



Scientific Seminar “Poverty of Children and Families”

30 November – 1 December 2023

*ICSW Europe and Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius
with the support of the Lithuanian Committee of ICSW*

ICSW is a worldwide non-governmental organization whose basic objective since its foundation in 1928 is to strengthen social welfare. ICSW Europe – the regional organisation – every year holds a seminar on a European issue in social work and social policy.

Our central theme for this year is the problem of increasing poverty in Europe. After the European Poverty Watch Report 2022, the groups most at risk of poverty are Migrants, Roma, Unemployed persons, Women, Elderly, Youth and especially Children. The report says about child poverty:

“24.4 % of children in the European Union were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2021 – compared with 21.1 % of adults This is particularly worrying as experiencing poverty as a child is likely to have life-long impacts.”

With this background, ICSW Europe will organise together with the Mykolas Romeris University in Vilnius a **Scientific Seminar** on “**Poverty of Children and Families**” on 30 November and 1 December 2023 in Vilnius, Lithuania. In this Seminar the following sub-themes should also be discussed:

- Connections between poverty and the Climate Crisis;
- Growing poverty as a consequence of the COVID-19 Crisis;
- Growing poverty as a consequence of the war against Ukraine;
- Growing poverty through the rising costs of food, housing and energy as further consequences of the war.

The United Nations are planning a World Summit for Social Development in 2025. The output of the Seminar should also be a contribution to the preparation of this summit.

The language of the Seminar will be English. It will be a hybrid seminar where participation is possible in presence or online. Participants consist of representatives of ICSW member organisations, European and National NGO's and academic institutions. The event will be open also for students of the university.

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Program on the First Day

Thursday, 30 November 2023

- 14:00 Opening of the Seminar:
- Martynas Šiurkus** (Vice Minister, Lithuanian Ministry of Social Security and Labour)
- Odeta Merfeldaitė** (Dean of the Faculty of Human and Social Studies, Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius)
- Max Rubisch** (President ICSW Europe)
- 14:30 **Jekaterina Navicke** (Associate Professor at Social Policy Department, Vilnius University):
- “A Poverty-Free Childhood Guaranteed? Situation and Developments in Lithuania within the EU-context”
- 15:00 **Sheila Gois Habib** (Policy and Advocacy Officer, European Anti-Poverty Network, Brussels):
- “A Future beyond Austerity: Breaking the Chains of Child Poverty”
- 15:30 Coffee break
- 16:00 **Judith Ranftler** (Head of Department, Volkshilfe Austria, Vienna):
- “Child Poverty in Austria – Basic Child Guarantee and the Strategies of those who are Affected”
- 16:30 **Kathleen Wabrowetz** (Head of international Department, German Association for Public and Private Welfare, Berlin):
- “Basic Security for Children in Germany – Current Developments”
- 17:00 **Anna Maria Isola** (Researcher, Turku University and Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare):
- “Quantitative and Qualitative View on Child Poverty in Finland”
- 17:30 Closing of the day

Venue: Mykolas Romeris University, Didlaukio Street 55, Vilnius, Lithuania

Time: Eastern European Time (Central European Time + 1)

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Program on the Second Day

Friday, 1 December 2023

- 9:30 **Vida Česnuitytė** (Associate Professor at the Faculty of Human and Society Studies, Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius)
“Measures against Child and Family Poverty in Lithuania”
- 10:00 **Eva Holmberg-Herrström** (ICSW Sweden, Former President of ICSW Global):
“A Short Overview on Child Poverty in Sweden”
- 10:30 Coffee Break
- 11:00 **Alejandro Sanz Angulo** (Social Researcher, European Anti-Poverty Network, Spain):
“Child Poverty in Spain and Vulnerability in Households with Economically Dependent Minors”
- 11:30 **Dr. Ally Dunhill** (Director of Policy, Advocacy and Communications, Eurochild, Brussels):
“Child Rights and Lived Experiences: from Children and CSOs across Europe”
- 12:00 Discussion:
Outcome of the Seminar and Input for the UN World Summit for Social Development 2025
- 13:00 Closing of the Seminar

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