

Statement of *Mr. Donatas Jankauskas*,
Minister of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania,
delivered at the UNECE Ministerial Conference
“Ensuring a society for all ages: promoting quality of life and active ageing”
**First Ministerial Panel “Promoting longer working life and maintaining work ability;
Promoting participation, non-discrimination and social inclusion of older persons”**
12.00 am - 1.30 pm, 20 September 2012, Vienna (Austria)

Honourable Chairperson,
Distinguished delegates,
Dear Colleagues,

It's my pleasure to address this audience in UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing. I express my gratitude to the organisers of this conference for the opportunity to discuss the fundamental issues of population ageing at the high international political level and to share the acquired experience.

Lithuania applies holistic approach toward population ageing by pursuing social security, employment, health, education and other policies.

The National Strategy of Overcoming the Consequences of Ageing sets an objective to keep older people in the labour market as long as possible, to reduce their unemployment rate and increase participation. One of the major challenges identified in the Strategy is a more difficult adaptation of pre-retirement age and older adults to labour market changes.

Therefore in Lithuania, persons over 50 years of age are supported additionally by the following active labour market policy measures:

- vocational training for unemployed or notified on the dismissal;
- supported employment covering subsidised employment, promotion of job acquisition skills, public works, job rotation;
- support for establishment of workplaces by subsidised job placement, supported self-employment, implementation of local employment initiative projects.

The focus is also given to socially vulnerable older women by encouraging their entrepreneurship and supporting reconciliation of family life and work responsibilities.

During the period of 2007-2011 about 50 percent of job seekers over 50 years of age were employed. 10 percent of them acquired business certificates and started self-employment activity. Older adults seeking self-employment were trained free of charge about the conditions for setting up a business, recruitment of employees and the nature of work under business certificates.

A special database „Seniors data bank“ within the National Labour Exchange website was created. It accumulates information on the job-seekers of retirement age and provides relevant information to employers. During the period of 2007-2011 about 5 thousand job seekers of pension-age registered in the Seniors Data Bank.

Lithuania increases participation of older people in social, economic, political and cultural life through implementation of relevant national strategies and programmes. The use of information technologies among older adults has nearly doubled during the recent three years. This was mainly due to the project “Libraries for Innovation” which has been implemented since 2008. The project has encouraged active Internet use of citizens, especially older people, as well as persons residing in rural areas. Nine out of ten Lithuanian public libraries provided the citizens with free computer, Internet access and training material.

According to the impact evaluation study, participants of the IT courses organised by public libraries were mostly persons over the age of 55. Older adults used public computers and Internet for health, employment or e-Government information.

Lithuania improved the legal basis for the assurance of the affordable learning opportunities for adults, including relevant strategic documents related to the development of adult education. Institutions of non-formal education also contributed to education of older people, the Universities of the Third Age enhanced their capacities. In this field Lithuania has also elaborated various EU structural support projects of national importance. Development of universal multifunctional centres contributed to the adjustment of educational institutions to the needs of older persons.

Dear Colleagues,

It is rather difficult to foresee future global economic situation and labour market trends. Nevertheless, I am convinced that we have to continue our efforts in the field of employment, participation, non-discrimination and social inclusion of older persons by applying traditional and innovative tools. It will enable society to respond to the challenges and benefit from the possibilities generated by population ageing.

Thank you for the attention