

International Workshop
**Impact of Poverty and Social Exclusion on Children's Lives
and their Well-being**

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Abstract

**Roma youth in Lithuania between school and labour market:
the middle of... nowhere?"**

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Within the range of various activities aimed at Roma integration, educational projects were the most substantial and most developed part in Lithuania in the 1990s. The paper discusses why they have not brought substantial results by over-viewing main indicators of social problems related to Roma children and youth, and by analysing the youth-oriented and social policy measures.

As can be seen in the second half of the decade after 2000, this has not brought a breakthrough from Roma exclusion. On the contrary, the 2001 census has revealed that Roma youth have relatively lower knowledge of Lithuanian language than elder generations. There had been no support mechanism for Roma youth to enter the labour market, and the previously known problem of drug trade in Roma community is bringing new troublesome outcomes: while previously Roma were mainly dealing the drugs without using them themselves, now the number of drug users increases rapidly. The paper argues that the failure to provide social assistance through educational institutions and networks has been among the main reasons of a deepening marginalisation of Roma during the last decade.

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