Networking Visit – Lithuania Report

In view of the upcoming Lithuanian EU Presidency, Social Platform held a Networking Visit and conference in Vilnius on May 22-24 2013, which gathered representatives from the Lithuanian government, research institutes, and European-level and Lithuanian social NGOs.

The objective of the visit was to discuss the social priorities for the Lithuanian presidency - from July to December 2013, and to build alliances between European and Lithuanian CSOs in order to join forces towards the upcoming Presidency.

Here you can find the full Agenda of the Networking Visit which included a conference, networking café discussions, field visits to local CSOs providers of services, and bilateral meetings with government representatives.

The conference was attended by 70 representatives from Lithuanian CSOs and institutes and 14 delegates from European Networks of Civil Society Organisations, members of Social Platform. You can find their contacts here:

- Contacts of Lithuanian participants
- Contacts of EU Networks part of the Delegation

- Photos from the conference and networking visit

Wednesday May 22, 2013

13:05 - 16:25 Travel of Delegation to Vilnius

16:15 Meeting with ***Seimas Women Parliamentary Group***, *Marija Aušrinė Pavilionienė, Chair of the Group* (TGEU)

18:00 – 19.30 **Coordination meeting** between Delegates and their national members to prepare the next morning conference and the small group meetings with Government representatives on Friday morning

Thursday May 23, 2013

Artis Centrum Hotels, Liejyklos 11/23, 01120 Vilnius

Public Conference
"Social investment under the Lithuanian EU Presidency"

9.30 – 09.40 **Introduction,** *Heather Roy, President, Social Platform*

09.40-10:00 **Key-note speech: Presentation of Lithuanian Presidency social priorities**
(Algimanta Pabedinskienė, Minister of Social Security and Labour)

10.00 – 10.30 **Reaction and presentation of Social Platform key messages**
(Heather Roy, President, Social Platform)

10.30-11:45 **Presentation of civil society organisations' social priorities**
European and Lithuanian CSOs perspectives - thematic focus:
(Facilitator: Pierre Baussand, Director, Social Platform)

1. Social protection and investment
    a. *Janina Arsenjeva, Policy Director, Eurochild*
2. Active inclusion
    a. *Vaidotas Ilgius, Board member, European Anti-Poverty Network Lithuania*
3. Youth Guarantee
    a. *Loreta Senkutė, President, LiJOT - Lithuanian Youth Council*
4. Maternity leave
    a. *Zoltan Vadkerti, Advocacy Officer, COFACE - Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union*
    b. *Jurate Seduikiene, Director, Lithuanian Women's Lobby*
5. Jobs in the white sector and role of social services
    a. *Catherine Mallet, Policy and Membership Development Officer, Eurodiaconia*
    b. *Zita Juskiene, Social administrator of welfare, Lithuanian Red Cross*
6. Anti-Discrimination
    a. *Juliana Wahlgren, Networking Officer, ENAR - European Network Against Racism*
    b. *Tomas Vytautas Raskevičius, Project Assistant, LGL - Lithuanian Gay League*

11.45 – 12.15 **Coffee Break**

12.15 – 13.15 **Panel discussion - how can we ensure that EU social priorities are developed and implemented during the Lithuanian Presidency?**

- *Virginija Langbakk, Director, EIGE - European Institute for Gender Equality*
- *Janina Matuizienė, General Secretary, LPSK - Lithuanian Trade Union Confederation*
- *Boguslavas Gruževskis, Director, Institute of Labour and Social Research*
- *Dainius Pūras, Chair of the Board, HRMI – Human Rights Monitoring Institute*

13.15 – 13.30 **Concluding remarks,** *Heather Roy, President, Social Platform*

13.30 – 14.45 **Lunch-Buffet**

14.45 – 17.00 **Networking Café: interactive discussions among Lithuanian and European social CSOs** - based on World Café method

Building alliances to ensure that the social priorities raised during the morning session are developed and implemented during the Lithuanian Presidency

- Table Nr 1: "How to use the economic crisis as an opportunity to reform social welfare/healthcare systems in order to reduce existing inequalities?", "Universal access to healthcare / social service"
- Table Nr 2: "In your experience, what works well to allow being involved in decision making on the local and national level"
- Table Nr 3: "How can we promote access to sustainable employment for people from vulnerable groups?", "How can organisations support reasonable diversity and equality measures in the field of employment for ethnic minorities?"
- Table Nr 4: "Do you think that social services shall be provided by CSOs and public sector, or shall the private sector also participate?"
- Table Nr 5: "How can we ensure the inclusion of marginalized groups in policies targeting the general population?"

17.30 – 19.30 **Field visits for Delegation to local CSOs**

Parallel field visits

- **Eurochild, TGEU, MHE:**
  Human Rights Monitoring Institute: Fighting Discrimination (LGTB; gender; disability; ethnic origin) / Protection of Vulnerable Groups (child in residential care; mental health institutions; domestic violence) / Right to Respect for Private Life / Right to Fair Trial
  Meeting with: Legal director Ms Jūratė Guzevičiūtė, Policy and Legal Advisor Ms Mėta Adutavičiūtė, Project Supervisor Ms Vilma Gabrieliūtė
- **IFSW, Social Platform:**
  Kofoed's School / Kofoedo mokykla: Active integration of people who don't have positive relationships in the society. Motto "Help yourself by yourself" = provide support to encourage to be active, to provide the energy needed to overcome the difficulties, as well as help regain self-confidence and become more independent. Activities: Rapid response to an emergency situation, addressing the existing/emerging socio-legal problems, Social Skills Groups
  Meeting with: Milda Bliumenzonienė, Director
- **COFACE, ICSW, PICUM, Angele:**
  Vilnius city crisis center / Vilniaus miesto krizių centras: Multipurpose center created by the Municipality in 1998. It influenced the creation of crises centers in all the country. Servicers of

temporary shelter and social care for: women and children victims of family violence; women and children victims of human trafficking or prostitution; women until 25 which were in care and have no place to live; women and children affected by natural disasters
Meeting with: Nijole Dirsiene, Director; Valerija Reikertienė, Social worker

- **Dynamo, EPHA, ENAR:**
  Public Institution Roma Community Centre: Established in Vilnius Roma settlement, to implementing programmes of Roma integration and social inclusion. RCC develops wide spectre of activities for adults, families, children and youth. Most significant are educational and social fields. Integration of Roma to the society is impossible without acting in field of anti-discrimination.
  Meeting with: Svetlana Novopolskaja, Director; Josif Tycina, Prezident of Lithuanian Gypsy Association "Gypsy Fire"; Bozena Karveliene, Director of Roma Integration House

Friday May 24, 2013

09.00 – 13.00 **Small groups meetings with government representatives**
for Delegation and their national members

09:00 ***Ministry of Social Security and Labour:*** *Daiva Buivydaitė, Heard of Social Services Division; Violeta Toleikienė, Director of Social Inclusion Department; Birutė Jatautaitė, Chief Specialist of Communities Affairs Division* (Eurodiaconia, Dynamo, MHE, IFSW, ICSW, ENAR)

10:00 ***Ombudsperson for Children's Rights and Ombudsperson of the Office of Equal Opportunities:*** *Ausrine Burneikiené, Substitute Ombudsperson* (COFACE, PICUM, Eurochild, EPHA)

10:00 ***Ministry of Economy****: Marius Busilas, Vice-Minister of Economy; Raimundas Velicka, Head of the Economy Policy Division; Gvidas Kerusauskas, Director EU Affairs Department* (Social Platform)

10:30 ***Ministry of Justice****: Paulius Griciūnas, Vice minister of Justice* (TGEU, Dynamo, ENAR)

10:30 ***Ministry of Health****: Kęstutis Miškinis, Head of the Division of EU Affairs and InternationalRelations; Aušrutė Armonavičienė, Division of Family Health, Personal Health Care Department; Donata Švažaitė, Chief Specialist of EU Affairs and International Relations Division; Aurimas Valys, EU Affairs and International Relations Division; Ona Davidonienė, Director of the State Mental Health Centre; Oksana Burokienė, Chief Specialist of Healthcare Expertise and Control Division, National Health Insurance Fund under the Ministry of Health* (MHE, PICUM, ICSW)

11:30 ***Ministry of Social Security and Labour*****:** *Daina Urbonaitiene, Head of Department of Family and Community; Violeta Toleikiene, Head of Department of Social Inclusion; Tomas Milevičius, Family Policy Divisio; Areta Miškinien, Head of Children's Section in the Department of Family and Community* (Eurochild, Eurodiaconia, EPHA)

11:30 ***EIGE –European Institute for Gender Equality:*** *Virginija Langbakk, Director; Jolanta Reingardė, Senior Researcher/Analyst; Maurizio Mosca, Gender Expert: Labour Market; Christian Veske, Networking and Communications Assistant; Katarzyna Pablijanek, Electronic Network Animator; Anne Laure Humbert, Gender expert: Research, Statistics & Indices; Sara Slana, Gender Equality & EU Enlargement Countries* (Social Platform, COFACE, ICSW, TGEU)

13:00 ***Ministry of Interior****: Loreta Leimontaitė, Deputy head of Division of Aliens affairs* (PICUM)

13.00 – 15.00 **Lunch and field visit for Delegation**

"Mano guru" social reintegration salad bar, Vilniaus g. 22/1, Vilnius

Articles on the networking visit:

European level:

- By Pierre Baussand, Social Platform Director
- By Zoltán Massay-Kosubek, Policy Coordinator, European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)
- By Catherine Mallet, Eurodiaconia

Lithuanian press:

- By Minister of Social Security and Labour
- By Lithuanian EU Presidency - www.eu2013.lt

- By Lietuvos socialinės gerovės asociacija (LSGA)
- By KAUNODIENA.lt : "Lithuania calls Europe to raise poverty and social exclusion"
- By JPSS - Jonavos Trade Unions
- By LPJ - Lithuanian Trade Union Youth Association - LPSK Youth
- By PROFSAJUNGA.INFO
- By PDPS - Prekybos darbuotojų profesinė sąjunga (Commercial workers' union)
- By DIENA.lt "Lithuania calls Europe to raise poverty and social exclusion"
- By Sudivos gidas
- By Lietuvos Vaiku Fondas "The Social Platform representatives visit Vilnius"
- By Lieturonu Diakonija