Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol Policy in Lithuania

Lithuania has been consistently implementing drug, tobacco and alcohol control and prevention of drug addiction policy being an integral part of the national foreign and internal policy. For the implementation of this policy political consideration is provided, financial and human resources are allocated. Public and local government institutions participate in the formation and implementation of drug, tobacco and alcohol control and prevention policy (Figure No. 1).

*Figure 1. Implementing institutions for drug, tobacco, alcohol control and prevention in Lithuania*

**Parliament Level**

*Parliamentary Committees and Commissions of the Republic of Lithuania*

The parliamentary committees and commissions of the Republic of Lithuania meet, on a regular basis, to discuss draft laws, to submit conclusions, to scrutinise issues that require more detailed analysis within the committees, to finalise draft laws and other legal acts to be adopted by the Parliament, to evaluate the need for new laws and amendments, to discuss the Government Program, as well as programs of other public institutions.
The Lithuanian Republic Parliamentary Commission for Prevention of Drug Addiction and Alcohol Dependence

Carrying out parliamentary control analyzed the implementation of drug addiction and alcoholism prevention, drug and alcohol control in Lithuania, examined information of the existing situation. In its meetings the Commission drew conclusions and adopted decisions, submitted proposals to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

Central Government Level

The measures of the policy implementation concerning drug, tobacco and alcohol control and prevention were executed by the following public institutions: the Drug, tobacco and alcohol Control Department, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Social Protection and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, the Department of Prisons under the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania, the Department of Customs under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania, the State Border Protection Service, the Police Department under the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, the Financial Crime Investigation Service under the Ministry of Interior, the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Protection and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania, heads of the counties, the local governments, NGOs.

The Drug, tobacco and alcohol Control Department (DTACD) is delegated the responsibility to effect the drug prevention and drug, tobacco and alcohol control policy, to organize the implementation of the drug prevention and control measures, also DTACD is responsible for licensing and controlling of the activities related to legal circulation of alcohol, tobacco and drugs and psychotropic substances precursors.

National action plan, strategy

- **National Program on Drug Control and Prevention of Drug Addiction 2010 – 2016** (Was approved by the Parliament on the 4th of November 2010 Žin., 2010, No. 132-6720);

  The program prioritises prevention of drug use in the family, among children and youths. The drug prevention projects executed in Lithuania in 2010 focused mainly on universal and selective prevention in local communities and schools, aiming at protecting young people against drug use. Priorities of program there are these:

  1) demand reduction, among children and youth in particular;
  2) supply reduction;
  3) strengthening cooperation and coordination among public and municipal institutions and organisations as well as coordination in the areas of drug control and prevention of drug addiction on the international and national levels;
  4) development of IT and scientific research.

- **State alcohol control Program 1999-2011** (was approved by the Government on the 25th of February, 1999, Žin., 1999, No. 21-603);

- **Stare Tobacco Control Program 1998-2010** (was approved by the Government on the 30th of July, 1998, Žin., 1998, No. 69-2010);

- the Law On Control of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Precursors) (Žin., 1999, No. 55 – 1764; 2008, No. 65-2455);

- **The project of new Program on Alcohol and Tobacco Control 2012-2014** is prepared and is under reconciliation now.
Drug, tobacco and alcohol control department Board is the coordinating and advisory institution. Board target is accept harmonized solutions and to coordinate actions in the field of the DTACD competence.

Other main public institutions in the central government level:

**Drug Control Division of the State Medicine Control Agency under the Ministry of Health**

The key task of the Drug Control Division of the State Medicine Control Agency under the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania is to ensure legitimate circulation of drugs, psychotropic substances and medical substances.

**Police Department under the Ministry of Interior**

The Police Department under the Ministry of Interior is responsible for coordination of the activities against illicit trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substances.

**Department of Prisons under the Ministry of Justice**

The Department of Prisons under the Ministry of Justice is responsible for coordination of the activities against illicit trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substances, prevention, treatment and harm reduction activities in prisons. 15 penal institutions subordinate to the Department of Prisons enforcing pre-trial detention sanctions and custodial sentences imposed by court, 48 territorial correction inspections that are responsible for the execution of sentence alternatives to imprisonment and supervision of persons released on parole exist. The Training Centre of the Department of Prisons organizes training of the new staff of the institutions subordinate to the Department of Prisons.

**Lithuania Children’s Rights Ombudsman institution**

In the reading of Draft Laws amending the Law On Protection of Juveniles Against a Negative Impact of Public Information in the Parliament the Children’s Rights Ombudsman proposed to amend the Draft Law with provisions prohibiting to communicate information, as follows:

1) encouraging to gamble, proposing to participate in gambling, lotteries and other games which produce an impression of easy winning;
2) which provides a favourable approach towards dependence on drugs, psychotropic substances, tobacco and alcohol, also on other substances which are used or may be used for intoxication, encourages their use, production, distribution or acquisition;
3) not to refuse an attitude based on which public information is deemed to make a negative impact on mental or physical health, physical, mental, emotional or moral development and which is used to taunt over a person;
4) which encourages sexual abuse and exploitation of juveniles, sexual relations of juveniles.

**Local Government Level**

**Local Government Drug Control Commissions**

For the management of regional and local government programs on drug control and prevention, in 2004-2005, the municipalities and regional administrations established drug control commissions and approved their statutes and programs. The objective of these commissions is to conduct the national drug control and prevention of drug addiction policy and to coordinate drug control and prevention of drug addiction activities on the territory of the local governments.

**Child welfare commissions**

For coordinating the prevention, rehabilitation and other programs of the municipality, for inter-institutional cooperation in providing methodological, information assistance in schools, care institutions and etc.