

## **SUMMARY**

### **INFLUENCE OF EU MEMBERSHIP OF LITHUANIA TO STRUCTURE OF THE SOCIETY**

The standpoint of Lithuanian inhabitants to EU is positive – this orientation is more characteristic of the youngest (up to 20 years) and oldest (70 years and more) ones. The inhabitants hope that in the EU Lithuania will be not so provincial, but the ethnic culture of Lithuania is rather a trouble of Lithuanian than European institutions.

The total data of the investigation show the Lithuanians are not active in the field of social organizations. More than 2/3 of the population over 18 years old didn't participate in the activities of any kind of social organizations. Nevertheless, the Lithuanians show the activities trying to influence the actual political life in different ways; bypassing the nongovernmental organizations. More than 80% respondents declare their activities are directed at influencing the political situation of the state. The main forms of activities are: voting at the president elections (78%) and the elections of local authorities (64%).

The data of the sociological research show the Lithuanians generally are intolerant in social aspect. This statement is based on the material of investigation, which discover negative attitudes of the population towards the drug addicts (90% of respondents don't want to have drug addicts as their neighbours, 79% don't want to have alcoholics as their neighbours; 67% don't want to have Romas as neighbours; 65% don't want to have prostitutes as neighbours; 60% don't want to have former criminals as their neighbours; 55% don't want to have sexual minorities as neighbours).

The analysis of the data shows the main tendencies of the stratification of the society. The existence of the market/commercial intercourse leads to the formation of the new social class structure of society. We reveal the existence of the polarization of social structure; nevertheless the amount of the polarization depends on the characteristics of age. Young people are inclined to be more democratic, so the results of the research tend to deny the statements and stereotypes describing young people (21–30 years old) as mature not enough. The mass media and different institutions constantly declare the stereotypes of that kind.

The passive life-style is more characteristic of Lithuanian inhabitants. The more popular occupations in leisure time are television, radio, housekeeping, communication with family, children, reading newspapers, working in the garden, meeting with friends, relatives, watching TV serials.

Respondents were asked to rank eight basic values according to importance, as the guiding principle in their life. Respondents gave overall preference, by prescribing first rank to health (45,5%). Second important value is family well being (34,8%), in third place is material well-being (15,1%), next goes life full of impressions (1,5%), usefulness to others (1%), true friendship (0,9%), social acceptance (0,6%), pleasurable life (0,4%). Family well-being is more important to respondents with lower income (income per family member) – respondents with higher income more often prescribe the lowest ranks to family well-being. Priority to material well-being is more often given by the youngest (21%) and less often by oldest (10,8%) respondents. The older people more often indicate health problems, and among them smoking and drinking are less common.

The majority of the respondents (4/5) share the opinion they are living on the average or below the average. Very few respondents qualify their material situation above the average. There are several plagues that are commonly supposed to be a risk to the society. The Lithuanians more often declare the alcoholism, poverty, unemployment, narcotic addiction, criminality, and corruption as the plagues of the society. The suicides, the decline of birthrate, accidents are mentioned not so often.

The analysis of the respondents' opinions show that they are disposed to connect reasons of poverty with social incorrectness (36%) and fate (25%). Other reasons of poverty (objective problems of the development of a young independent state, the peculiarities of character of poor persons) were accentuated less frequently.

The expansion of marginal groups is closely related to the problem of the former prisoner status. These people form the increasing part of the poor. The intolerance of former prisoners rather complicates the process of their social reintegration. The data of the investigation show that for about 20% of the respondents are ill disposed towards former prisoners, the same part of the respondents never collides with this problem and cannot say anything about the prisoners, 8% are absolutely indifferent to former prisoners' problems. Essentially all these attitudes can be considered as negative.

A majority of the respondents approve that the State and the poor themselves must take care of the lowest stratum. Over half of people are inclined to isolate themselves of the poverty problem. The fifth part of the respondents express a hostile, about as many – an altruistic attitude towards the poor.

On the basis of the data over half of the respondents express a negative attitude to the personality of former criminal persons: 24% think that prisoners have stable and unchangeable bad features, 42% recognize that there are exceptions among the prisoners. Less people are more tolerant to former prisoners: one fifth have an opinion that only some prisoners' character is irreparable and the majority of them are ordinary people. The tenth part of the respondents (12%) thinks that former prisoners are the same as other people.

We concretize the negative features that are ascribed to the former prisoners. 83% of the respondents have an opinion that former prisoners do not think over the consequences of their behaviour. 75% of the respondents indicate traits which determine the distrust (the unscrupulousness, absence of responsibility) and other features that burden everyday relationships (former prisoners are angry, revengeful and passionate persons). Two-third of the respondents acknowledge that former prisoners are self-interested persons and the same amount of the respondents – that they are drunkards and addicts.