

The Lithuanian Agency of Non-formal Education

(lt. Lietuvos neformaliojo švietimo agentūra, LINEŠA)

We are the Lithuanian Agency of Informal Education (LINEŠA), subordinate to the Ministry of Education, Science, and Sports. Our main goal is to support the implementation of state policy in the areas of non-formal children's education and career guidance.

Our objectives include:

- Developing the system of non-formal children's education;
- Organizing the dissemination of information and professional development for participants in the education system according to our competence;
- Coordinating and conducting career guidance;
- Creating and developing the STEAM education ecosystem, and establishing and coordinating the Network of Sustainable Schools in Lithuania;
- Creating conditions for highly motivated school students to reveal their talents and creativity and ensuring their participation in international events.

We are a sustainable education organization. Sustainability is a long-term process aimed at achieving well-being and development while meeting the needs of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Since 2015, LINEŠA has been involved in the creation and improvement of the non-formal children's education system. The Ministry of Education, Science, and Sports sets goals and implements measures to increase the proportion of school students who participate in non-formal education. We aim to enhance school students' opportunities to showcase their abilities through various non-formal education activities.

To create competency-based education, LINEŠA is initiating the development of a tool to help both teachers and school students recognize competencies and track progress, providing data and insights for improving the education system.

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award (DofE) program is conducted in 130 countries, including Lithuania, represented by LINEŠA. Each year, over 1,000 Lithuanian youth have the opportunity to challenge themselves, helping them prepare for life's and work's challenges.

LINEŠA annually organizes subject olympiads, competitions, training camps for international events, and sends Lithuanian school student teams to international events. We administer two campgrounds by the sea. Summer camps are a popular venue for various non-formal education programs due to their child-friendly infrastructure, safety, and popularity among both children and parents.

The B. Oškinis Aviation Academy runs the "Children's Aviation Pilot" non-formal education program in seven squadrons, in cooperation with territorial aeroclubs.

Since 2018, LINEŠA has been an accredited institution authorized to provide professional development for teachers and education support specialists. From 2020 to 2023, LINEŠA provided professional development and learning services to about 12,000 individuals.

In 2023, LINEŠA initiated the preparation of STEAM ecosystem guidelines, identifying all participants and interaction areas within the STEAM ecosystem. The strongest participants currently are the methodological and regional STEAM open access centres, significantly contributing to the development of STEAM education in Lithuania.

The goal of career guidance is to create conditions for all school students to develop career competencies, which are important for successfully choosing a learning path, profession, or work activity, transitioning from educational to work environments, within work environments, as well as for further professional development and learning.

LINEŠA aims to contribute to the State's future vision "Lithuania 2050" ensuring that young Lithuanian residents—children—improve their health and remain actively mobile.

LINEŠA takes on the challenge of uniting sustainable development initiatives into the Sustainable School program, where participating schools can coordinate activities between institutions, share coverage and responsibilities, create physical environments, build sustainable communities, and develop sustainability competencies. LINEŠA aims to involve all Lithuanian schools in the Sustainable School program by 2030.

DEPARTMENT OF PROJECTS AND EVENTS

The department aims to enhance the effectiveness and results of LINEŠA's activities, improve its national and international image, and promote investments.

- Seeks ways and opportunities to participate in projects;
- Initiates and coordinates the preparation of applications for obtaining subsidies;
- Manages project progress, considering activity schedules and budgets;
- Seeks partners abroad; maintains relationships with relevant EU institutions, national agencies implementing international projects, and other international organizations;
- Organizes LINEŠA's national and international events in Lithuania, among other activities.

QUALIFICATIONS DEPARTMENT

The department aims to organize the professional development of teachers and other individuals working in non-formal children's education.

- Analyzes the professional development needs of teachers and other professionals in non-formal children's education in Lithuania;
- Develops, accredits, and implements professional development programs for teachers and other professionals in non-formal children's education (hereinafter referred to as Qualification Enhancement Programs);
- Creates other learning opportunities for teachers, individuals working in non-formal children's education, and other participants in the education system.
- Implements professional development programs for teachers and other education specialists, among other activities.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

The department aims to coordinate external and internal communication and marketing for LINEŠA, aiming to create a unified brand, enhance LINEŠA's positive image, contribute to reputation improvement, and inform the public about non-formal education and training.

- Executes activities related to external communication and marketing for LINEŠA;
- Disseminates information about the essence and benefits of non-formal education to the public;
- Distributes information about LINEŠA's activities - non-formal education courses, events, projects, etc.;
- Administers websites and social media platforms;
- Organizes and coordinates surveys on public opinion and participant feedback regarding non-formal education issues within LINEŠA's activities.

EDUCATION AND CAMPS DEPARTMENT

The department aims to develop and expand educational and summer recreational activities.

- Organizes and coordinates non-formal education services at the "Pasaka" and "Raganè" camps;
- Organizes educational activities at the "Pasaka" and "Raganè" camps;
- Initiates and develops educational program content;
- Provides subject-specific assistance and recommendations on camp organization and other related activities.

STEAM EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The department aims to integrate the STEAM education method and sustainable development goals into the national education system and STEAM ecosystem.

- Nationally develops, coordinates, and implements STEAM education activities, creating conditions for STEAM ecosystem development;
- Creates, coordinates, and develops STEAM ecosystem initiatives and content;
- Provides methodological support and recommendations for STEAM education;
- Organizes national and international STEAM-related events;
- Develops the concept of Sustainable Schools, embeds it, and coordinates it within the national education system, among other activities.

HEALTHY LIVING DEPARTMENT

The department aims to promote health and physical activity culture and foster healthy lifestyles in schools.

- Main tasks of the department:

- Initiates and develops programs and initiatives for healthy lifestyles and physical activity;
- Enhances school students' and students' competencies, engagement, and involvement in healthy living;
- Promotes the importance and principles of healthy living, among other activities.

We invite you to join the project activities: In Lithuania, the Safer Internet Centre, known as Friendly Internet, is coordinated by the Lithuanian Agency of Non-formal Education (LINEŠA) in partnership with the Public Institution "Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania" the association "Window to the Future" and the Public Institution "Child Line". The program is partially funded by the European Union. Across many EU member states and cooperating countries, national Safer Internet Centres have been established, currently operating in 28 countries, united under the INSAFE, INHOPE, and European Schoolnet networks. Additionally, all European Safer Internet Centres collaborate on the Better Internet For Kids platform and contribute to the implementation of the BIK strategy (<https://www.betterinternetforkids.eu/about>). The goal of the Safer Internet Centre is to expand the national safer internet services system by providing three key services to the public: 1) information, 2) helpline, and 3) hotline.

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