

Lithuania's national policy on drug control and prevention of drug addiction is established in the National Strategy on Drug Addiction Prevention and Control 2004–2008 adopted by the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and in the National Program on Drug Control and Prevention of Drug Addiction 2004–2008 adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania. The main objectives of the country's drug policy strategy are: a drug-free society to the extent that this is possible; prevention of drug abuse among young people; drug supply reduction; care of drug addicts; international multilateral, bilateral and inter-institutional co-operation in the field of drug demand and drug supply reduction; and emphasis on the development of co-ordination systems at the local and national level.

The Drug Control Department under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania started its activities on 1 January 2004.

The Drug Control Department under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania is delegated the responsibility to effect the drug prevention and drug control policy, to organize implementation of drug prevention and control measures, to set the scope of the drug prevention and control policy, and to coordinate drug prevention and drug control activities on the national and local levels. The latter is very important in seeking to ensure effective collaboration between public institutions and different organizations involved in the drug prevention and drug control activities.

In 2004, the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania formed a permanent Drug Addiction Prevention Commission (now it's called „Commission for Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Addiction). The objectives of the Commission are to safeguard the interests of the government and to provide favorable conditions for the implementation of national policy in the fields of prevention of drug and alcohol addiction and drug control.

Each of the 60 municipalities has a 'Municipality Drug Control Commission'. These usually consist of representatives of local institutions (police, education institutions, doctors, social workers, etc.), and the Chairman is usually the Mayor or Vice-mayor. These municipal commissions coordinate different actions, such as prevention, treatment and harm reduction.

The first general population survey on the prevalence of drug use in the country was carried out in 2004, according to the methodology of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (hereinafter referred to as EMCDDA). The target group of the study was permanent residents of Lithuania aged 15 to 64. The second survey of the general population was carried out in 2008. This survey results show that 12.5% of Lithuanian residents used any drug (cannabis, amphetamine, ecstasy, cocaine, heroine, LSD, hallucinogenic mushrooms) at least once in their lifetime. 16.4% of men and 9.2% of women indicated that they had tried drugs at least once. Younger Lithuanian residents (15-34 year-olds) more likely than older residents (35-64 year-olds) indicated that they had tried drugs at least once. Younger men almost two times more likely than younger women indicated that they had tried drugs at least once (28.3% vs. 16.5%, respectively). Comparing with the results from 2004 study – the largest increase of prevalence can be seen in Cannabis and Ecstasy use. In 2008, excluding cannabis, the most widespread drugs in Lithuania are ecstasy and amphetamines. Ecstasy was used at least once by 2.1%, Amphetamines – by 1.6%, Cocaine – by 0.5% and LSD – by 0.2% of Lithuanian residents.