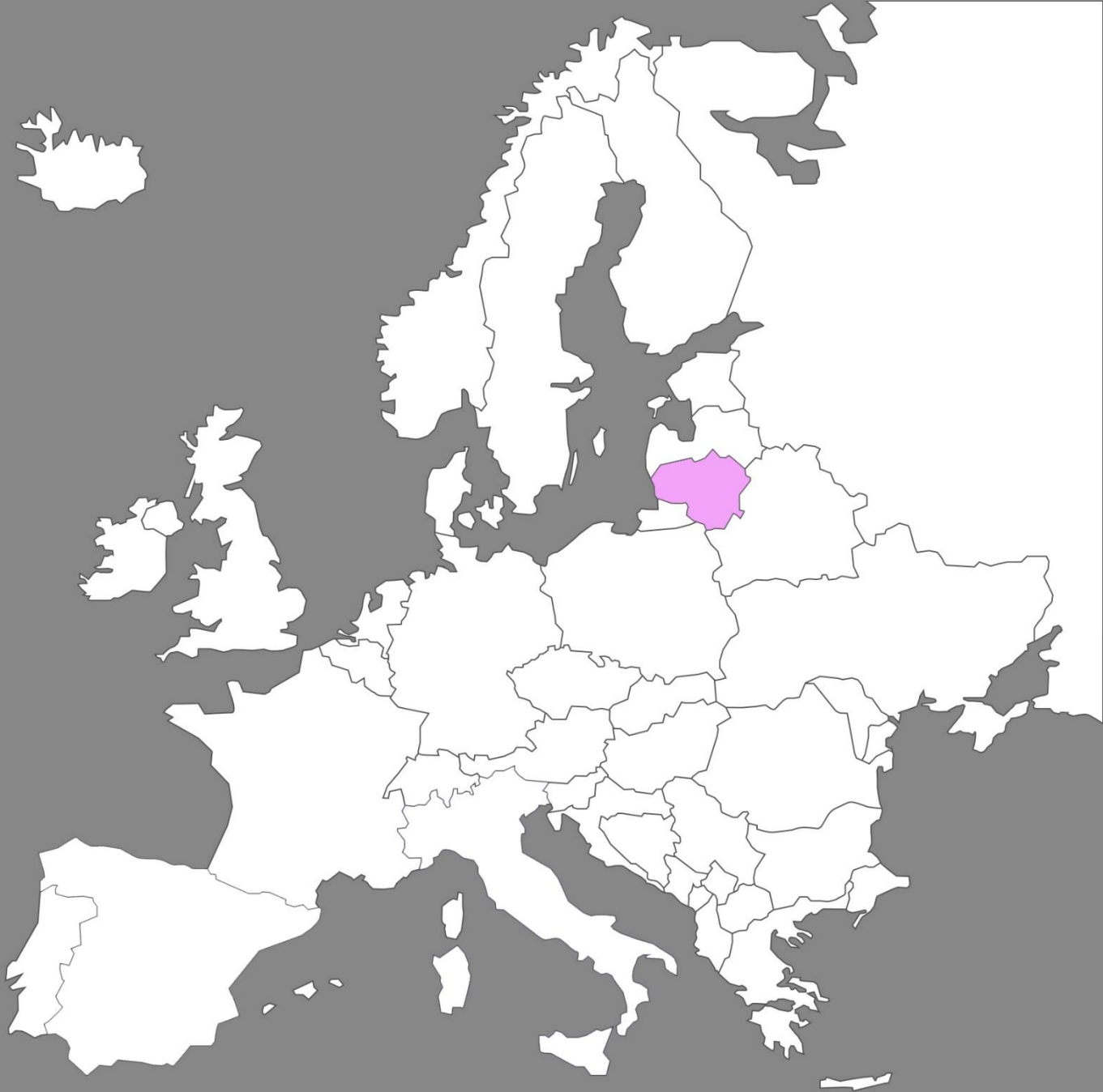


Tr@ck-in Public employment services tracking effectiveness in supporting rural NEETs



WP 2 - MAPPING Overview on rural NEETs - LITHUANIA

Authors

Sonata Vyšniauskienė - sonata.vysniauskiene@fsf.vu.lt

Vilnius University - Faculty of Philosophy Institute of Sociology and Social Work

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Preface

This report is an output of Track-IN | Public employment services tracking effectiveness in supporting rural NEETs whose aim is to deliver an evaluation model of the effectiveness of Public Employment Services (PES) tracking support types. The goal is to respond to the challenges of the mismatch between broadband policy package aims and the needs of NEETs in rural areas and contribute to a greater visibility of the constraints and needs that young people face in rural areas.

The Track-IN project comprises comparative a 6-country case study (Portugal, Italy, Estonia, Lithuania, Spain, and Bulgaria), approached by three studies. In Work package 2 (WP2) the propose is to map the best practices in tracking young people aged between 25-29 years old, living in rural areas, and who are currently in a NEET situation (not in employment, education, or training). Methodologically, WP2 includes a comparative case study of different PES tracking support types programs foreseeing several steps: mapping (identifying all rural PES across the beneficiary countries, using Eurostat Labour Force Survey (2018) collapsed by degree of urbanization to delimit the territorial research scope); Screening (through a short survey, to target rural PES tracking practices fitting the project); Data collection (including in-depth analysis of selected cases using a multi-informant approach (PES administrative data; program documentation analysis; interviews with PES managers; world-café sessions with NEETs).

This report is the result of the phase of WP2 – mapping - an overview on rural NEETS, outlining in detail the situation of rural NEETs aged between 25 and 29 years old, over the last decade (2011-2021) in each beneficiary partner country. The overview will include indicators on youth population, youth employment and unemployment, education, and NEETs distribution. The characterization of all indicators will adopt the degree of urbanization as a central criterion, enabling proportional comparisons between rural areas, towns and suburbs, and cities. These analyses are further collapsed into age subgroups and, when possible, in sex groups for greater detail.

The statistical procedures adopted across the different selected dimensions where: descriptive longitudinal analysis; using graphical displays (e.g., overlay line charts); and, whenever relevant, the calculation of proportional absolute and relative changes between 2011, 2015 and 2021, and finally 2011 and 2021. These time ranges were chosen to capture the indicators evolution before and after the economic and financial crisis which hit European countries in the beginning of the decade and, more recently, to capture the impact of COVID19 pandemic crises. All data was extracted from Eurostat public datasets.

Ana Sofia Ribeiro and Tatiana Ferreira (ICS-ULisboa)

Introduction

This report outlines the evolution of the labour market situation of young people in Lithuania between 2011 and 2021. Particular attention is paid to describe how the situation has changed across different age subgroups and degree of urbanization. The analysis includes statistics of the selected labour market indicators (employment and unemployment rate, NEET rate etc.) along with educational and population data extracted from the Eurostat public datasets.

Young people are ambiguously defined in the scientific literature. Moreover, the youth group itself is not a homogeneous category. According to Arnett (2006), youth can be described as “the transition from dependent childhood to independent adult life”. The scientific literature distinguishes two main interpretations of youth as a specific social group: youth as an age category and youth as a stage of transition from adolescence to social maturity (Kraniauskienė 2011; Hutchison 2008; Vinken 2007; Arnett 2006; 2001, etc.). Youth as an age category is enshrined in the Law on the Framework of Youth Policy of the Republic of Lithuania (2018), which describes a young person as a person between 14 and 29 years of age. The Department of Statistics under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania assigns persons from the age of 16, when every citizen of the Republic of Lithuania must have an identity card (Law on the Identity Card of the Republic of Lithuania 2014), the Law on the Protection of the Rights of the Child The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) links the end of childhood to the age of 18 years. The Eurostat statistical book (2019) classifies young people as between 15 and 29 years old. Unfortunately, there is no consensus in the scientific literature on how to define young age. As Arnett (2006) observes, there is no single accepted agreement in modern society as to what stage of life and what signs to associate with the beginning and end of youth. According to Rindfuss (1991; quoted from McDonald, Evans 2003), the period of a young adult is between 18 and 30 years old. It should also be noted that there is no consensus or consensus on how to collect data on youth.

Contextualization

Geographical characterization

Lithuania, officially the Republic of Lithuania (in Lithuanian: Lietuvos Respublika), is a country in the Baltic region of Northern Europe [a] It is one of three Baltic states and lies on the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea. Lithuania shares land borders with Latvia to the north, Belarus to the east and south, Poland to the south, and Kaliningrad Oblast of Russia to the southwest. It has a maritime border with Sweden to the west on the Baltic Sea. Lithuania covers an area of 65,300 km² (25,200 sq mi), with a population of 2.8 million. Its capital and largest city is Vilnius; other major cities are Kaunas and Klaipėda. Lithuanians belong to the ethno-linguistic group of the Balts and speak Lithuanian, one of the few living languages of the Baltic.

Figure 1. Map of Lithuania, by regions



Source: <https://www.lietuvsregionai.lt/lt/8/lietuvs-regionai-217.html>

Ethnocultural regions of Lithuania, ethnographic regions - historically formed regions of ethnic Lithuania. Due to the fact that these regions are defined through cultural differences, their boundaries do not correspond to administrative or state borders, and they are perceived very differently by representatives of various scientific fields, there is disagreement both about the boundaries of these regions and their number. Regions are defined by cultural characteristics - traditions, traditional way of life, songs, stories, etc. The borders of the ethnographic regions partly correspond to the borders of the dialects of the Lithuanian language. The first map shows the official administrative counties in Lithuania, which are 10 (figure 1). The ethnocultural regions in Lithuania are 5.

Population

2021 estimate neutral increase 2,795.680. According to 2019 estimates, the age structure of the population was as follows: 0–14 years, 15.2%; 15-64 years: 64.7%. The median age was 41.2 years (male: 38.5, female: 43.7). Lithuania has a sub-replacement fertility rate: the total fertility rate (TFR) in Lithuania is 1.61 children born/woman (2019 estimates). As of 2019, 26.9% of births were to unmarried women. The age at first marriage in 2019 was 28,3 years for women and 30.7 years for men.

Lithuania could be characterized as a country with changing population structure: decreasing number of children and increasing number of older people, declining of population due to migration and low birth rate. According to Eurostat, the old age dependency ratio has dramatically increased in Lithuania during the last decade. The old age dependency ratio was 28.6 in 2013 (in comparison for the EU-28 was 27%) and in 2021 has already reached 30.7 (in comparison for the EU-27 was 32.5%). According to Eurostat prognosis for 2014-2049, the population will decrease, and the society will continue to age in Lithuania. It is forecasted that in 2050 only approximately 2 million people will live in Lithuania, of which more than 0.5 million (544.5 thousand), or 28.5 %, will be older people. It is estimated that there will be 52 older people per 100 population aged 15-64. Life expectancy at birth in 2020 was 70.1 years for men and 80,0 years for women respectively. In 2020 life expectancy decreased by more than one year for both women and men in comparison to 2019. Life expectancy for Lithuanian men is one of the lowest in the EU.

Youth policy

Main political changes in the past 20 to 30 years

The concept of Lithuanian national youth policy was developed after Lithuania regained independence in 1990. Lithuanian youth policy must be shaped in the context of the social and economic changes and structure of the Lithuanian society, shift from planned towards the market economy, building of the nation state and establishing youth policy including the institutions which support it.

In accordance with Article 4 of the Law on Youth Policy Framework of the Republic of Lithuania, youth policy means a purposeful activity intended to resolve youth problems and to seek to create favourable conditions for the formation of a young person and his integration into public life, as well as an activity, which has the purpose of achieving understanding and tolerance of society and individual groups thereof towards young people.

The implementation of Youth Guarantee Initiative (YGI) started in 2014. It was expected that during 2016–2018 over 35,000 NEET young people would participate in the projects “Discover Yourself” and “New Start”. The YGI is financed from the Youth Employment Initiative and European Social Fund (EUR 69,200.000). Through the project “Discover Yourself”, young people, whether registered or not at the labour exchange, are provided with activation and motivation services for a period of four months. The services include job interview simulations, meetings with employers and educational and vocational training establishments, and up to 20 days as an internship in selected companies. A mentor is also provided as part of the internship. According to the information provided by the Lithuanian Labour Exchange at the end of July 2017 20.700 young people participated in “Discover Yourself” (18.7000 of them currently registered at the Lithuanian Public Employment Services). Young people acquired additional skills and competences, learned effectively how to present themselves in job search, dealing with potential employers, managing conflicts and stressful situations, and getting acquainted with regional companies.

The measure “New Start” promotes integration into the labour market via subsidised employment, the acquisition of work-skills, and provision of vocational training. The measure will provide NEET young people with comprehensive, consistent assistance comprising not only provision of basic social and working skills, acquisition of a profession, but also assistance with integrating into and staying in the labour market. The network of Youth Guarantee partners consists of 57 youth organisations. They are involved in working in the provision of services to young people not registered at the labour exchange.

The New Action plan for the implementation of the Youth Guarantee¹ initiative was approved in 2021. Objectives of the plan are following objectives: identification of inactive young people, prevention of inactivity, implementation of initial intervention through early intervention and activation measures, and increased integration of young people into the labor market.

The National Youth Policy Development Programme 2011-2019 is one of the main documents which define the most important features of contemporary and future youth policy in the country. The programme prioritised the improvement of the social inclusion of young people, with particular emphasis on young people not in employment, education and training (NEETs), the promotion of cross-sectorial cooperation as the underlying principle of integral youth policy. The goals of ensuring better youth

¹ <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/7315ac1066c611eb9dc7b575f08e8bea>

employment opportunities, creating favourable conditions for young people to participate in the labour market, promoting economic and social entrepreneurship, developing non-formal education system, encouraging youth creativity and active participation in the society

The National youth policy action plan for 2022² sets out the objectives, tasks, measures, qualitative and quantitative evaluation criteria for the implementation of the national youth policy in the field of youth policy for 2022 including measures addressing Covid-19 pandemic. 2022 National Youth Policy Action Plan aims to strengthen the implementation of national youth policies in order to ensure inter-agency cooperation between the public, private and non-governmental sectors, and to create the infrastructure needed to implement a coherent, factual and knowledge-based youth policy.

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Education system

Policies against school drop-out, NEET

The Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child (Vaiko teisių pagrindų įstatymas, 2019) states that parents and other legal representatives of the child must create conditions enabling the child to acquire the compulsory education or a possibility of study until the age of 16. Educational institutions must employ measures that would encourage children to attend school constantly and reduce the number of pupils who have dropped out of school education. The Law on Education (2011) declares the accessibility of education for socially excluded children by providing social services and education assistance. The responsibility of the Government and institutions of municipalities is defined as obligation to observe non-attending pupils and address their needs. The institutions must implement special targeted assistance programs for this group of pupils (Law on Education, 2011). The programme for non-attending pupils includes these tasks: to increase the number of aid specialists for education; to increase the qualification of teachers; to organize training for parents, members of self-government, to ensure attendance risk monitoring, to provide aid groups to non-attending pupils, to modernize education institutions, to disseminate information about the education aid (Dėl mokyklos nelankančių vaikų sugrąžinimo į mokyklas programos patvirtinimo, 2010).

² <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/62836fd17fb211ecb2fe9975f8a9e52e?jfwid=kjtir9fu5>

The level of lifelong learning (education of the population aged 25-64) in Lithuania is low compared to other European countries (according to Eurostat data, in 2020 the level of lifelong learning in Lithuania was 7.2%, the average of the European Union member states was 9.2%). The level of lifelong learning is particularly low in rural areas (according to the Ministry of Education and Science in 2018, the level of lifelong learning was only 3.7% in rural areas).

Labour market

Total employment rate (% population aged 20-24) was 49.5, 52.0 for men and 46.7 for women, and for the age group 25-29 total employment rate was 80.0%, 80.9 for men and 78.8 for women accordingly in 2020 (Eurostat LFS 2022). The unemployment rate of youth aged 15-29 was 11.5% in 2019. According to the Public Employment Service (PES) administrative data, the share of young persons registered to PES Lithuania is decreasing. In 2021, 17.6% of all registered unemployed persons representing the age group of 16-29 (in comparison to 22.8% in 2020).

The implementation of the Youth Guarantee in Lithuania is well advanced and has made further progress thanks to a variety of measures adopted to improve partnerships with stakeholders, implement a one-stop-shop approach, improve the NEET profiling system, step up outreach measures, and expand the offer of services tailored to the needs of different NEET target groups. The share of NEETs is below the EU average in Lithuania (see table 1).

Table 1. Table 1-NEET rates in Lithuania (15-29 Years) (%)

GEO/TIME	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
EU-28	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.9	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.8
Euro area -19	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.4	7.3	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.5	7.4
Lithuania	7.7	8.7	6.8	6.3	6.0	6.0	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.0	6.7	5.9
LT compare with EU-28	0.1	-1	0.9	1.6	2	1.9	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.9	1.2	1.9
LT compare with EU-19	-0.3	-1.3	0.6	1.2	1.6	1.4	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.4	0.8	1.5

Source: Eurostat (online data code: edat_lfse_20) https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Statistics_on_young_people_neither_in_employment_nor_in_education_or_training

The Department of Youth Affairs - JRD (Jaunimo reikalų departamentas in Lithuanian) collects information about NEET in municipalities, announces it on websites. In March 2019 the new project "Let's Move" ("Judam" – in Lithuanian) has started aiming to reduce the number of NEET 15-29 years by applying early intervention measures, activity motivation according to the young person's needs and possibilities.

Employment

Legal documents regulating integration into the labour market are the new **Labour Code** (2017) and **Law on support on Employment** (2016). The new Labour Code, in force since 1 July 2017, stipulates that the employer must implement the principles of non-discrimination. Any direct or indirect discrimination in the employment relationship, including discrimination based on age, is prohibited. In implementing the principles of non-discrimination, the employer shall be obliged: 1) to apply equal selection criteria and conditions when recruiting employees; 2) to provide equal working conditions and equal opportunities to career development and access to (re-)training; 3) to use equal work evaluation criteria and equal criteria for dismissal from work; 4) to pay equal remuneration for the same work or work of the same value; 5) to take adequate measures to ensure that people with disabilities are provided work opportunities and career development. Companies with more than 50 employees must adopt and announce measures to ensure supervision of the implementation of these requirements.

The successful transition of youth from education to the labour market is the subject of strategic policy documents. The National Youth Policy Development Programme 2011-2019 is one of the main documents which define the most important features of contemporary and future youth policy in the country. The programme defines the main aspects of youth employment policy. Its primary aim is to provide possibilities for young people to become active and motivated citizens in modern society, by improving the social security, education and health systems. Another document that stresses the successful transition of youth from education to the labour market is the Strategy for Demography, Migration and Integration Policy 2018-2030. The need to strengthen the smooth transition from education to the labour market through active labour market policies for young people is pointed out, in order to reduce the high levels of youth emigration.

“**The National Demography, Migration and Integration Policy Strategy 2018-2030**” provided, inter alia, measures related to the tackling of population ageing problems, i.e., improving the quality of life of Lithuania’s population, reducing morbidity, mortality and inequality in order to increase life expectancy. The third goal of the Strategy is to provide opportunities for young people to integrate into society, e.g. ensure the participation of young people in the labour market and their financial security and opportunities for lifelong learning.

The 18th Government Programme (2020), is aimed at decreasing unemployment and active inclusion of different population groups into the labour market. Among other groups, young persons, long term unemployment are priority groups. It is foreseen that

through higher education institutions and the private sector, “social innovations will be expanded and ensure that young people have the opportunity to work and earn and that working conditions are more flexible and responsive to individual needs”.

The Income Inequality Reduction 2021-2030 Programme (2021) states that the potential of young people to participate in the labour market should be used more effectively and foresees a number of measures aimed at increasing the employability of jobseekers and effectiveness of the employment support system.

Among the other main strategic documents defining Lithuania’s tasks in pursuance of active ageing provisions is “**The 2014-2020 Programme for Employment Increase**” and “**The Action Plan for Enhancing Social Inclusion 2014-2020**”. The 2014-2020 Programme for Employment Increase sets a strategic objective to raise employment levels as much as possible so that every person would be able to find a job that meets his or her qualifications and to secure an adequate standard of living. This objective is based on three tasks: (1) to promote creation of jobs and labour demand; (2) to improve the match between labour skills and market needs; (3) to integrate and retain free labour resources in the labour market. Although all the objectives and tasks indirectly contribute to the implementation of active ageing objectives, inclusion of young people in the labour market is specifically identified only in the third objective of the Programme which reads “to encourage young employees to stay in the labour market more effectively”.

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Covid-19 pandemic crisis

The COVID-19 pandemic affected the labour market and youth employment very significantly. Youth employment declined in Lithuania more significantly than the average in the EU-27. The lockdown that started in the country in March 2020 was followed by an increase in unemployment of workers of all age groups, but we observed in particular an increase in unemployment among young people (18 to 35 years old). For example, according to Lithuanian statistics, youth unemployment increased from 6,3% in December 2019 to 18.3% in January 2021. It is evident from recent study (Braziene et al. 2021), that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on youth employment and has generally worsened the situation on the labour market. It is evident from the study that young women, the less educated, and young people living in rural areas, were affected more by the COVID-19 pandemic. The vulnerability of young people on the labour market during the COVID-19 pandemic is related to the fact that young people have lower levels of job security and are at greater risk of losing their job, and to sectoral job vacancy rates. The main losses are in sectors that employ a large proportion of young people with temporary contracts (Eurofound, 2021).

Methodological note

The Lithuanian national report uses information gathered by the ICS-ULisboa team (working package2 coordinator) of the **Track-IN** project via the Eurostat platform. The main data presented and analysed in this report are from the following Eurostat database:

- Population Statistics: [yth_demo_020];
- EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS): [lfst_r_pgauwsc]; [lfst_r_ergau]; [lfst_r_urgau]; [edat_lfs_9913]; [edat_lfse_30]; [edat_lfse_29]; [edat_lfse_34]; [trng_lfs_14].

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Selected indicators were extracted from the different databases according to two criteria:

Time range: the previous decade (2011-2021) to have a sufficiently long period of time to capture the main changes and continuities in young people's trajectories in education, training, and employment and to capture the impact of the economic and financial crisis that hit Europe in 2008 and the first impact of the pandemic crisis.

Age group: 25-29 years old (the target group) and other age groups (15-24; 25-29; 30-34 years old) to make a comparable analysis within age groups - according to available data in each indicator.

In addition to a descriptive analysis, and in order to compare the main data changes and continuities in different time periods, absolute and relative change were calculated by considering the 3 main time points that were selected, namely 2011, 2013 and 2021. Absolute change refers to the simple difference in the indicator over two periods in time and is expressed in percentage points (pp). Relative change expresses the change of a value of an indicator during an earlier period and is expressed in percentage terms.

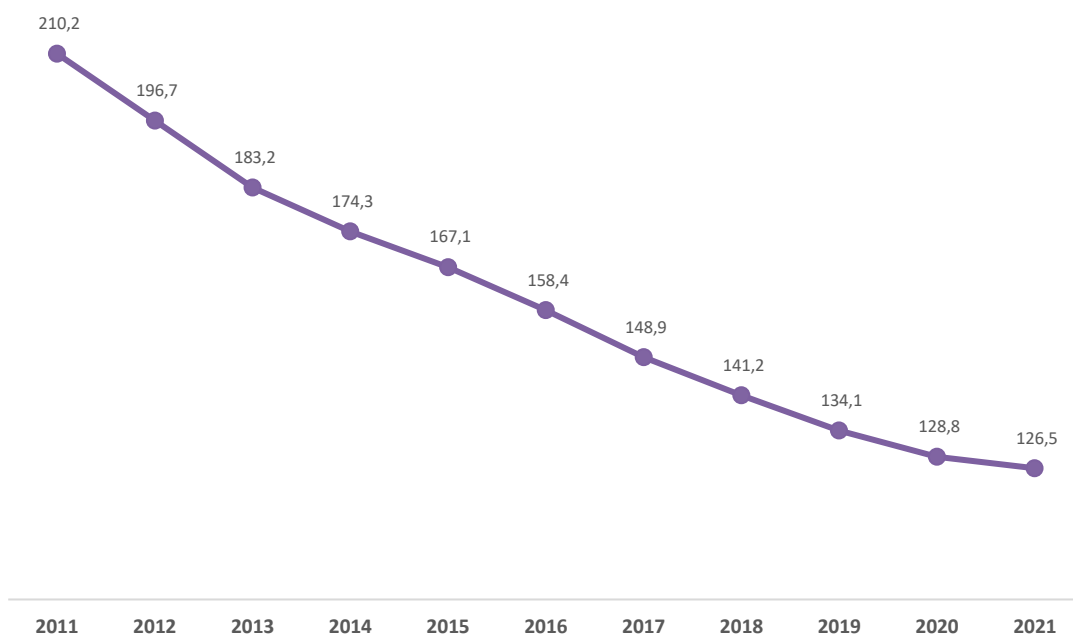
Data analysis

Youth population

Youth population in Lithuania varied quite significantly over the past decade. Chart 1 illustrates the changes in the population aged 25 to 29 between 2011 and 2021, by degree of urbanisation. It shows that the number of young people has been decreasing gradually over the past decade, from 210,2 thousand in 2011 to 126,5 thousand in 2021. The trend was similar for cities and rural areas. Conversely, small towns and suburbs experienced a slight increase in the number of young people (see Chart 1).

15

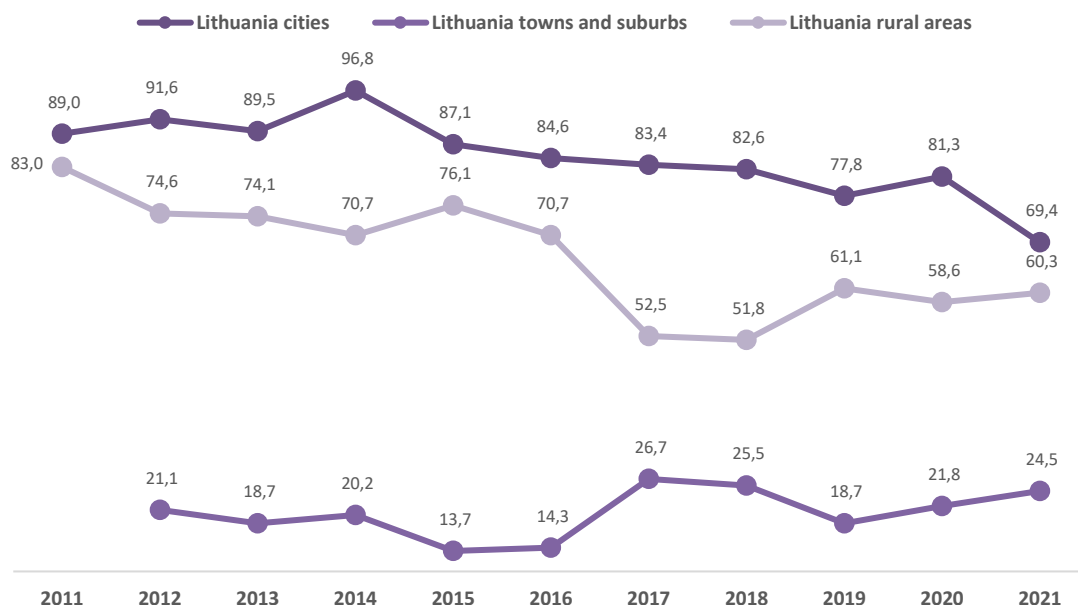
Chart 1-Youth population (25-29 Years), 2011-2021 (thousands)



Source: Eurostat (lfsa_pgauws) – data extracted on 09.05.2022

A more detailed analysis shows that youth population by degree of urbanization has changed and decreased in Lithuania cities and Lithuania rural areas, in cities from 89,0 thousand in 2011, to 69,4 thousand in 2021, accordingly in rural areas the change is even higher from 83,0 thousand in 2011, to 60,3 thousand in 2021. In the small towns and suburbs areas, there has been a slight increase in past 10 years, (see Chart 2).

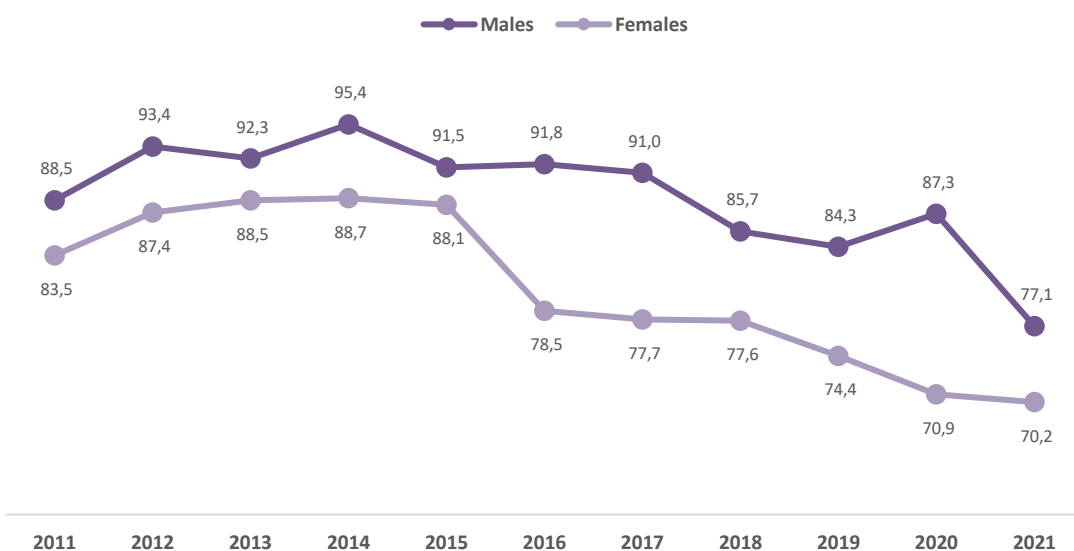
Chart 2-Youth population (25-29 Years), by degree of urbanization (thousands)



Source: Eurostat (lfsa_pgauws) – data extracted on 09.05.2022

Chart 3 illustrates the changes in the youth population aged 25 to 29 in 2011 and 2021 by sex. It shows that the number of young women has been decreasing gradually over the past decade, from 83,5 thousand in 2011 to 70,2 thousand in 2021. Males, on the other hand, has been slightly increasing.

Chart 3-Youth population (25-29 Years), by sex (thousands)



Source: Eurostat (lfsa_pgauws) – data extracted on 09.05.2022

Table 2 shows that number of young people has been decreasing. Between 2011 and 2021, the youth population ratio dropped by 6.3 pp, from 23.4% to 17.1%. The decline occurred across all age subgroups of young people.

In Table 2, youth population in Lithuania categorized by age groups. There has been a decrease in age groups (15-19, 20-24, 25-29) since 2011. The age group 30-34 experience an increase 205,3 in 2011 and 227,2 in 2021. According to the Table 1 youth population is decreasing in Lithuania.

Table 2-Youth population, 2011-2021, by age group (thousands)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
15-19	210,2	196,7	183,2	174,3	167,1	158,4	148,9	141,2	134,1	128,8	126,5
20-24	217,0	214,9	214,6	211,4	202,2	189,5	174,1	162,0	154,2	152,1	149,2
25-29	172,0	180,8	180,8	184,1	179,6	170,3	168,7	163,3	158,7	158,1	147,3
30-34	205,3	190,8	189,5	186,6	193,7	204,5	202,3	207,8	212,9	215,6	227,2

Source: Eurostat (lfsa_pgauws) – data extracted on 09.05.2022

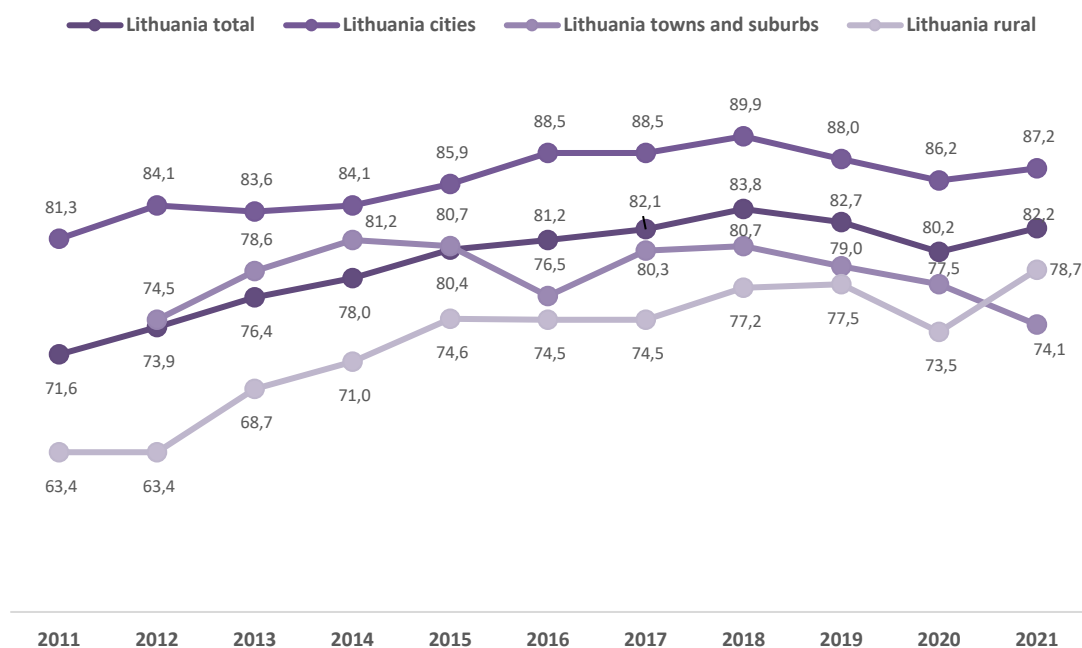
From 2011 to 2021, youth population (25-29 years) continuously declined in Lithuania, especially females. The exception is seen towns and suburbs where, there was an increase in the young population from 2020 to 2021 in youth aged 25-29. In 2011-2021 perspective, 15-19 aged group of youth has declined most drastically, 210,2 thousand in 2011, to 126,5 thousand in 2021.

Employment and unemployment

Youth employment

Regarding youth employment rates from 2011 to 2021, in total, there is seen an increase of 10 p.p. However, in 2020, comparing to 2018, the youth employment rates has dropped down around 3 pp, and this could be explained by the worldwide pandemic of Covid 19 (see Chart 4).

Chart 4-Employment rates (20-34 Years), by degree of urbanisation, 2011-2021 (%)



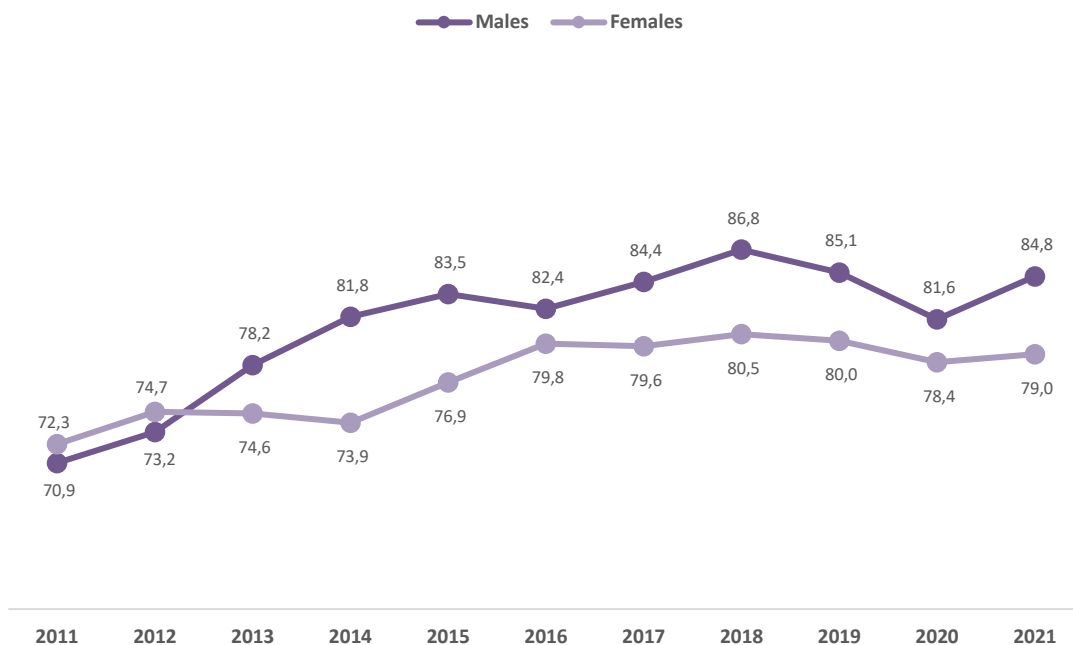
Data from Towns (2011) is not available

Source: Eurostat (edat_ifse_34) – data extracted on 09.05.2022

Regarding youth employment rates by urbanization level, all 4 categories: in total, in cities, in towns and suburbs and in rural areas has increased since 2011. A significant decrease is seen in 2020, regarding the Covid19 pandemic. Also, the youth of Lithuania towns and suburbs experienced lowest results regarding employment from 2012 to 2021 decreasing 0.4 pp (see Chart 4).

In Chart 5 the employment rates of young people aged 20-34 in Lithuania by sex is shown. There was an increase in employment rates between 2011 and 2021, more significantly amongst men, increasing 13.9 pp in this period, and only 6.7 pp amongst women.

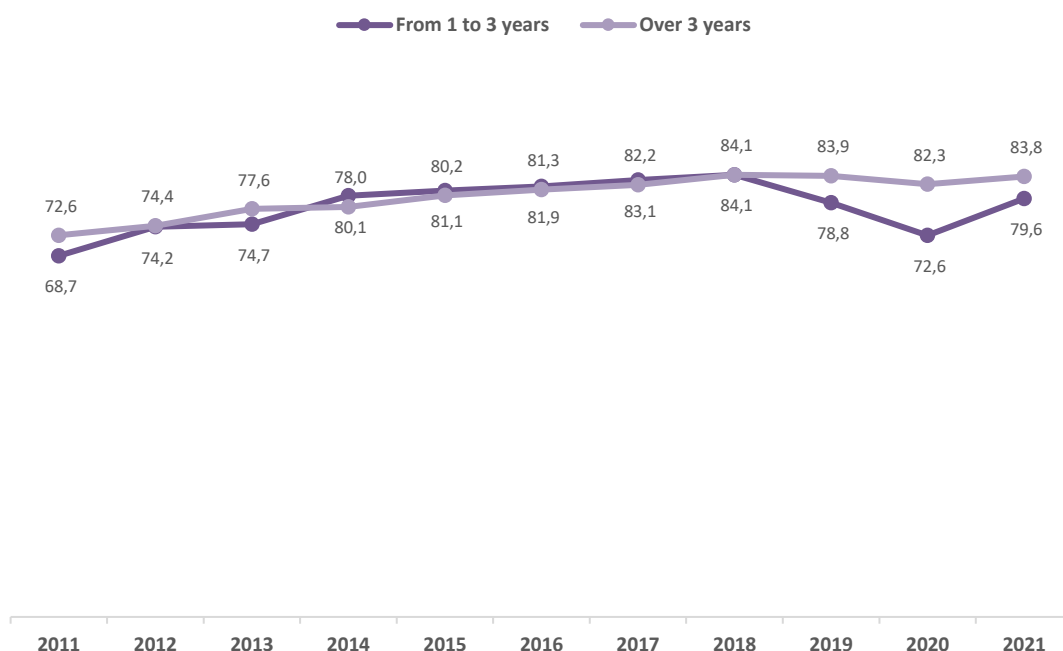
Chart 5-Employment rates (20-34 Years), by sex, 2011-2021 (%)



Source: Eurostat (edat_ifse_34) – data extracted on 08.05.2022

Employment rates by young people aged 20-34 in Lithuania according to completion of the highest level of education varies differently. From 2011 to 2021 there is a slight increase in both categories, from 1 to 3 years after finished education and over 3 years after finished education, employment rates vary from (1 to 3 years from 68,7% in 2011, to 79,6% in 2021) and over 3 years, accordingly from 72,6% in 2011 to 83,8% in 2021. (chart 6)

Chart 6- Employment rates (20-34 Years), 2011-2021, by years since completion of highest level of education (%)



Source: Eurostat (edat_ifse_34) – data extracted on 08.05.2022

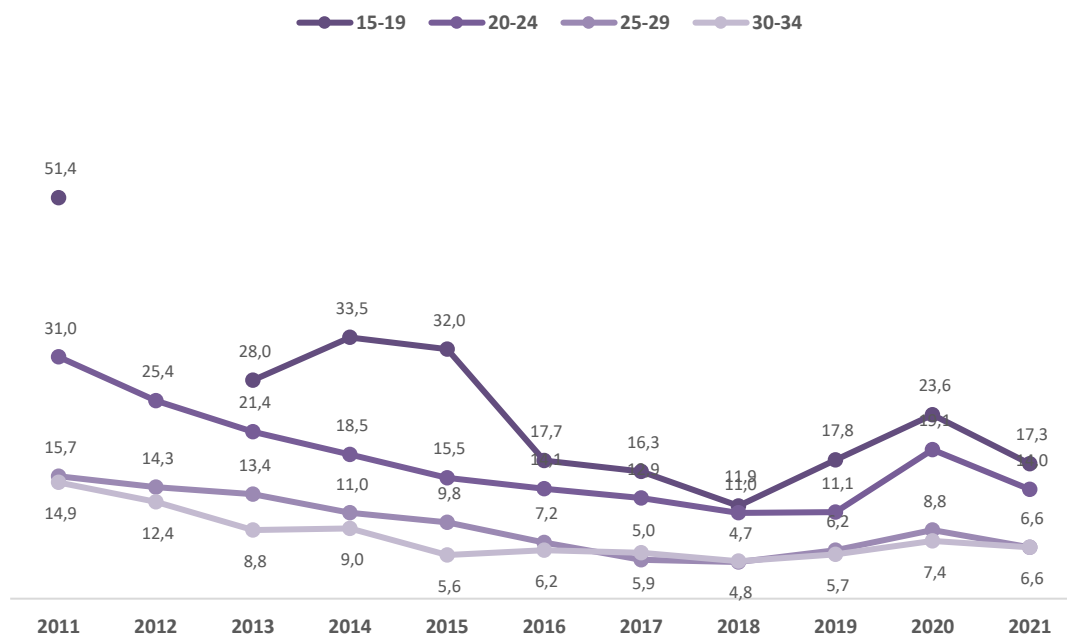
From 2011 to 2021 there is seen an increase of 10 pp. However, in 2020, compared to 2018, the youth employment rates have dropped by around 3 p.p., and this could be explained by the worldwide pandemic of Covid 19. Males' employment rates increased higher than females by 13.9 pp from 2011 to 2021, compared to females that increased only 6.7 pp in the same period. Overall, youth employment in Lithuania is increasing.

Youth unemployment

Youth unemployment levels changed quite drastically since 2011 to 2021. In 2021 youth unemployment in total was 51.4%³, while in 2021 – 17.3 pp. The unemployment rates increased in 2014 (33.5%) and in 2020 (23.6%) regarding the pandemic. In an overview by the last 10 years, youth unemployment in Lithuania is decreasing, (see Chart 7).

³ Data with low reliability

Chart 7-Youth unemployment (15-19 Years), by age, 2011-2021 (%)

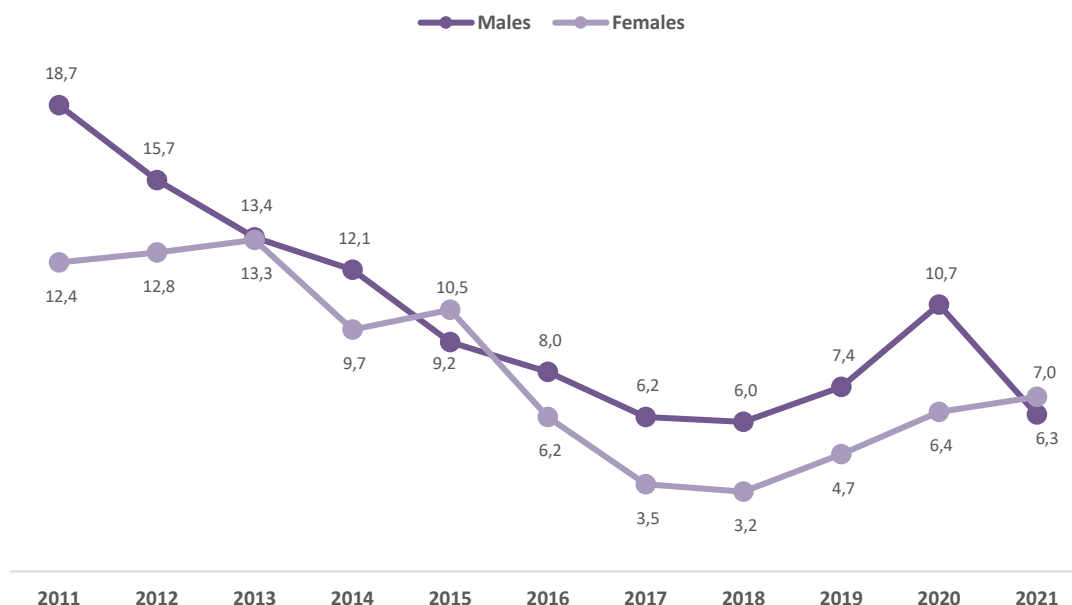


Data from age group 15-19 (2011 and 2012) is not available
Source: Eurostat (lfst_r_ergau) – data extracted on 08.05.2022

Youth unemployment by aged differs significantly. Age group 15-19 experience highest levels of unemployment in 2011 (51.4%) and in 2021 (17.3%). Interestingly the age group 20-24 experienced unemployment rate decrease (by 2011 to 2021 – 17 pp) while the age group of 25-29, by 2011 to 2021 – also experienced decrease in unemployment, from 2011 to 2021 by 9.1 pp. The lowest unemployment rates are in the age group 30-34, and viewed as decreasing, (see Chart 7).

Unemployment rates of youth by sex in Lithuania since 2011 to 2021 is decreasing. Males and females experience decreases males from 18.7% in 2011, to 6.3% in 2021. While females, from 12.4% in 2011 to 7% in 2021. Higher increase in viewable in 2020 for males, than for females, from 10.7% for males to 6.4% for females (chart 8).

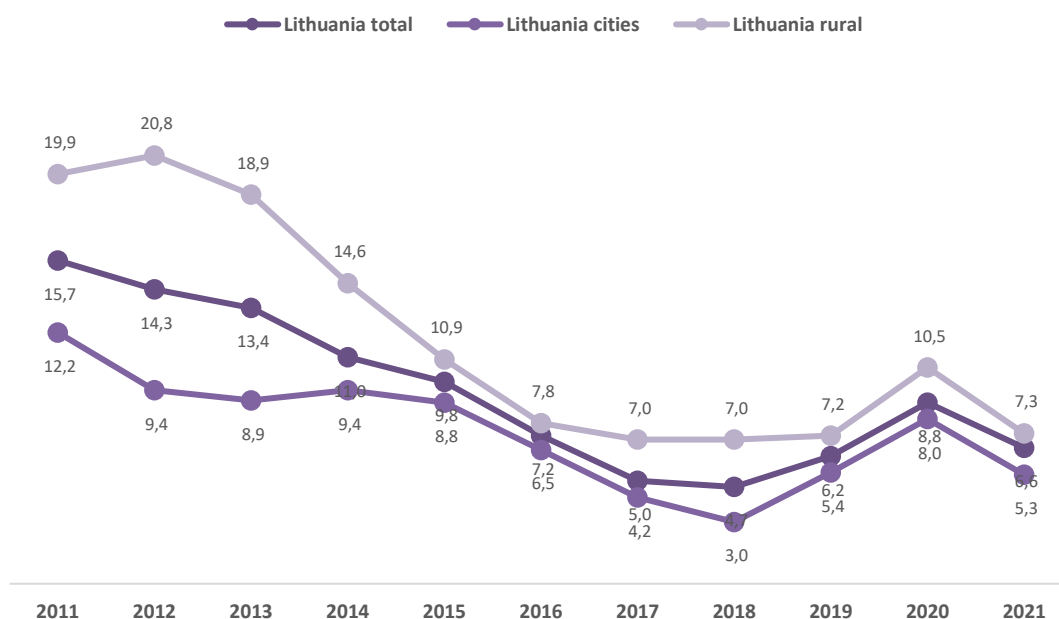
Chart 8-Youth unemployment (25-29 Years), by sex (%)



Source: Eurostat (lfst_r_ergau) – data extracted on 08.05.2022

Unemployment rates of youth in Lithuania by degree of urbanization is also decreasing. Lowest unemployment rate is experienced in cities. Furthermore, there is no available data on youth unemployment for towns and suburbs in Lithuania period 2011-2021. As the of total, the unemployment rate is decreasing, (see Chart 9).

Chart 9-Youth unemployment (25-29 Years), by degree of urbanisation (%)



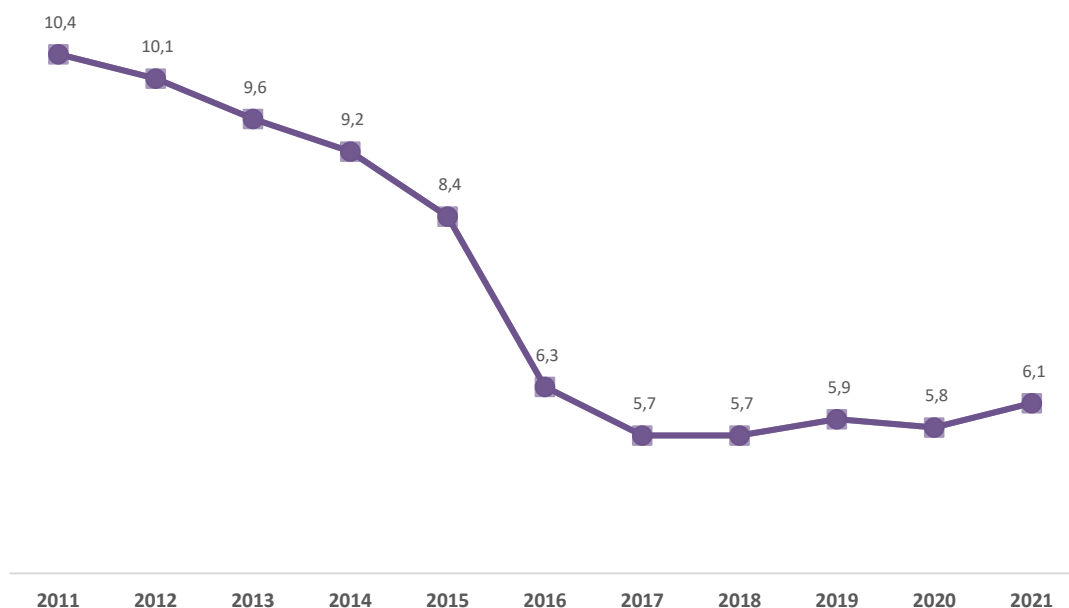
Source: Eurostat (lfst_r_ergau) – data extracted on 08.05.2022

From 2011 to 2021 youth unemployment levels changed firmly. In 2021 youth unemployment in total was 51.4%, while in 2021 – 17,3%. The unemployment rates increased in 2014 (33.5%) and in 2020 (23.6%) regarding the pandemic. In an overview of the last 10 years, youth unemployment in Lithuania is decreasing. Youth unemployment by age differs significantly. Age group 15-19, regarding other age groups, experience the highest levels of unemployment in 2011 (51.4%) and in 2021 (17.3%).

Education

The level of educational attainment by ISCED level 0-2 in Lithuania youth aged 25-34 years is continuously decreasing. In 2011 the age group 25-34 educational attainment level was 10.4 %, while in 2021 – 6.1% (chart 10).

Chart 10 - Young people by educational attainment level (25-34 Years), 2011-2021, ISCED level 0-2 (%)

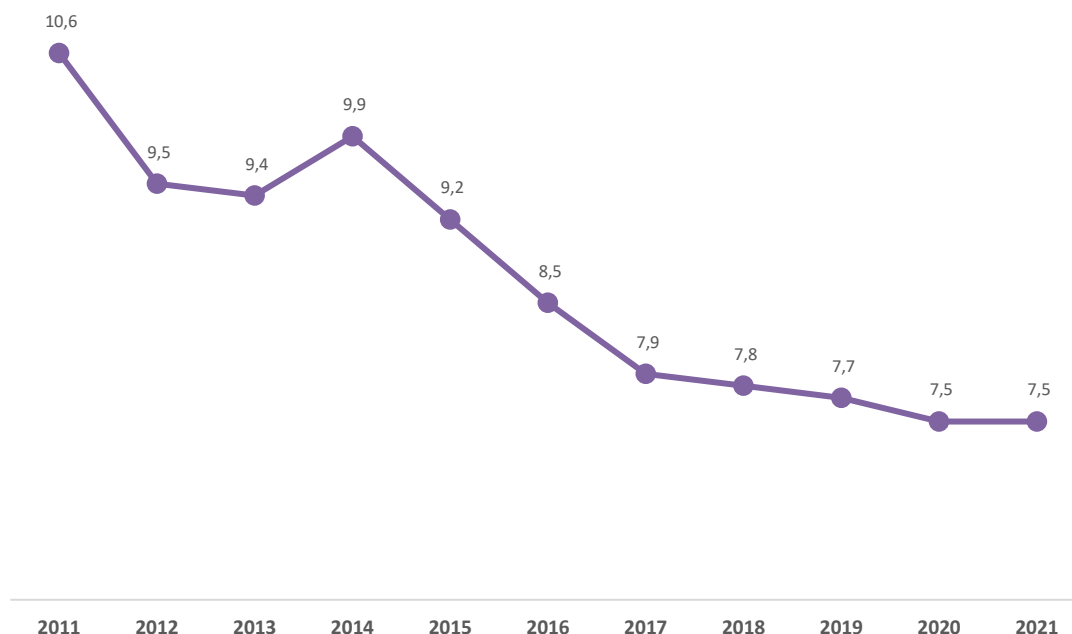


24

Source: Eurostat (edat_lfs_9913) – data extracted on 08.05.2022

In general population aged 15-64, the educational attainment level has been decreasing significantly in the past 10 years. From 10.6% in 2011, to 7.5% in 2021 (chart 11).

Chart 11-Population by educational attainment level, sex, age and degree of urbanisation 2011-2021, (15-64 years), ISCED level 0-2 (%)

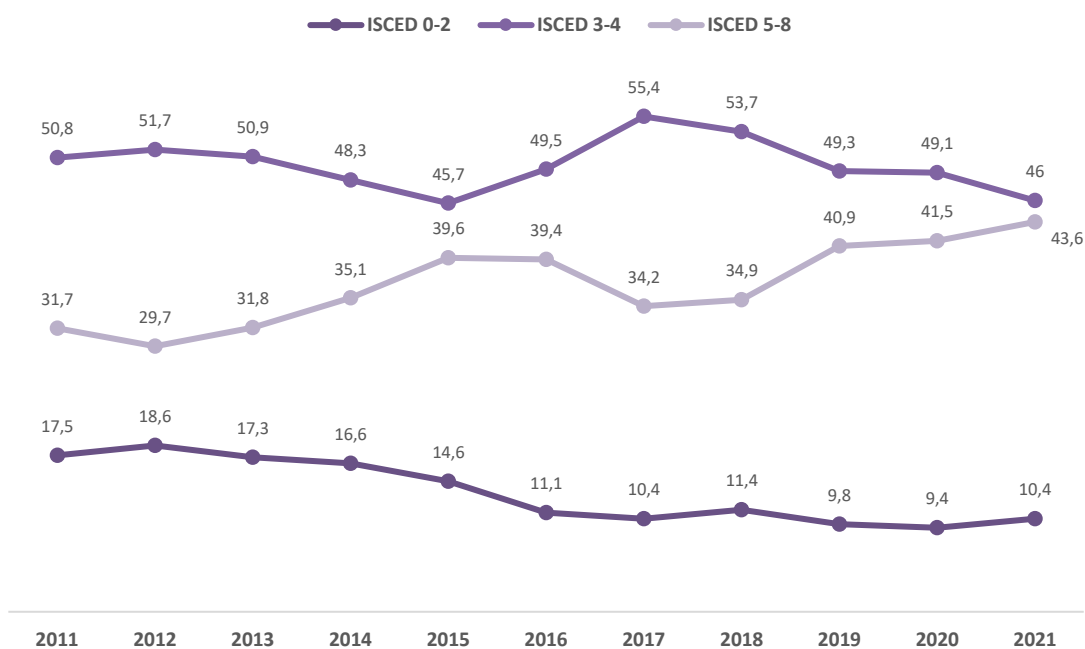


25

Source: Eurostat (edat_lfs_9913) – data extracted on 08.05.2022

Chart 12 represents young people aged 25-34 years in rural areas, by educational attainment level in ISCED level 0-2. Data shows how it has been changing drastically between 2011-2021, with a decrease in the proportion of young people with ISCED 0-2 and ISCED 3-4, less 7.1 pp and 4.8 pp, respectively. In contrast, the proportion of young people with ISCED 5-8 increased 11.9 pp in the same period.

Chart 12-Young people (25-34 Years) in rural areas, by educational attainment level, 2011-2021 (%)
ISCED level 0-2 (%)

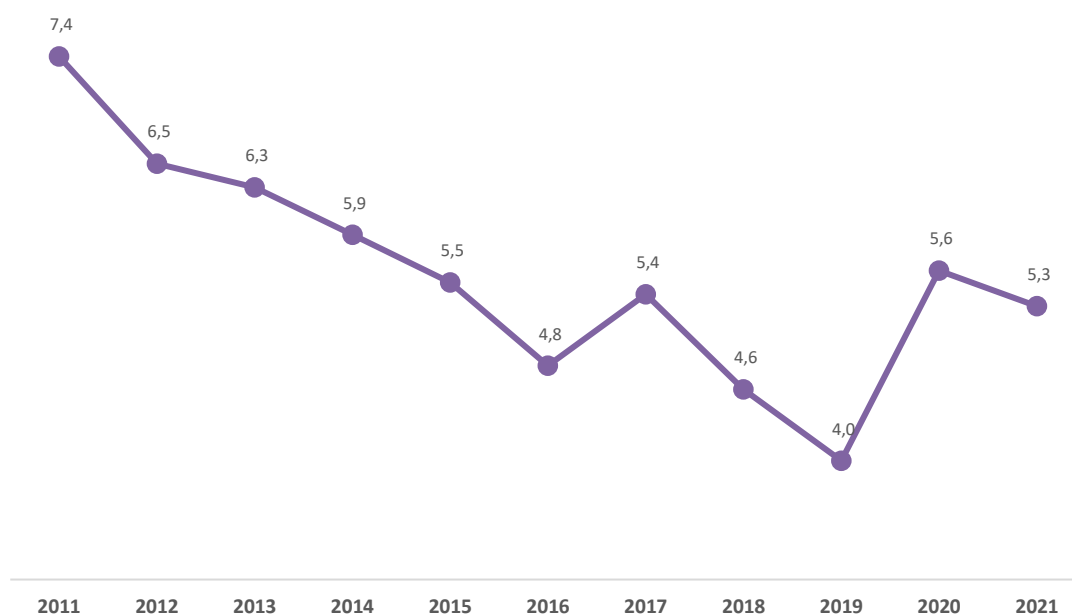


Source: Eurostat (edat_lfs_9913) – data extracted on 08.05.2022

Early leavers

The youth early leavers from education and training by sex and age group 18-24 in Lithuania has decreased from 2011 to 2019 by 3.4 pp and has been increasing. Higher numbers of early leavers from education and training seen from 2020, possibly regarding pandemic (chart 13).

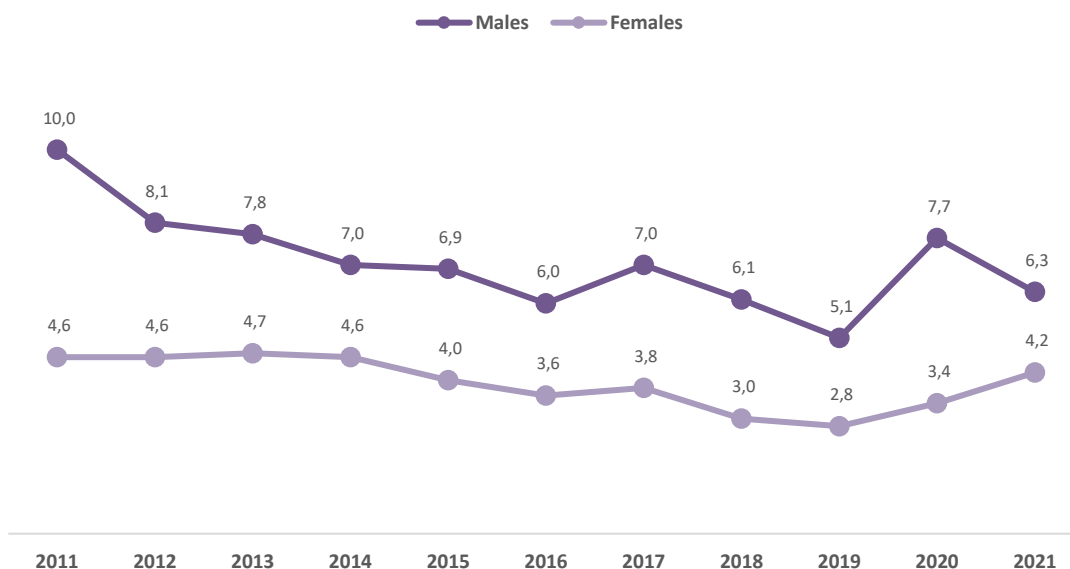
Chart 13-Early leavers from education and training, 2011-2021 (%)



Source: Eurostat (edat_ifse_30) – data extracted on 08.05.2022

Regarding early leavers by sex in age group 18-24, males experience higher levels of leaving education and training from 10% in 2011 to 6.3% in 2021. As females were experiencing decreasing since 2011 to 2016 and increasing since 2017 to 2021, (see Chart 14).

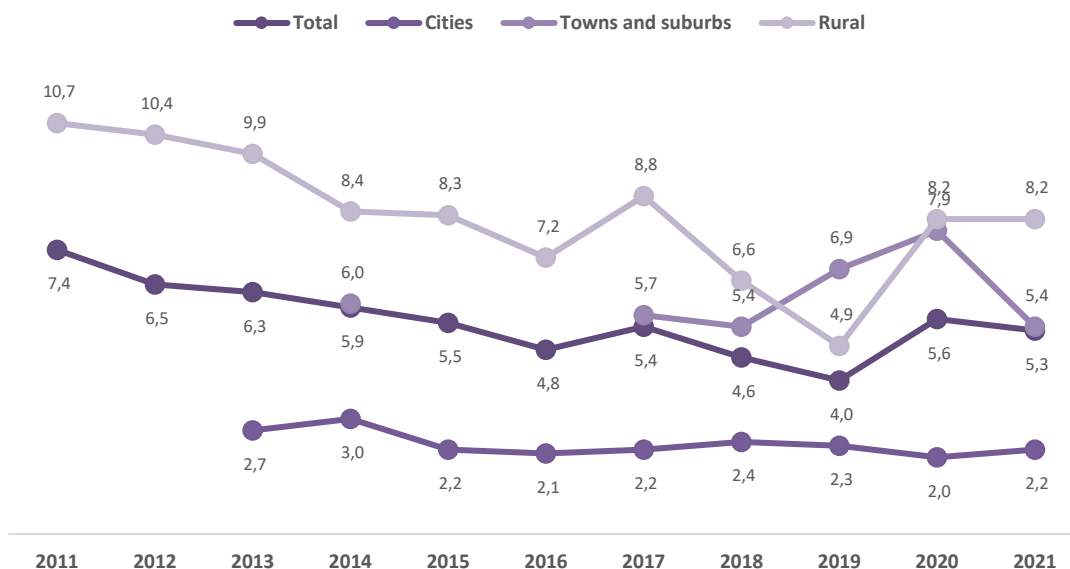
Chart 14-Early leavers from education and training, 2011-2021, by sex (%)



Source: Eurostat (edat_lfse_30) – data extracted on 08.05.2022

In Chart 15 explained early leavers from education and training by degree of urbanisation. The degrees of early leavers are high (from 10.7% in 2011 to 8.2% in 2021) and increasing in towns / suburbs and in Lithuania rural areas. As the cities, it is slightly decreasing, from 2.7% in 2013, and 2.2% in 2021.

Chart 15-Early leavers from education and training, 2011-2021, by degree of urbanisation (%)



Data from Towns (2011-2013; 2015-2016) and cities (2011, 2012) is not available

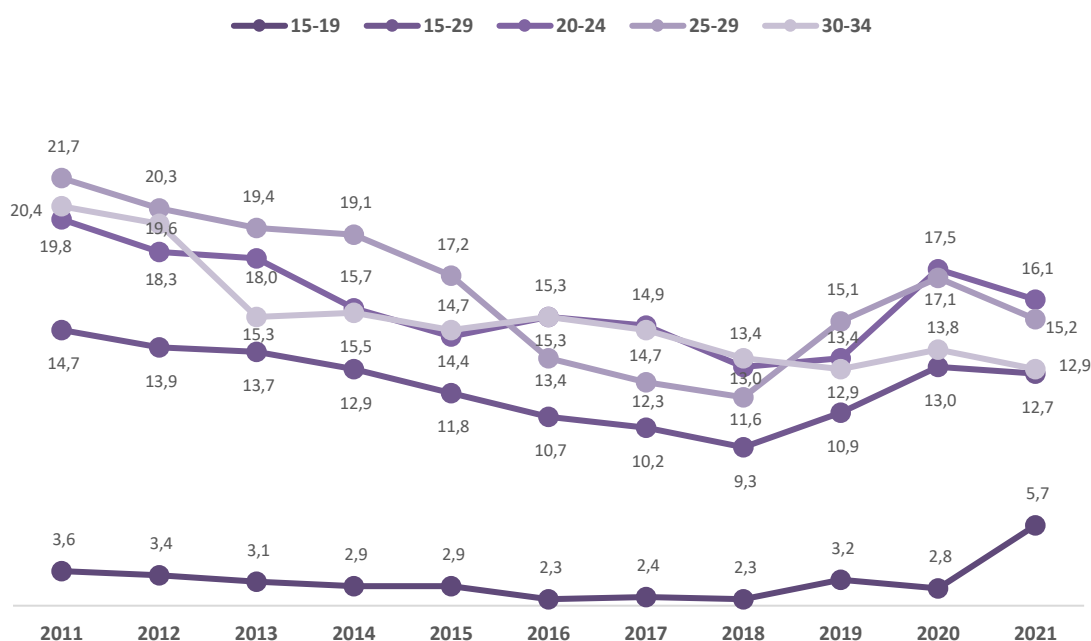
Source: Eurostat (edat_lfse_30) – data extracted on 08.05.2022

From 2011 to 2021, Lithuania population of education attainment level continuously decreased. Regarding early leavers males experience higher levels of leaving education and training from 10% in 2011 to 6.3% in 2021. As females were experiencing decreasing since 2011 to 2016 and increasing since 2017 to 2021. The degrees of early leavers are high (from 10.7% in 2011 to 8.2% in 2021) and increasing in towns/suburbs and in Lithuania rural areas. As the cities, it is slightly decreasing, from 2.7% in 2013, and 2.2% in 2021.

NEETs

The level of NEET's in Lithuania are slightly decreasing since 2011 to 2018 and increasing since 2018 to 2020. In 2021 15-29, 20-24, 25-29 and 30-34 aged youth levels of not participating in employment nor in education is decreasing. However, youth aged 15-19 numbers of neither in employment nor in education or training are increasing, from 3.6 in 2011 to 5.7 in 2021, (see Chart 16).

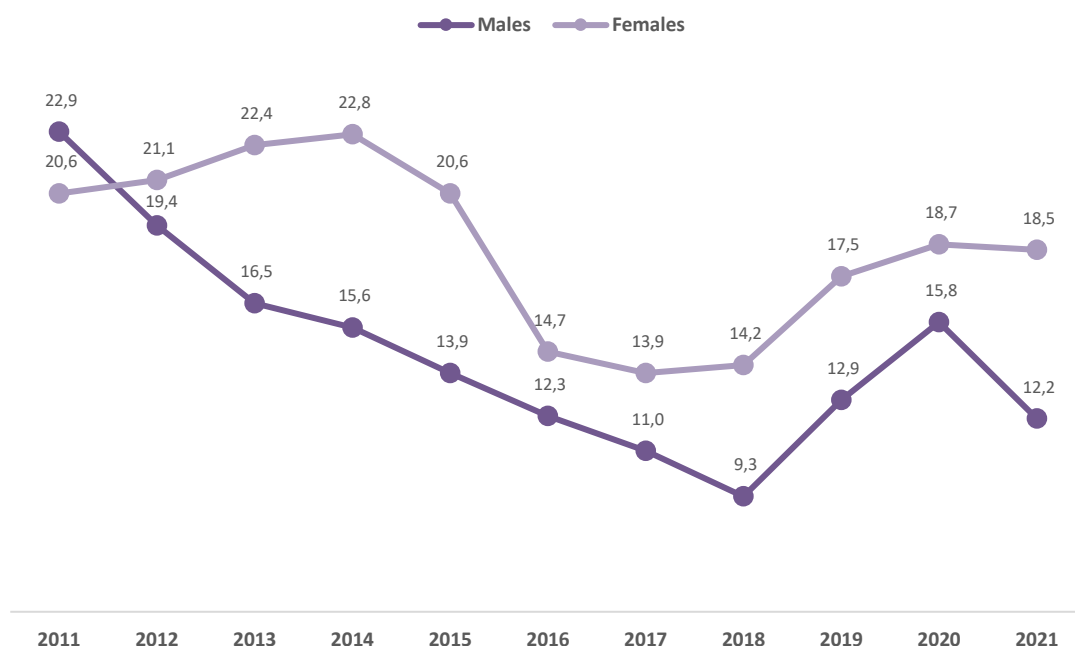
Chart 16-Young people neither in employment nor in education and training, 2011-2021, by age (%)



Source: Eurostat (edat_ifse_29) – data extracted on 08.05.2022

Interestingly NEET's in age group 25-29 by sex differ significantly. Males experience decreasing past 9 years, with exception of pandemic and year 2020 (15.8%). As for females the numbers have been increasing with small changes and decrease in 2017 to 2019 and continuing increasing since 2021. This changed between genders may be explained by the year of giving birth to the first child, which in the latest data of Lithuania is 28 years regarding Statistics Lithuania 2019. Also, women take up childcare and parental leave more than men in regards of 27.9% females in 2020, to 9% males, which may exclude these women from labour market, education and training. It is important to note that differences between the sexes are high and increasing, (see Chart 17).

Chart 17-Young people neither in employment nor in education and training (25-29 Years), 2011-2021, by sex (%)

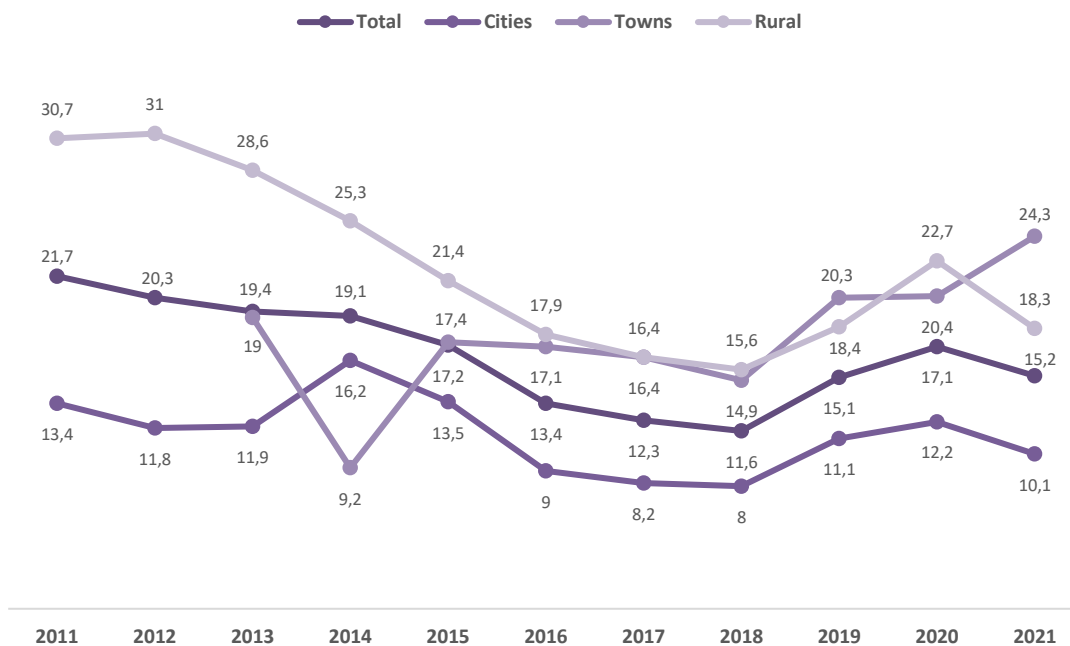


Source: Eurostat (edat_ifse_29) – data extracted on 08.05.2022

From 2011 to 2021, the level of NEET's in Lithuania are slightly decreasing since 2011 to 2018 and increasing since 2018 to 2020. However, youth aged 15-19 numbers of neither in employment nor in education or training are increasing, from 3.6 in 2011 to 5.7 in 2021. Males experience decreasing past 9 years, with exception of pandemic and year 2020 (15.8%). As for females the numbers have been increasing with small changes and decrease in 2017 to 2019 and continuing increasing since 2021. It is important to note that differences between the sexes are high and increasing.

In Chart 18, young people neither in employment nor in education and training 25-29 years presented by the degree of urbanization. Interestingly, there is seen a visible decrease of NEET's in rural areas. While in town and suburbs, also in cities and the total number of NEET's decreased since 2011 to 2018. Total, cities, towns, and suburbs experience slight increase since 2018 to 2020, while in rural areas this number continues decreasing.

Chart 18-Young people neither in employment nor in education and training (25-29 Years), 2011-2021, by degree of urbanization (%)



Data from Towns (2011 and 2012) is not available.
Source: Source: Eurostat (edat_ifse_29) – data extracted on 08.05.2022

Conclusions

In conclusion, as for many other Eastern European countries, Lithuania youth population has been decreasing from 2011 to 2021. Population by urbanisation level has changed and decreased in Lithuania cities and Lithuania rural areas and has some small increase in towns, and suburbs.

Interestingly, youth employment has been increasing, whilst by the last 10 years, youth unemployment in Lithuania is decreasing. Moreover, education levels have been decreasing. Data on early leavers from education and training, shows that there is a slight increase since 2020 in Lithuania youth aged 20-34, also, more males leave education or training than females. To add, more early education and training leavers are from small towns, suburbs and rural areas.

As for NEETs levels in Lithuania has been decreasing from 2011 to 2021. However, NEET's in age group 25-29 by sex differ significantly. Males experience decrease, with exception of pandemic. As for females the number has been increasing with small changes in 2017 to 2019 and continuing increasing since 2021. Moreover, NEET's in rural areas continues decreasing visibly.

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Important links

National Plan for youth

<https://socmin.lrv.lt/en/activities/family-and-children/youth-policy?lang=lt>

Youth Guarantee

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1161&langId=en&intPageId=3342>

National Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan

<https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/7315ac1066c611eb9dc7b575f08e8bea>

Youth wiki – Lithuanian national youth policies

<https://national-policies.eacea.ec.europa.eu/youthwiki/chapters/lithuania/overview>