



Education and Culture DG  
Lifelong Learning Programme

# LIGHT

INNOVATIVE METHODS AND PRACTICES TO FACILITATE SOCIAL INCLUSION

Project No. 503575-LLP-1-2009-1-LT-GRUNDTVIG-GMP



# Social Innovation Fund

## LITHUANIA



24<sup>th</sup> February, 2010

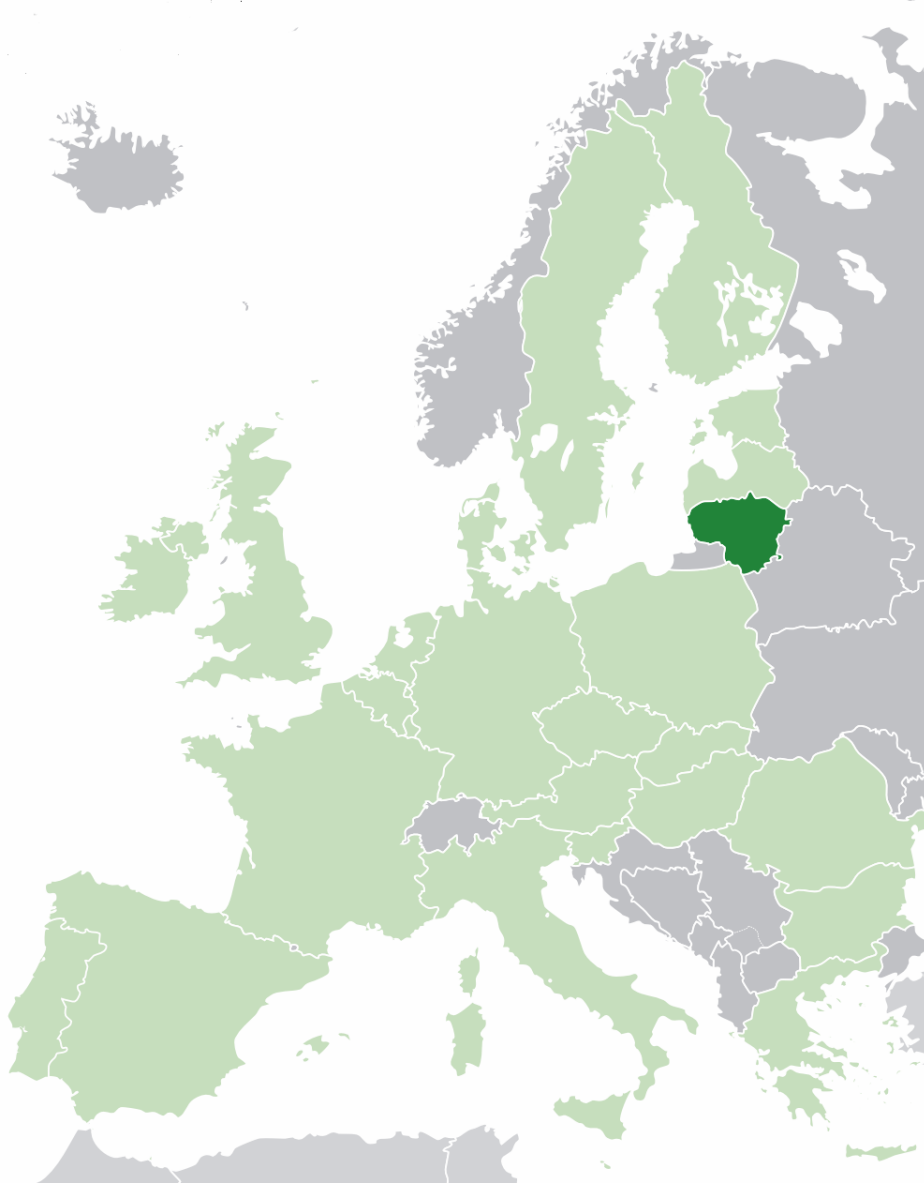
**LIGHT** – International seminar, Utrecht



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## We are located in second biggest Lithuania's city Kaunas



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- **Kaunas Region is the central Region in the country.**
- **It is the geographical, educational, as well as industrial and transport centre of Lithuania.**

**Population of Kaunas county is nearly 680.000 (in Kaunas city – 356.000).**

- **Kaunas Region is the second largest centre of research and development in the country.**
- **There are 11 universities, 6 colleges and 17 vocational training schools in Kaunas region. Around 66,9 thousand people study at these educational institutions.**

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## MAIN FACTS about SIF

- **Social Innovation Fund (SIF) was founded in 1994 as a non-governmental charity and support fund.**
- **SIF employs a director, 8 workers and 2-3 experts in the field.**
- **In addition, there are several women volunteers helping to organise activities in the Fund.**
- **SIF acts at the community, national and European / international levels.**
- **About us online:**
  - [www.lpf.lt](http://www.lpf.lt)
  - [www.gedplan.eu](http://www.gedplan.eu)
  - [www.gender-equality.webinfo.lt](http://www.gender-equality.webinfo.lt)
  - [www.women-coalition.webinfo.lt](http://www.women-coalition.webinfo.lt)
  - [www.women-employment.lt](http://www.women-employment.lt)

# LOCAL (COMMUNITY) LEVEL

- SIF's activities at community level are aimed at unemployed and socially disadvantaged women.
- SIF provides diverse learning opportunities for people to re-enter labour market and to become active citizens.
- Club activity "Help yourself".
- Organizing the voluntary work.

## NATIONAL LEVEL

- SIF is very active on the gender equality implementation at national level.
- In year 2000, SIF has initiated the establishment of the NGOs Coalition for the Protection of Women's Human Rights in Lithuania. The aim of the Coalition is to unite the NGOs in Lithuania in order to put equal rights for men and women in practice. Today Coalition unites 66 NGOs. SIF is the coordinator of this Coalition.



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At the moment on national level SIF is coordinating:

**ESF project**

*“Social mobility model for women” (MSMS model),*

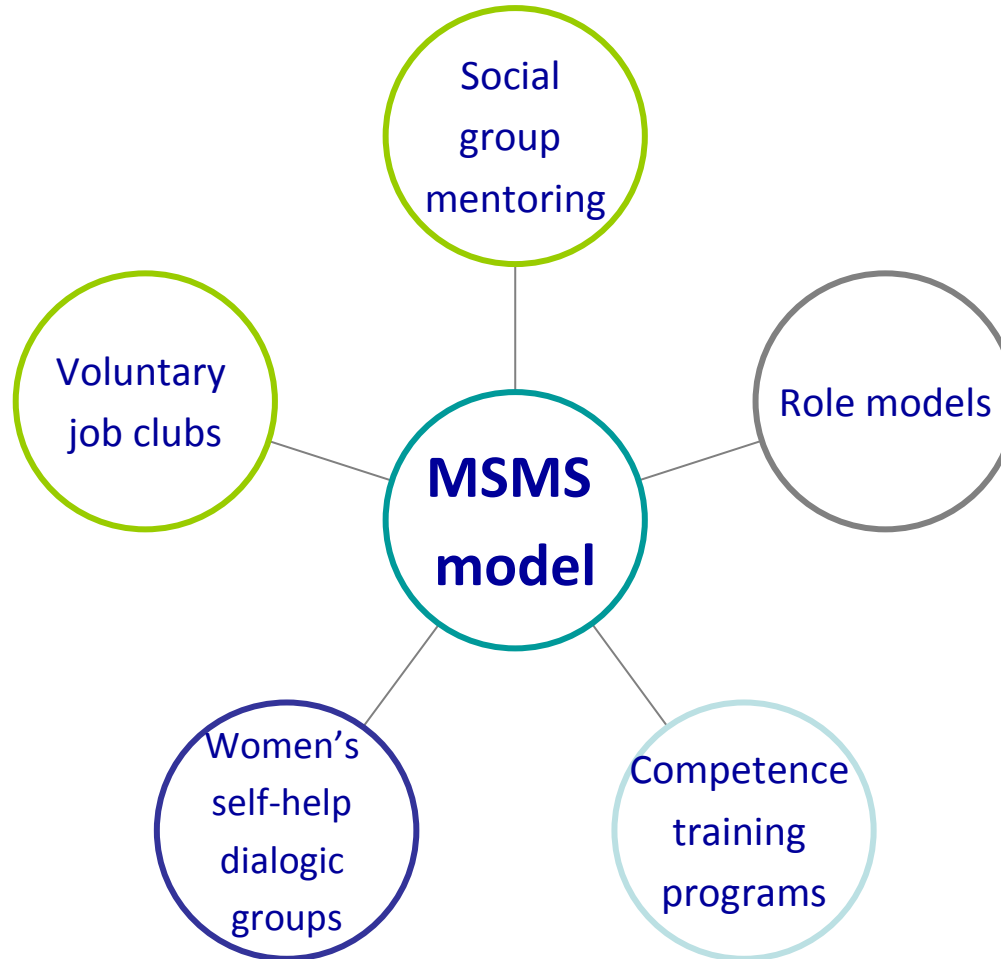
**2009-2012,**

**Project goal was to create, describe and test the complex model (MSMS model) for promotion of social mobility of women at risk of social exclusion.**

**Also with the help of this model rise women’s motivation to seek for a job adequate to their competences and expectations as well as help them to become active members of society. Project’s website: <http://msms.lt/>**



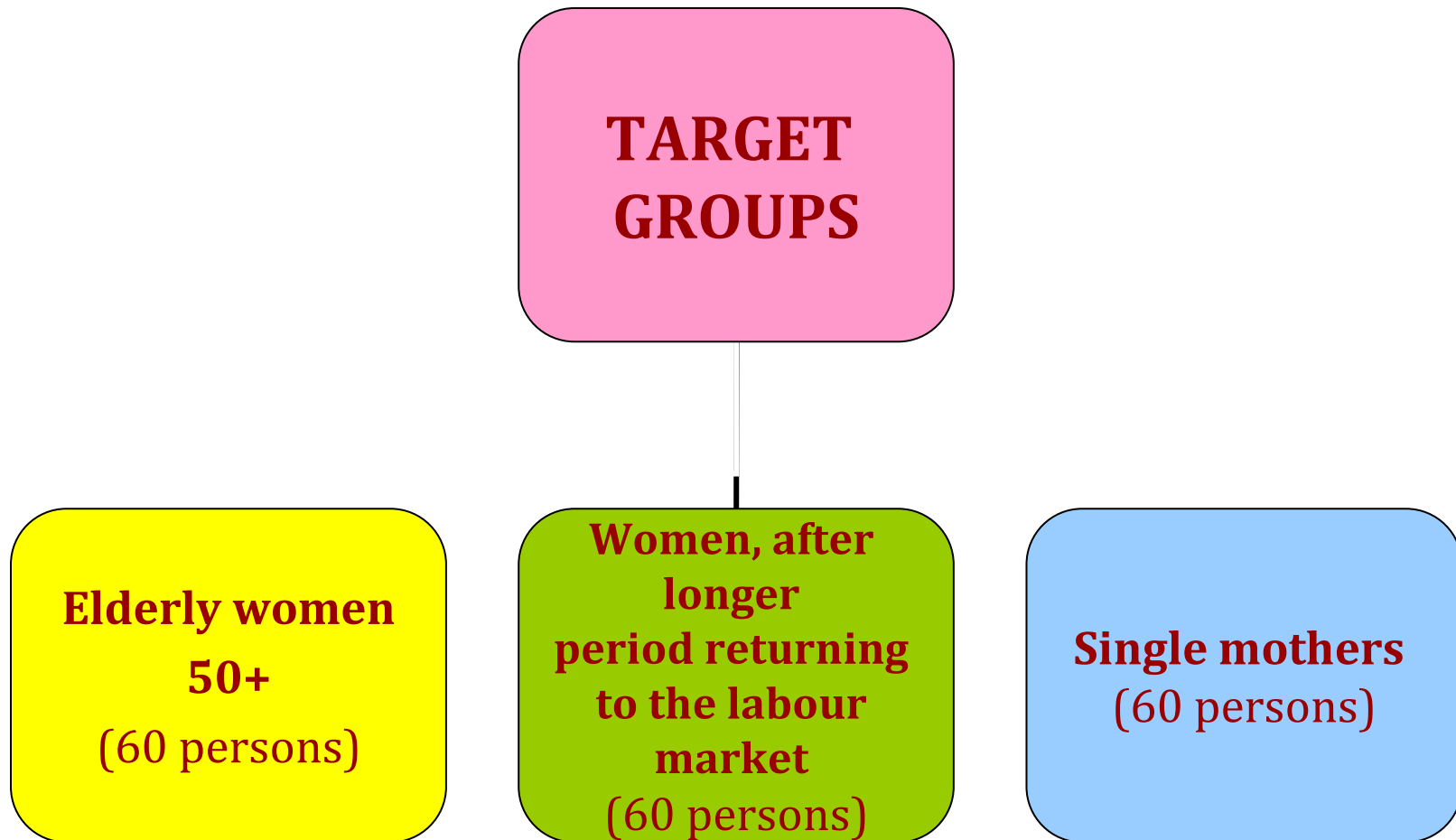
# Project summarizes the SIF's actions to fasten social inclusion of socially disadvantaged persons:





## *Project*

# *“Social mobility model for women” (MSMS model)*



# EUROPEAN / INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

SIF as coordinator and partner has participated in many European Commission Socrates, EC Phare, EC Leonardo da Vinci, Daphne projects.

*(Coordination of 6 EU projects, participation in more than 20).*



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# ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE SPHERE OF WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

- Participation in the European Women's Lobby (EWL).
  - SIF is a member of national EWL organization.
- SIF wrote and presented 2 SHADOW REPORTS on the Implementation of CEDAW and Women's Human Rights in Lithuania (year 2000 and year 2008) to United Nations.



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## **SIF is coordinating these projects on international level in 2010:**

- EU Socrates Grundtvig project *“Innovative Methods and Practices to facilitate Social Inclusion: LIGHT”*, 2009-2011.
- *“Facilitating family learning on work & family balance (FAMILY)”*, EU Socrates Grundtvig, 2009-2011.
- EU Leonardo da Vinci project *“Gender equality and diversity planning at workplaces” (GED-PLAN)*, 2008-2011.



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## SIF is participating as partner in these international projects:

- ***“Euro Fish In A Box”***, EU Leonardo da Vinci, 2009-2011.
- ***“PACT – Promoting Awareness for Cooperation and Training in the field of Domestic Violence”***, EU Socrates Grundtvig, 2009-2011.
- ***“ELSA Empowering Lives, Supporting Affectivity”***, EU KA3 ICT, 2009-2011.



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# Social Innovation Fund LITHUANIA

## Role Model on overcoming unemployment – VILIJA

# VILIJA

- Lithuanian;
- 51 years old;
- Married, has 2 children;
- Used to be long-term unemployed.





In 1981 Vilija graduated Trading Faculty at Vilnius University in Lithuania and gained her university diploma in merchandising.

After that she got a job as an executive in trading stores. In several years she got married, gave birth to two children and, due to the changes in our society system when unemployment rate grew-up in Lithuania, Vilija lost her job.

She registered as unemployed person in Lithuanian Labour Exchange office, but didn't succeed to find a good job for several years. She felt herself very bad, unuseful and not skilled for the "new" labour market.

She found out about the computer courses at Social Innovation Fund and started learning. After the courses Vilija started to be a volunteer at Social Innovation Fund, where she met other women in similar situation like her, where she could learn more and help others.

As a volunteer she became a leader in voluntary activities “job club”. “Job club” activities aimed on involving women volunteers in the activities similar to the everyday work in the organisation, it is a kind of social activity of “learning by doing” where women make various administrative work at real working surrounding (answering phone, working with fax, copy machines, computer and etc.)

In parallel with this activity she continued to attend different courses (English language, secretary-administrator and accountancy) organised by Social Innovation Fund and attained skills which were necessary for the nowadays labour market.

During all these activities she showed herself as active, responsible, creative, friendly person and she was invited to work at Social Innovation Fund as administrator. Time in time Vilija gained more experience by fulfilling various tasks at work.

Vilija became more active and searching for more challenges in her life. So, she entered university and gained masters degree in sociology.

And after several years Vilija decided to seek for further work career and has won a strong competition in one of the governmental organisation, called “Regitra”.

Now Vilija is working at “Regitra” which is taking care of vehicles’ registration all over Lithuania. But it’s very important to underline that she’s continuing to participate in Social Innovation Fund’s activities as a volunteer and she’s now a mentor for unemployed women who are clients of Social Innovation Fund.

Vilija always says, that Social Innovation Fund was the main starting point of being socially active, gaining professional skills and other competencies in her life. And she’s very pleased to give a new chance to other unemployed women and help them to overcome their social inclusion barriers by being their mentor.

**Thank you**  
**and wish everyone nice stay in**  
**Holland!!!**



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