

# Lithuania: Overview

In the Republic of Lithuania, education is a priority supported by the State. It is based on the humanistic values of the nation and world culture, the democratic principles as well as the universally accepted human rights and freedoms. In most education levels a per capita based education financing system is introduced (money follows the pupil/student).

Different educational stages. The system of education in Lithuania includes the following stages:

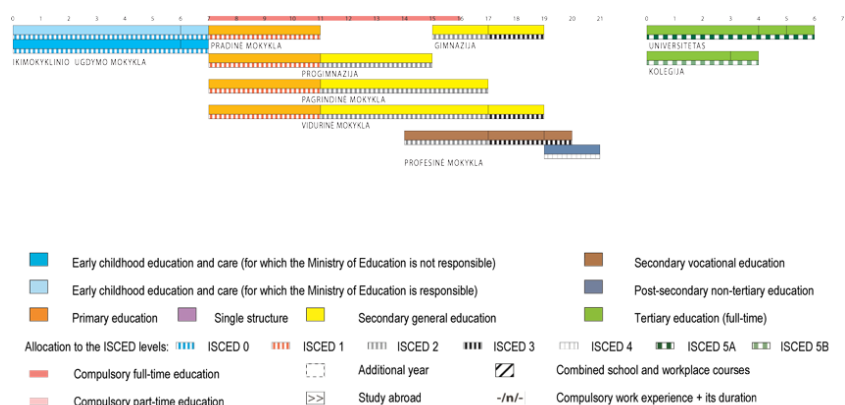
- **Early childhood education and care.** In Lithuania, early childhood education and care is composed of pre-primary (*ikimokyklinis ugdymas*) and pre-primary class (*priešmokyklinis ugdymas*) education and is attributed to the type of non-formal education. Early childhood education and care is provided for children since their birth until they start pre-school or primary education. Pre-primary education institutions fall under the authority of local governments. Attendance in most cases is optional. To foster children's school maturity, pre-primary classes (*priešmokyklinio ugdymo grupės*) are established for children aged 6 years.
- **Compulsory education (primary education, lower secondary general education, vocational lower secondary education).** Children start compulsory education at the calendar year when they turn 7 years of age and end at the age of 16. Public sector primary and lower secondary schools are free of charge. Compulsory education curriculum is delivered by primary schools (*pradinė mokykla*), pro-gymnasiums (*progimnazija*), basic education schools (*pagrindinė mokykla*), secondary schools (*vidurinė mokykla*), gymnasiums (*gimnazija*) and vocational schools (*profesinė mokykla*).
- **Upper secondary and post-secondary level.** The two-year secondary curriculum is implemented by gymnasiums, secondary, vocational and other (e.g. The International Baccalaureate) schools for persons aged from 17 years to 19 years.
- **Higher education.** Higher education comprises two types of institutions: universities (*universitetas*) and colleges (*kolegija*). The upper secondary leaving certificate is required by all higher education establishments. Person might enter higher education after upper secondary general education, upper secondary vocational education or post-secondary non tertiary education. In higher education undergraduate studies (Bachelor) usually last 4 academic years, while graduate studies (Master) - 2 years.

Education policies development and implementation is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education and Science. The Ministry also defines the criteria for the allocation of financial resources. However, each of ten counties has a department of education to which certain ministerial duties are delegated. The main task of these county departments is organizing school inspection.

Pre-schools and schools of general education are under local authorities while institutions of university and non-university level higher education are placed under authority of the Higher Education Department at the Ministry of Education and Science. The State grants universities considerable autonomy. Education institutions directly responsible to the central authorities are essentially vocational schools.

For further information, please consult the introduction articles of [Organization and Governance](#) and of each educational level: [Early Childhood Education](#), [Primary Education](#), [Secondary and Post-Secondary Non Tertiary Education](#), [Higher Education](#) and [Adult Education and Training](#).

## Structure of the national education system 2012/13



source: Eurydice

For a brief description of other main topics regarding the national education system, please read the introduction article of [Funding education](#), [Teachers and Education Staff](#), [Management and other educational staff](#), [Educational support and guidance](#), [Quality assurance](#), Mobility and Internationalisation.

For information on recently adopted or planned reforms and policy measures, please consult topic [Ongoing Reforms and Policy Developments](#).

While Eurypedia provides comprehensive and comparable information, further information may also be found on the website of [Ministry of Education and Science](#).

## Common European Reference Tools Provided by the Eurydice Network

- [National Student Fee and Support Systems](#)
- [Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education](#)
- [Organisation of School Time in Europe](#) (Primary and general secondary education)
- [Recommended Annual Taught Time](#) in Full-Time Compulsory Education in Europe (Presented by grades/stages for full time compulsory education as well as by subject and country.)
- [Teachers and School Heads Salaries and Allowances in Europe](#) (Salaries and allowances of teachers and school heads at pre-primary, primary, lower secondary and upper secondary education levels.)