuania seeks to ensure that every child has the right to be raised in a family, by providing the child and the family with access to preventative and complex services.



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This year we start implementing the 2016-2020 Action Plan on Provision of Complex Services for the Family. This plan comprises the coordinated provision of education, social, healthcare and legal services for the child and the family with an aim of empowering and helping the family to deal with crisis situations, raise children, improve the socialisation of children, reduce social exclusion, ensure the quality of services and making them easily accessible from the place of residence of a child or family.

It should be noted that in dealing with issues of the rights of the child we implement a whole range of measures, including the 2014-2020 Action Plan on Transition from Institutional Care to the Family and the Community based services for People with Disabilities and Children without Parental Care. As part of the reform of institutional care we offer new community services for the child and the family, intensify preventative work, with a particular focus on social risk families. Our long-term perspective allows us to direct our efforts towards preventative work with the family as a safeguard of the child rights protection.

It is important that all national institutions responsible for protecting the rights of the child operate together, coordinate their activity, develop international cooperation, and exchange information and experience in dealing with new challenges.

A new draft law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child is currently discussed at the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. I must admit that the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on Combating the Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Pornography has been transposed into national legislation and is being implemented.

One of the major challenges that we face in combating violations of the rights of the child, violence against children and superstitions is to change the attitudes of society to these problems, by involving in this process non-governmental organisations, the media and communities.

In a changing live environment, the focus is on combating trafficking in human beings, especially children, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and other forms of violation.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am very glad that today we all gathered here to deal with these challenges and difficulties as countries alone are not capable of solving these problems. International cooperation allows us to exchange experience and information about key changes in the field of legislation, politics or technology and improve our capacities to create equal opportunities for all children, secure their rights, reduce poverty, and prevent sexual abuse of children and violence against them.

The Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2016-2021 is a great example of cooperation and a result of common work. I hope that we will continue our cooperation and ensure that the Strategy is implemented effectively and in due time.

Thank you for your attention