

# SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM OF LITHUANIA IN COMPARISON WITH THE TWO EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES

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## Summary

Lithuania became a member of European Union (EU) family two years ago. It is a very young country, only sixteen years ago recovered from the Soviet Union and only now trying to build its own democratic Labour market and Social security system, which differs from the other EU countries.

In comparison of social benefits (child, unemployment and old – age benefits), we took Lithuania and two other EU countries: the Netherlands and Portugal, because all these countries belong to the different types of welfare state: the Netherlands to Social – Democratic type, Portugal -Corporatist and Lithuania – Corporatist with direction to Liberal type.

After research, we made a conclusion that financially the Netherlands get the highest benefits and Lithuania – the lowest. Historical, economical and social factors determine these differences. Therefore, according to our job, we can say that the level of demmodification in the Netherlands is high, in Portugal lower and Lithuania is very low. We also drew inference that people who get low benefits are enforced to come back to the labour market. Active or passive belonging to the la-

bour market show the level of decommodification. According to used resources we see that high level of decommodification is in the Netherlands, medium in Portugal and the lowest – in Lithuania.

## INTRODUCTION

The European Union (EU) is a family of democratic European countries working together to improve lives for their citizens and to build a better world. It has grown from six to twenty – five members. All the members of this treaty are interested in making equal economical and social systems in each country of the EU. However, there are still many disparities between the member states.

The biggest differences might be recognized between the first and the latest countries, which joined the EU (the Netherlands (1951), Portugal (1986), and Lithuania (2004)). The purposes of this research are to find out:

- the differences of Social security systems in these countries;
- the types of the welfare state in these countries;
- how the Social security programmes decommodify the labour power.

## TYPES OF WELFARE STATE (by G. Esping – Anderson)

**LIBERAL.** In countries of this welfare state type, the priorities are given to labour and services market. Everybody works in purpose to have a good life and good living conditions. The level of the benefits is very low. If a person needs some kind of benefits, he has to prove it. The level of decommodification is low.

**CONSERVATIVE – CORPORATIST.** Conservative welfare states appear to be relatively less dedicated to achieving a high level of solidarity through government intervention. It reminds an “authoritarian regime”. In this model family takes a traditional form. There are no women in the labour market. They are housewives. Also, a church has a big influence. The providers of the benefits are employers. The level of decommodification is modest.

**SOCIAL – DEMOCRATIC.** The citizens of social democratic welfare state take a positive view of government intervention to achieve a high level of solidarity. The priority is given for the state. In the social democratic welfare state regime, individual independence is promoted. The level of the benefits is high. Despite the fact that the level of decommodification is high, everyone is encouraged to participate in the labour market.

## BENEFITS

The Netherlands, Portugal and Lithuania have their different Social security policies because of economical and social aspects. There will be taken family, old age and unemployment benefits in this paper to see the main differences of Social security systems in these countries.

## CHILD BENEFITS

The example will be taken to show the real situation in these countries:

Family with three children aged 17, 14 and 6 years old. Both parents are working and getting minimal wages.

- a) Family from the Netherlands will receive:  $2 \cdot 205,45\text{€} + 71,49\text{€} = 482,39\text{€}$  per month;
- b) Family from Portugal will get:  $3 \cdot 25,63\text{€} = 76,89\text{€}$  per month;
- c) Lithuanian family will receive:  $3 \cdot (0,4 \cdot 37\text{€}) = 44,4\text{€}$  per month.

The Netherlands	Portugal	Lithuania
482,39€	76,89€	44,4€

## UNEMPLOYMENT

**Example:** man who has worked for 10 years is unemployed now. He is looking for a new job. He has received the minimum wage from his previous work.

- a) Man from the Netherlands will get:  $0,7 \cdot 1273\text{€} = 891,1\text{€}$  per month. Unemployment benefit will be paid for 9 months.
- b) Portuguese will receive:  $0,65 \cdot 437\text{€} = 284,05\text{€}$  per month for 12 months.
- c) Lithuanian will get:  $B = SI + (2 \cdot MSL - SI) \cdot (r/R)$

$B = 45\text{€} + (2 \cdot 37\text{€} - 45\text{€}) \cdot (10/25) = 52,25\text{€}$  per month; This benefit will be paid for 6 months.

The final amount from benefits:

The Netherlands	Portugal	Lithuania
8019,9€	3408,6€	313,5€

## OLD AGE PENSIONS

**Example:** a single retired person, whose insured income in 2006 is 15 000€ (1250€ per month) has worked for 35 years.

- a) Dutch's pension will be: 932.67€ per month;
- b) Portuguese will get:  $0,02 \cdot 35 \cdot 1250\text{€} = 875\text{€}$  per month;
- c) Lithuanian's pension will be:  $67\text{€} + 0,005 \cdot 35 \cdot 3,56 \cdot 351\text{€} = 285,67\text{€}$  per month.

$$K = 15\,000\text{€}/12/351\text{€} = 3,56$$

The Netherlands	Portugal	Lithuania
932,67€	875€	285,67€

## CONCLUSIONS

After this research with examples conclusions have been made:

1. Lithuanians receive the lowest benefits from these three countries. (Lithuania is independent only for 16 years. It is still building and improving its own social security system different from the previous, Soviet Union regime.). The highest child benefits are paid in the Netherlands and the lowest in Lithuania. The highest unemployment benefits are paid in the Netherlands. The highest rate of old – age pension is in the Netherlands and the lowest in Lithuania.

2. Concerning to the types of the welfare states above, the Netherlands is Social – Democratic type country, Portugal is Corporatist type country and Lithuania is transitive from Corporatist to Liberal welfare state type.

3. The lowest level of decommodification is in Lithuania, higher is in Portugal and the highest – in the Netherlands.

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### **SOCIALINĖ APSAUGA LIETUVOJE LYGINANT SU KITOMIS DVEJOMIS EUROPOS SĄJUNGOS VALSTYBĖMIS NARĖMIS**

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**Pagrindinės sąvokos:** *gerovės valstybė, dekomodifikacija.*

#### **Santrauka**

*Prieš dvejus metus Lietuva tapo Europos Sąjungos (ES) nare. Lietuva dar labai jauna šalis, tik prieš šešiolika metų atgavusi nepriklausomybę, vis dar tebekurianti savo demokratišką darbo rinkos ir Socialinės apsaugos sistemą, kuri skiriasi nuo kitų ES šalių.*

Norėdami atskleisti Lietuvos, kuri atitinka korporatistinį, pereinančią į liberalų gerovės valstybės tipą, socialinę sistemą, pasirinkome Olandiją, kuri atstovauja socialiniam – demokratiniam tipui bei Portugaliją, atstovaujančią korporatistiniam. Skirtumams išryškinti naudojome tris socialinių išmokų rūšis: vaiko pašalpas, nedarbo išmokas, senatvės pensijos išmokas.

Tyrimo metu padarėme išvadą, jog finansiniu atžvilgiu didžiausios išmokos skiriamos Olandijoje, mažiausios – Lietuvoje. Tai lemia istoriniai, ekonominiai, socialiniai faktoriai. Taip pat padarėme išvadą, kad gaudami mažas socialines išmokas gyventojai skatinami kuo greičiau grįžti į darbo rinką. Aktyvus ar pasyvus priklausymas nuo darbo rinkos rodo dekomodifikacijos lygį. Remiantis naudota literatūra bei tyrimais įrodėme, kad Olandijoje dekomodifikacijos lygis yra aukštas, Portugalijoje vidutinis, Lietuvoje labai žemas.



## SOCIALINĖ PAGALBA DELIKVENTINIO ELGESIO PAAUGLIAMS

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**Pagrindinės sąvokos:** delikventinis elgesys, paauglystė.

### Santrauka

Vidaus reikalų ministerijos duomenimis, 2004 m. 14–17 metų nepilnamečiai padarė 4,3 tūkst. nusikaltimų ir 0,7 tūkst. baudžiamųjų nusižengimų. Vaikų nusikalstamumas dažnai siejamas su paauglystės krize. Psichologiniu požiūriu šis amžiaus tarpsnis yra vienas iš sudėtingiausių, prieštaringiausių ir įdomiausių. Siekiant sumažinti paauglių nusikalstamumą, šalyje vykdomos įvairios prevencinės programos. Vidaus reikalų ministerijos 1999 – 2010 ilgalaikiame strateginiame veiklos