



## EXAMPLES OF DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION GOOD PRACTICES IN LITHUANIA

**The survey was carried out within the framework of the project "Towards efficient sustainable transition in social care".**

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**The survey was performed by** "Viltis" Lithuanian Association for the Care of People with Impaired Intelligence

**Project partners:** Centrum podpori transformace, o.p.s., Czech Republic, Inclusion Europe, Belgium; Fundatia de Abilitare Speranta, Romania; Social Work Advisory Board, Slovakia; Lithuanian welfare society of persons with intellectual disability "Viltis", Lithuania.

**Time of performing the survey:** January-February, 2023.

### Concepts:

**Sheltered housing**<sup>1</sup> - provision of a place to live in the community for a disabled person or a person leaving the care (care) system (up to 3 years, a disabled person and longer, as long as he needs help), combining this with individual assistance from a social worker and other services in the community that help to restore or develop this the person's independent living skills.

**Supported employment service**<sup>2</sup> - the purpose of the service is to help a person of working age who is willing and able to work in the open labor market, but due to the nature of his disability and/or the prevailing discrimination in society, cannot find a job and/or establish himself in the open labour market, according to his abilities and the market opportunities and provide him with further support in establishing himself in the workplace.

**A group living home**<sup>3</sup> is a social care institution where up to 10 non-independent disabled adults live in a home environment and receive constant help from specialists. Residents of group living homes receive essential services in these homes and use community services. Group living homes are by their very nature classified as community-based services.

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<sup>1</sup> 2014 February 14 Order of the Minister of Social Security and Labor of the Republic of Lithuania no. A1-83 "On the approval of the 2014-2020 action plan for the transition from institutional care to family and community-based services for disabled children and children left without parental care".

<sup>2</sup> See no. 2 reference.

<sup>3</sup> See no. 2 reference.

**Supported decision-making service**<sup>4</sup> - the purpose of the service is to strengthen a person's ability to take care of himself and make daily decisions with the help of a decision-making assistant or a team of specialists, in order to become more self-independent and participate in all areas of life.

**Social workshop service**<sup>5</sup> - their purpose is to increase the employment opportunities of people with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities in the open labor market, to develop and maintain general and special work skills by performing meaningful employment activities aimed at the production of a specific product or service.

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<sup>4</sup> Description of daily decision support services. See the link: <https://www.ndt.lt/wp-content/uploads/Pagalbos-priimant-kasdienius-sprendimus-paslaugos.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> See the link: <https://pertvarka.lt/paslaugos/socialines-dirbtuves/>

## 1. Adakavas Social Services Home



ADAKAVO  
SOCIALINIŲ PASLAUGŲ  
NAMAI

This is one of the most successful deinstitutionalization projects. The Adakavas social care home was built in 1945 as a care home for the elderly. In 1989 a social care home for persons with psychosocial disabilities started to operate.

**Currently, social services are provided to 389 persons.**

**Services provided:** day care in the institution; supported decision-making (pilot/project activity); long-term social care in the institution; day care at a person's home; short-term social care in the institution; medical-ambulatory rehabilitation; sheltered housing service (pilot/project activity); temporary respite care service in the institution; integral assistance in the individual's home.

**Services provided during DI process:**

On May 2, 2019 on May 2, the first group living home was established in the town of Taurage, where 10 residents of the Adakavas social services home had settled.



*1 p. Group living home:  
Marių str.19, Tauragė*

On December 24, 2020, the second home for group living was established in the town of Taurage, where another 10 residents of the Adakavas social service home had settled.



*2 p. Group living home:  
Zalioji str. 22, Norkaichu village, Taurage region*

It should be noted that the institution has experience both in building group living homes and adapting already existing buildings to group living homes.

Currently, the construction of three more group living homes has started: two in the town of Skaudvile, Taurage district and one group living home in the city of Taurage.

Negotiations are also ongoing regarding the transfer of three more group living homes to the administration of the Adakavos Social Services Home.

The institution provides a sheltered housing service. Taurage district municipality rents 8 apartments, where 15 people live.

Supported decision-making service is provided and 30 persons receive the service.

**Address:** Jono Adakauska st., LT - 73444 Adakavas, Lithuania

Head of the institution: Kristina Anulienė. In 2019, the director was awarded by the Ministry of Social Security and Labor of the Republic of Lithuania for her assistance in deinstitutionalization in Lithuania.

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## 2. Lithuanian welfare society of persons with intellectual disabilities "Viltis"



Lietuvos sutrikusio intelekto  
žmonių globos bendrija

Lithuanian welfare society of persons with intellectual disabilities "Viltis" (hereinafter - Society "Viltis") is a non-governmental organization founded in November 1989. The organization defends the rights and represents the interests of people with intellectual disabilities. LSIZGB "Viltis" is the founder of many centers for persons with disabilities.

**Main goals:** advocacy and representation of human rights-related interests of persons with learning disabilities; legal assistance of persons with intellectual disability, members of their families; representation of the interests and needs of persons with intellectual disability in Lithuania and abroad.

### Services provided during DI process:

In 2014 The Ministry of Social Security and Labor of the Republic of Lithuania has actively engaged in the process of regulating deinstitutionalization after the transformation processes has started.

In 2019 Society "Viltis" concluded a contract with Trakai district municipality for the construction of group living homes in Lentvaris and Trakai district municipality. Active construction of group living homes is currently underway; it should be completed in the fall of 2023. Seven persons from the N. Genytė social care home and 3 residents from the municipality of Trakai district will live in this group living home.



*3p. Group living home*

*Smilgu str.2, Lentvarys*

*Traku region municipality*



*4p. Plot of land for group housing:*

*Plot of land for group living:*

*Pagirio str.16, Vilnius municipality*

In 2020 society "Viltis" got involved in the deinstitutionalisation process in the city of Vilnius. Society "Viltis" is a partner of the Vilnius city municipality, which will build two houses for group living in Vilnius. 7 people from the N. Genyte social care home and 3 residents from the Vilnius city municipality will live in this group living home.

The first group living house will be built on a plot of land provided by the Vilnius City Municipality, in *Naujasodziu* Street (see picture 4). The second (see picture 5) house for group living will be built for the care of people with intellectual disabilities in Lithuania on its own plot of land owned by society "Viltis".



*5 p. plot of land for group housing:*

*Naujasodzio 64, Vilnius city municipality*

**Address:** Kareivių str. 2C-1, LT-08248, Vilnius, Lithuania.

**Head of the institution:** Dana Migaliova

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**E-mail:** [mig@viltis.lt](mailto:mig@viltis.lt)



### 3. "Kauno Viltis" Society for the Care of People with Impaired Intelligence



"Viltis" society for the care of intellectually impaired people was founded in 1995. "Kauno Viltis" is an associate member of the "Viltis" association for the care of people with intellectual disabilities in Lithuania. Currently, SIŽGB "Kauno Viltis" has 80 members. Kauno Viltis provides social services to persons with disabilities, their family members and relatives in the city of Kaunas.

**Services provided:** a day employment center operates on the premises of "Kauno Vilties", where such activities as: development, maintenance or restoration of social and independent life skills of disabled people, training of self-expression and creativity, development of work skills, individual assistance to disabled people and family members are carried out.

#### **Services provided during DI process:**

Currently, "Kauno Viltis" provides a service in the city of Kaunas - **assistance in making decisions**. The service includes support for individuals who live independently. For example: help in paying taxes, representation in medical institutions, help in making financial decisions. It is important to emphasize that the decision is made by the recipient of the service, not by the helper providing the service.

13 persons with disabilities receive the service.

Also, "Kauno Viltis" is a partner of the Kaunas City Municipality **in establishing new group living homes** in the city of Kaunas. Currently, a post office has been purchased, which is being reconstructed and rearranged according to the needs of persons with disabilities.



*6 p. Group living home:*

*V. Mirono g., 17, Kaunas.*

**Address:** P.Lukšio st. 58, LT-49349, Kaunas, Lithuania

**Head of the organization:** chairwoman Agnė Baronaitė

**Website:** <http://kaunoviltis.lt/apie-mus/>

**Phone number:** +370 62162518

**E-mail:** [kaunoviltis@gmail.com](mailto:kaunoviltis@gmail.com)



#### 4. Welfare society of persons with intellectual disability "Vilnius viltis"



"Vilnius Viltis" society for the care of persons with intellectual disability was founded in 1991. "Vilnius viltis" is an associate member of Lithuanian welfare society of persons with intellectual disability "Viltis" (association) for the care of people with intellectual disabilities in Lithuania. "Vilniaus viltis" unites about 2000 members and provides social services to persons with disabilities, their family members and relatives in the city of Vilnius.

In 1997 "Vilnius Viltis" has founded a home that provides long-term social care services for severely and moderately disabled adults with intellectual disabilities. 10 people live in this home. There are 5 social workers: a manager, a driver and an escort working in the residential home. Every working day, residents go to a day occupation center that meets their needs.

Such home was established thanks to private initiative and on the basis of donations (equivalent to current group living homes). Currently, the home is financed and maintained by Vilnius city municipality, state grants, charity support, 1.2% donation from personal income tax, residents' contributions.

**Services provided:** day occupation of persons with disabilities; formation and support of independent life skills of persons with disabilities in daily activities; strengthening and development of social skills individually or in self-help groups; formation of cognitive functions - provision of basic general knowledge applied in practice; development and maintenance of self-expression skills.

##### **Services provided during DI process:**

- **Orientation of disabled persons to the labour market and employment**
- **Supported decision-making:**

An individual assistance plan for the disabled is drawn up. A circle of close supporters is organized. Consultations and cooperation with health care, municipal specialists, lawyers, financial experts and other specialists help to make personal decisions in the areas of health, social participation, personal property and personal non-property relations.

The following persons are invited to participate in supported decision-making: people with intellectual disability of working age, for whom the municipality has determined limited ability to make decisions in a certain area; persons with disability from care institutions which are under DI process, for whom individual assistance plans have been drawn up and the need for assistance in decision-making provided for in these plans. Priority is given to people with disabilities leaving care homes which are transformed and/or placed in group living homes.

- **Protected housing:**

Up to 4 partially independent adults with intellectual and/or complex disabilities, who are provided with assistance are accommodated in one place (building). There is a possibility of individual

consultations (contact an employee at any time of the day). Conditions are created for the disabled to manage their personal and social life independently, involving them in community activities, encouraging them to achieve as much independence as possible.

- **The social workshop, attended by 10 disabled people, offers and provides the following services to the public:**

- 1) Organizes birthday celebrations: festive decoration of premises or outdoor space; animators, characters and hosts; organization of light shows and games; blowing giant soap bubbles; "punch box", piñata production.
- 2) Performs simple repair and finishing works: wall insulation, cladding, painting, wallpapering; interior design, colour selection, decoration; picture selection and framing; renovation of furniture, production of non-standard shelves, benches, tables.
- 3) Creates, manufactures and decorates: production of reusable fabric bags, gift bags, embroidery; knitting socks for babies and children; production of toys and scratching posts for cats; production and installation of interior decoration elements.
- 4) Produces handicrafts and sells them at city fairs.
- 5) Makes orders for the company " Varztų pasaulis " (*The world of screws*).
- 6) Works and cooperates with VU Botanical Garden.





6 p. *Products of social workshops of the community "Vilniaus viltis".*

"Vilniaus viltis" is a partner of Vilnius City Municipality; together they plan to establish group living homes and provide services in the city of Vilnius. It is planned to build a house for the group living in Kadagių Street, Vilnius. 6 persons from the Nijole Genyte's social care home and 4 persons with disabilities from the city of Vilnius will live in the house.

**Address:** Vytenio str. 37, LT-03209, Vilnius, Lithuania.

**Head of the organization:** chairwoman Rūta Rinkevičienė

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**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Socialinesdirbtuvesviltis>

## 5. VšĮ „Vilties žiedas“



Public institution “Vilties žiedas” was established in 2003. “Vilties žiedas” is an associate member of Lithuanian welfare society of persons with intellectual disability “Viltis”.

“Vilties žiedas” is focused on restoring and increasing a person's ability to work, getting professional competence and ability to participate in the labour market. These services are aimed at developing working capacity of disabled people and increasing their employment opportunities. “Vilties žiedas” has four branches and provides services in the cities of Kaunas, Vilnius, Utena and in the village of Ploksciai (Sakiu district).

### Services provided during DI process:

- **Supported decision-making service**

The purpose of the service is to strengthen a person's ability in taking care of himself and make daily decisions with the help of an assistant or the help of a team of specialists, in order to achieve independent living and participation in all areas of life.

75 adults with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities receive services, 20 specialists provide the service. The age of service recipients is from 18 to the age of retirement. This service is provided in Kaunas region.

- **Provision of assisted employment service.**

It is a service that aims to help a person who wants to find a job in the free labour market that matches his abilities and market opportunities, and to provide him with further assistance in establishing himself in the workplace. 54 persons living in the Kaunas region receive this service.



8 p. "Division of the Vilties žiedas " Kauno miestas

**Services provided:** day care at a person's home; personal assistant service; social rehabilitation; supported decision-making; employment with assistance, professional rehabilitation, professional training to strengthen social complex and mental health of families.

**Address:** A. Juozapavičius ave. 7C, LT-45251, Kaunas, Lithuania.

**Head of the organization:** dr. Jurate Savickiene

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### **Noteworthy observations:**

1. Residents of group living homes enjoy the opportunity to make their own daily choices, for example: the opportunity to choose what they will eat and what they will cook; what will he/she do in the evening and when he/she will go to bed. Residents also emphasize the possibility of growing their own garden and vegetables and the possibility of raising animals.
2. The institutions/organizations described here emphasize as follows: despite the fact that the local communities greeted the construction of a group living homes with a negative attitude, currently the local residents are happy with the new members of the community. The residents of the group living homes behave extremely dutifully, often help their neighbours (for example, they clear the snow from the entire street in winter), and share the grown crop. Thus, a positive image of the residents of group living homes is formed.
3. It is important that large institutions of social care homes do not carry out the deinstitutionalization in the same area where the social care homes are located, i.e. so that there are no more institutions/organizations providing such social services in the community where the group living house is being built. This is important for several reasons: for example: building two group living homes and a social workshop in the same street/community may lead to the creation of a large social service house again, just in a few different buildings. In that case, community inclusion will not be achieved. It will also reduce the independence of individuals, because they will not have to travel to work, so for example, a person will not learn to use the bus independently, etc.
4. It should be emphasized that deinstitutionalization in Lithuania is understood as a multifaceted process. This is not just about the "elimination of large social care homes", but a process in which the external need for help is increasingly reduced<sup>6</sup>. For example, depending on the person's abilities, different forms of accommodation with support are possible: group living homes (residents of group living homes receive necessary services at home full-time and use other community services); independent living homes (providing minor assistance to compensate for the loss/lack of independent living life skills) and sheltered housing (combining accommodation services with individual case manager/a social worker assistance and other services in the geographic community). A person with a disability who has chosen to live in a group living home and has acquired the necessary skills can move to an independent living home and then to a sheltered housing. The complexity of the DI process is also manifested in the fact that other services promoting independence are ensured, for example: supported decision making; social workshops, so this report covers even several different services.
5. It is worrying that some services provided in the context of the DI process are financed as project activities, without transferring them to the social system, i.e. without transferring them to the legal act of the social system, i.e. without regulating them as social services. For example: such a service is a supported decision making.

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<sup>6</sup> See Description of the methodology for the provision of services for adults with (mental and/or mental) disabilities in the form of assisted living, Independent Living Home Services. Online access: <https://pertvarka.lt/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/SGN-aprasas.pdf>