

Translating global and EU policies into National and Local actions



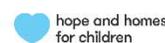
International Conference
**Deinstitutionalisation
of Childcare:**
Investing in Change

5-8 *2019* *November* **Sofia, Bulgaria**

Experiences of deinstitutionalisation and lessons learned from Lithuania and
Opening doors for Europe's children campaign

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How are the children in Lithuania?

Facts from 2018:

- ~ 499.900 Children in 2018. (8% less in 5 years).
- ~ 18.000 children in the Register of Social Risk.
- 8.177 children in care. 1.8% of all Children.
- 1.885 children in care REQUESTED by Parents. Emigration of parents.
- ~4.500 reports of possible child abuse.



* Data from Child Rights and Adoption agency report for 2018.

The Opening Doors Campaign Phase II

Objective :

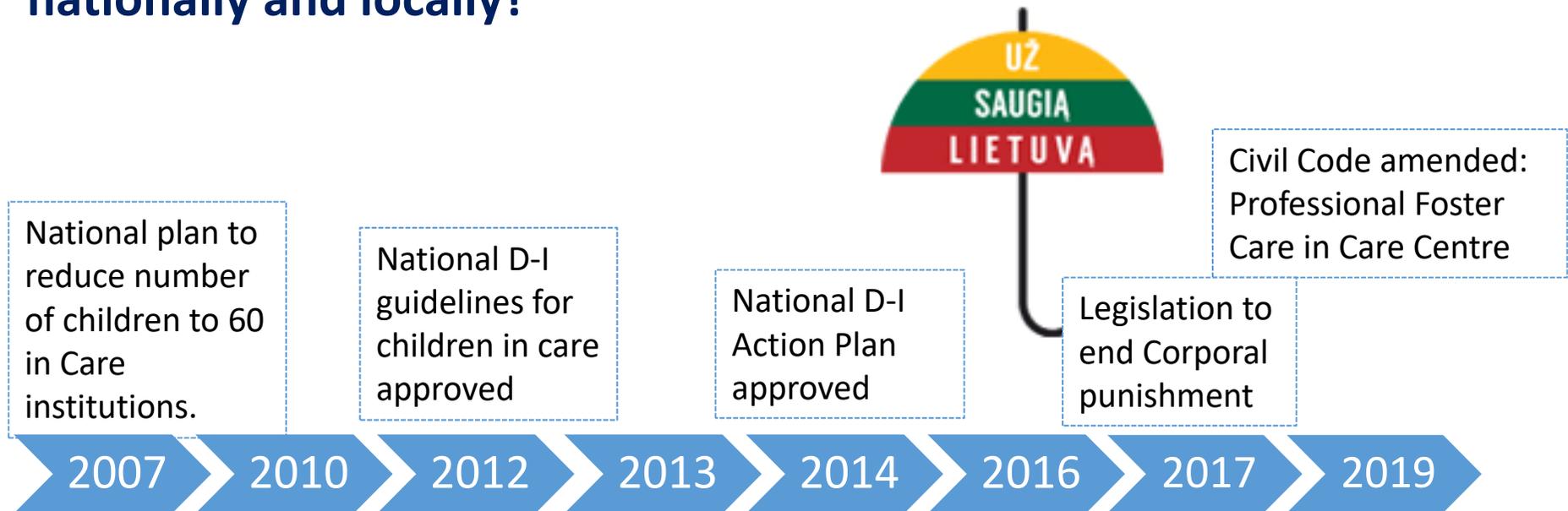
To support national efforts to develop child protection systems that strengthen families and ensure high-quality family- and community-based alternative care for children, by leveraging EU funding and policy and building capacity in civil society.



Eurochild



What we have done to protect the children nationally and locally?



Child protection overturned to local municipalities.

Most care institutions given to 60 local municipalities.

2007 – 2013 EU funds 15 mln EUR for BUILDINGS of care institutions.

60 local Child Protection Offices centralised under **ONE** authority.

1991 SOS CV Lithuania Family like care

1st Service provider to prevent family separation

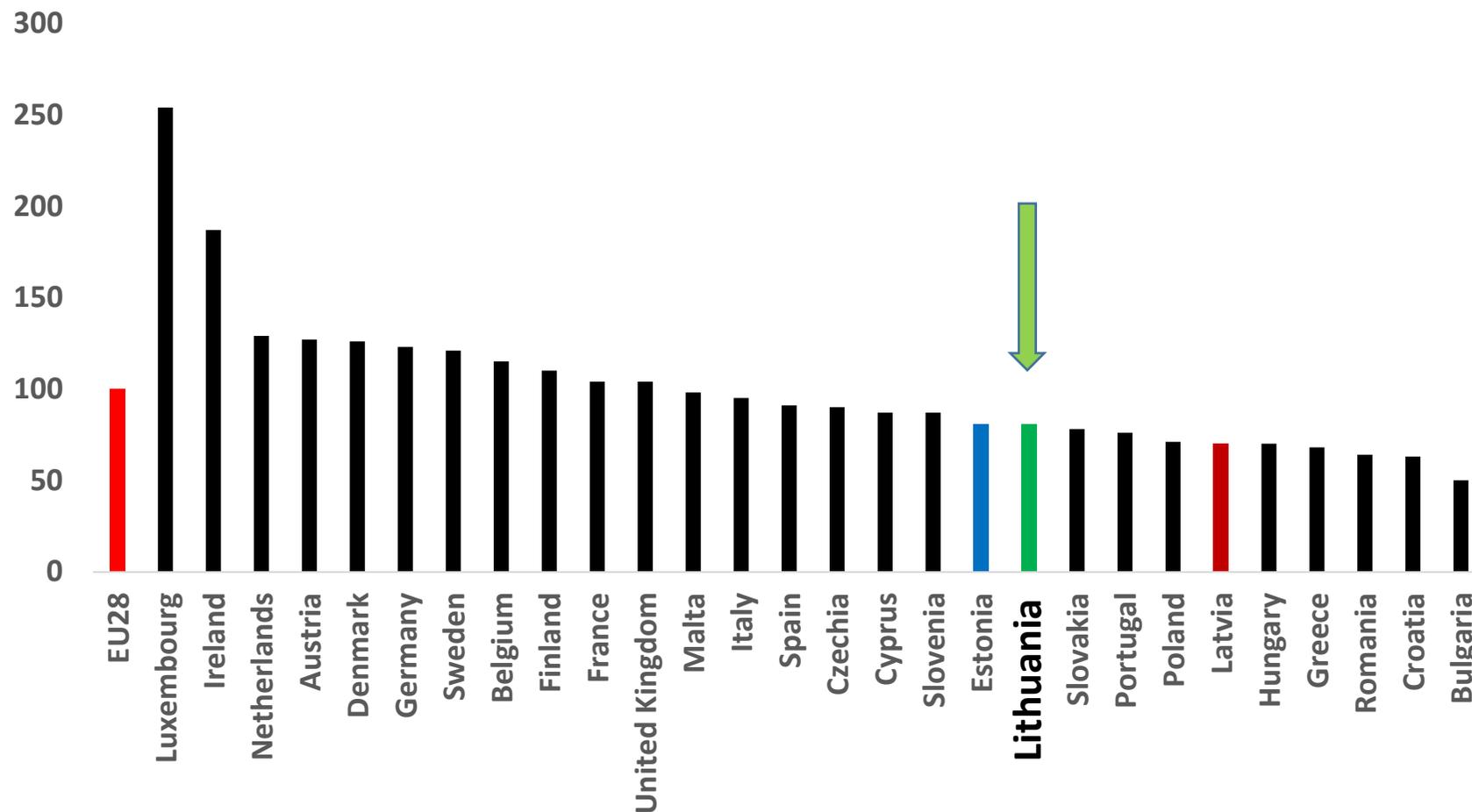
1st to Pilot professional foster care

Most children in care live in the community

What results have we witnessed during D-institutionalization:

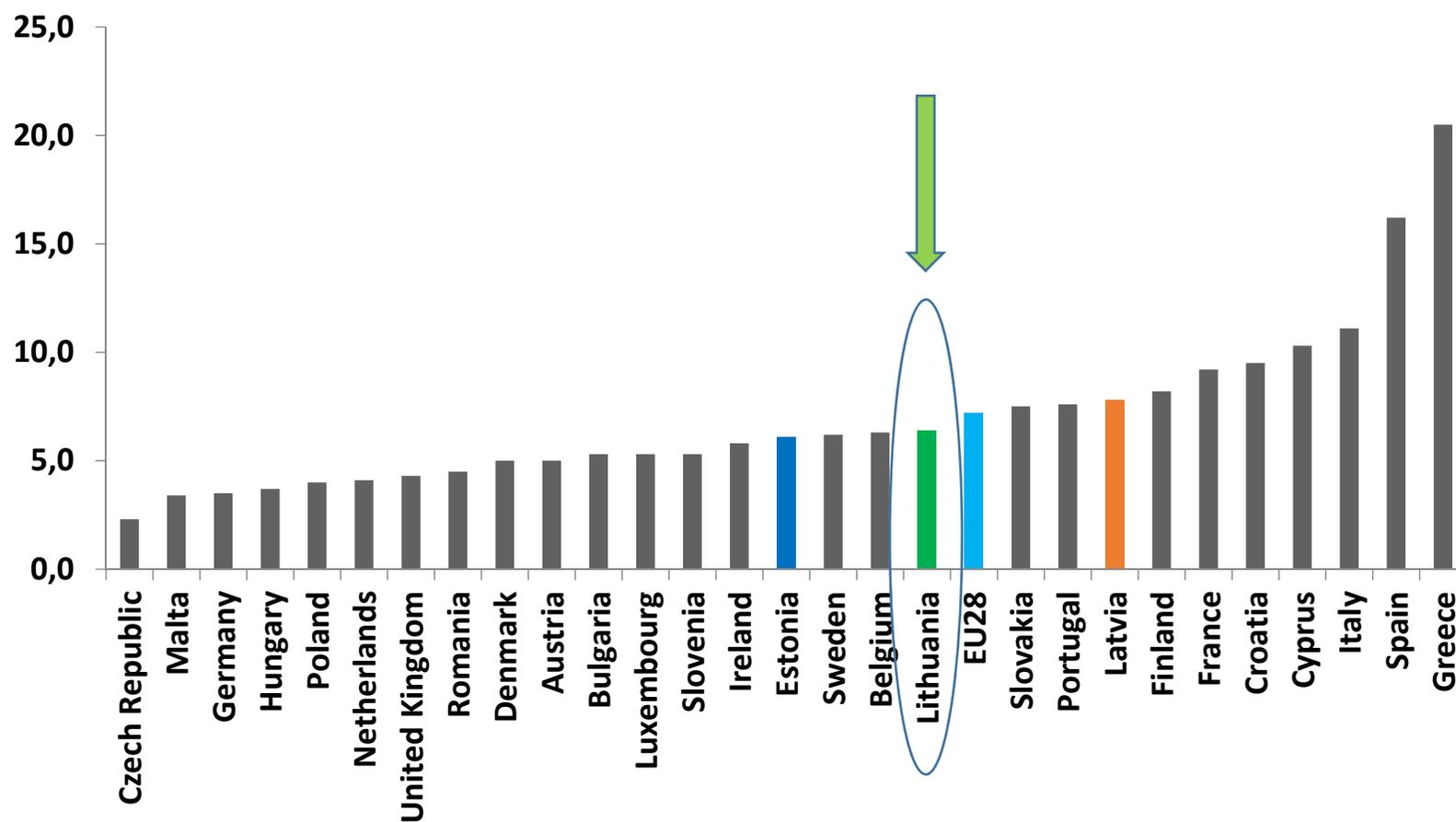
- ✓ Numerous laws amended: Civil Code, Child Rights Law, Social Services Law, Family support law.
- ✓ Methodology introduced: Case management in social work with families, mobile teams offer intensive support when a child is removed from family, Care support centre created to support alternative parents.
- ✓ Alternative forms of care: professional foster care, community based care, leaving care piloted with EU funds.
- ✓ Children 0 to 3 mostly placed in foster care, not baby house orphanage.

How strong are we as a country to protect and provide for our children?



GDP per capita, PPS, EU28 = 100

How strong are we as a country to protect and provide for our children?



Unemployment rates in EU28, 2019 Q1

What's the problem?

Why does the system fail so many children?



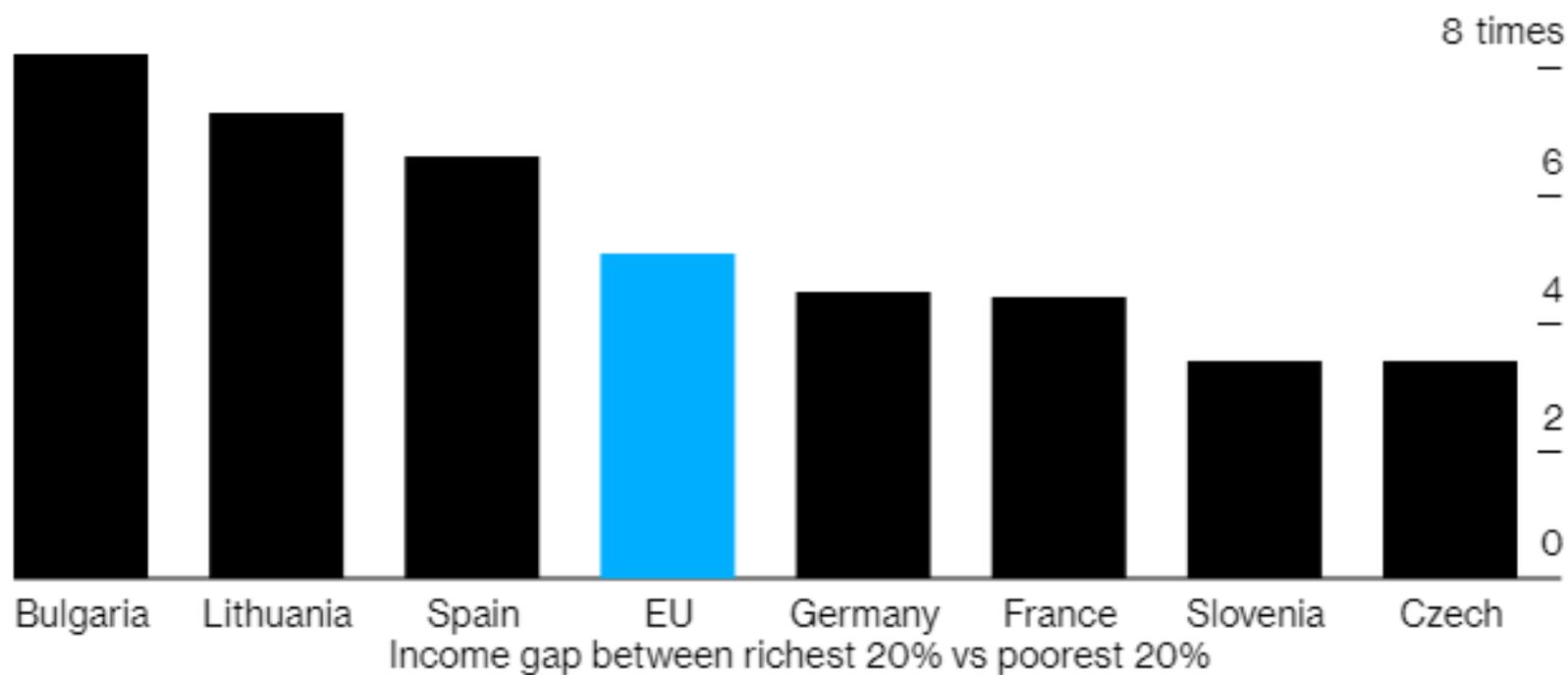
- **Social Inequality**
- **Buy in from municipalities**
- **Education**

A strong economy can be very unequal:

Inequality Gap

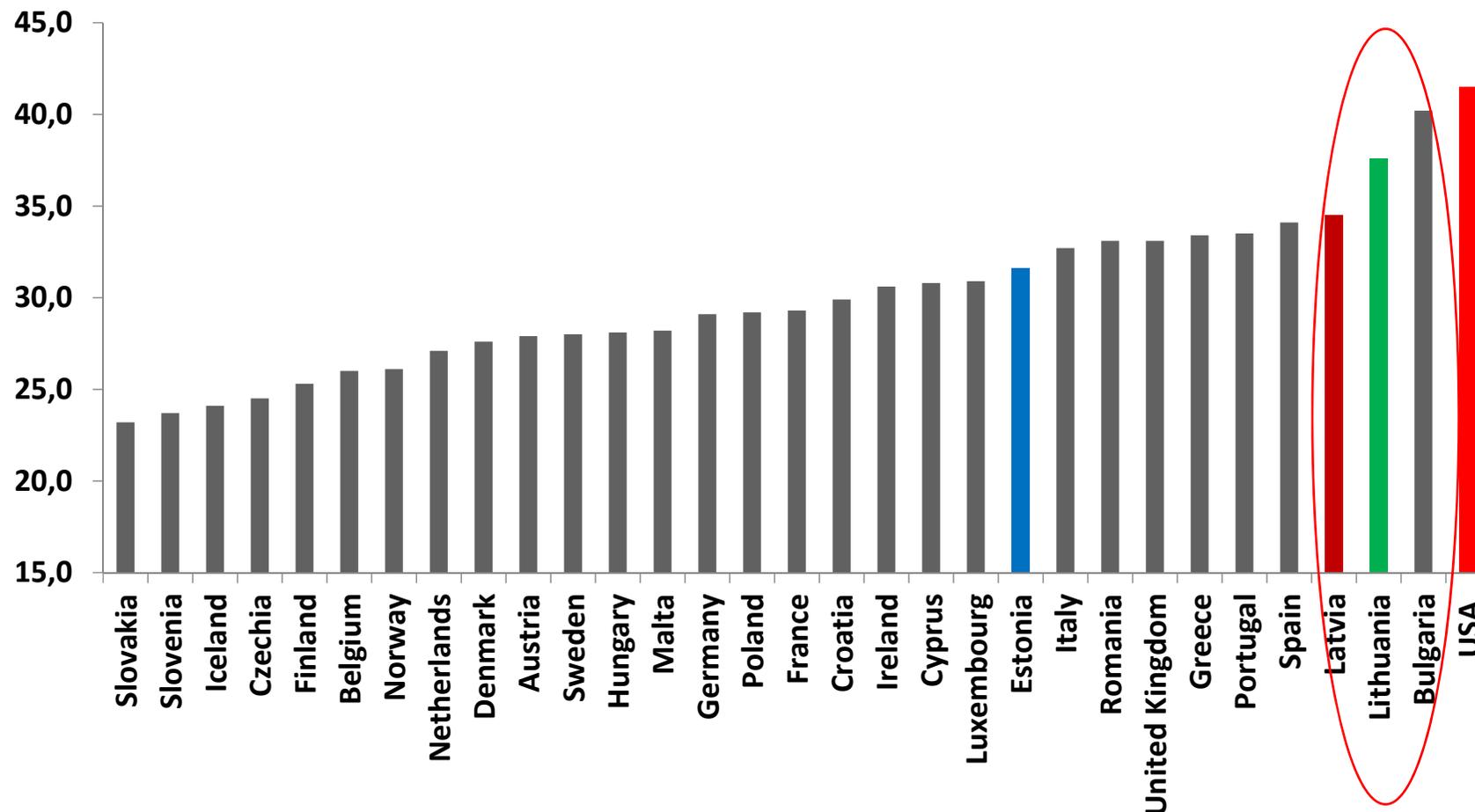
Lithuania's income inequality is second only to Bulgaria in the EU

■ Income quintile ratio



Source: Eurostat

How motivated is Lithuania to fight Social Inequality?



Gini coefficient, 2017, EU28 + Iceland, Norway

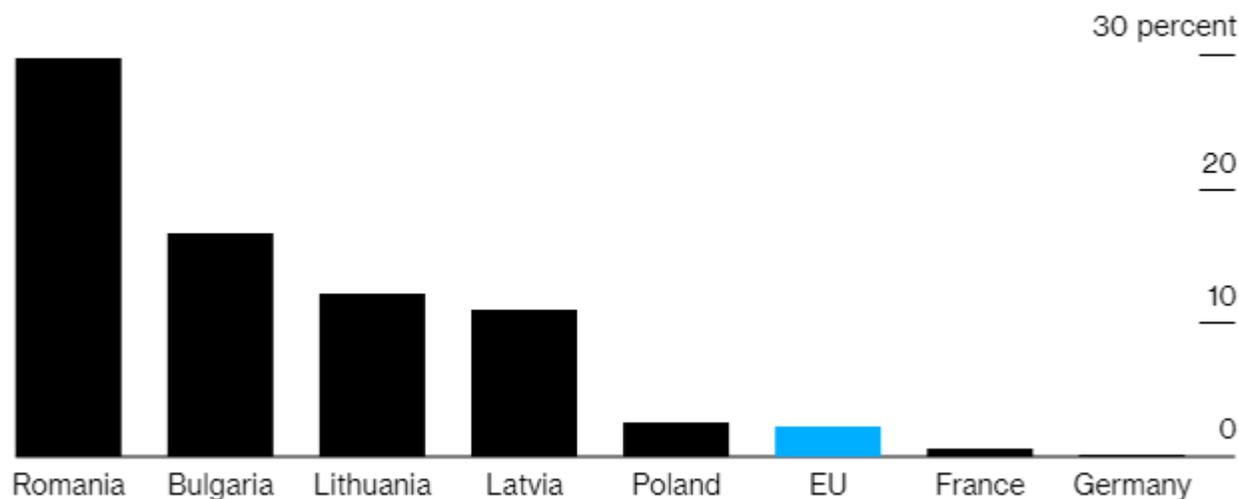
The haves and the have nots:

- One fifth of the Lithuanian population is estimated to be at risk of poverty, according to IMF report. At least 11 % above EU-28 average.
- 1 in 10 Lithuanians do not have a flushing toilet.
- Even the most willing parent at the bottom of the social scale is unable to cope.
- Children fall through the cracks, the system is failing them.

No Toilet

Many Lithuanians still lack indoor plumbing

■ Population without indoor flushing toilet



Source: Eurostat, 2017 survey

There is a plan to follow, we just need to do it:



World Health Organisation, top International research has spoken:

- Adverse childhood experiences will cause developmental delays for children, and result in higher risks for cancer, stroke, pulmonary and cardiovascular diseases, addiction, depression, lower life expectancy as adults.
- This costs countries at least 1% of annual GDP every year.
- 1 EUR invested in early childhood will prevent from spending 10 EUR for social/health/penal services after.

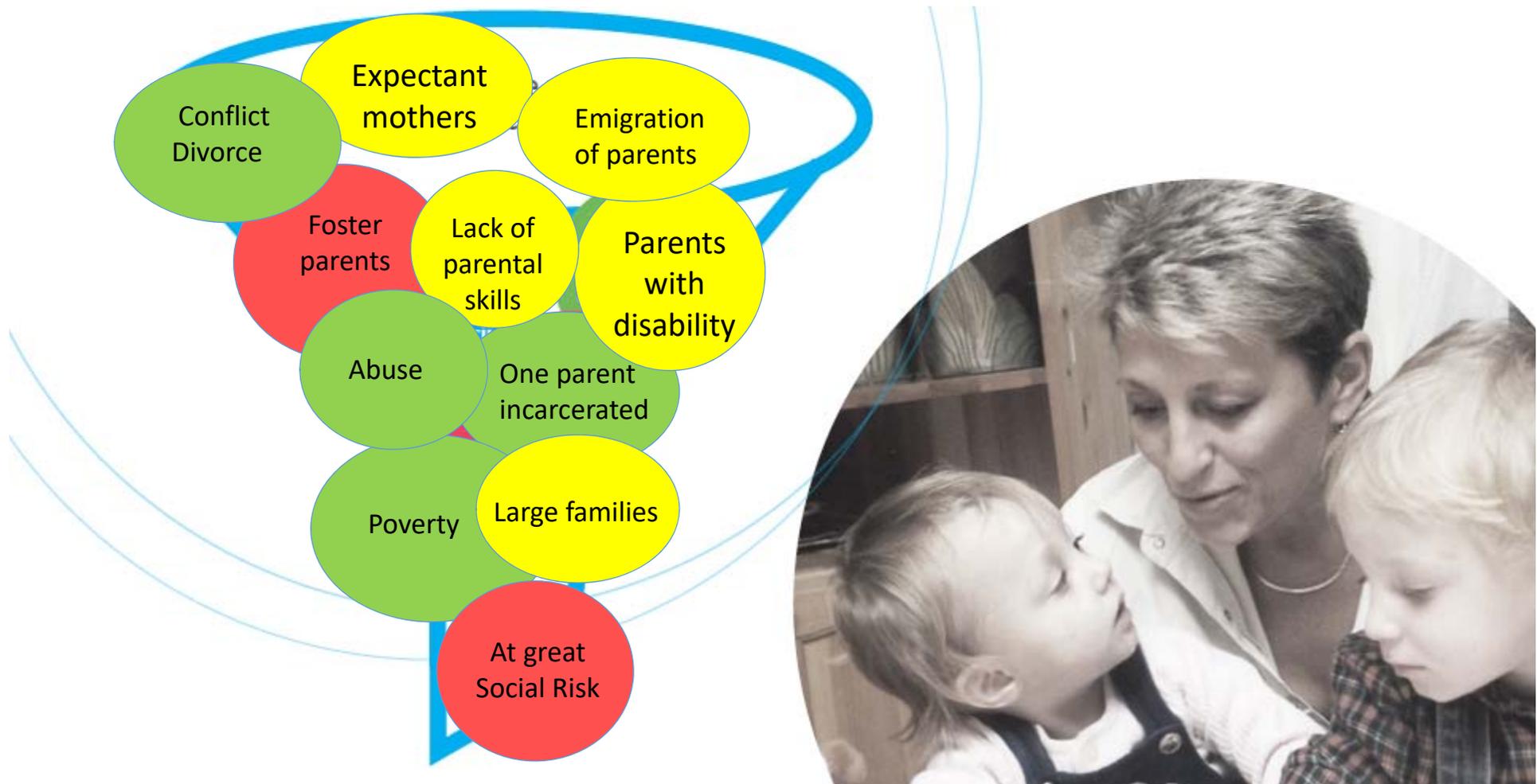
What should we focus on is outlined in 2013 **UN Child Rights Committee report**:

- Database of children out of school, in care, abused to increase monitoring.
- Services to prevent all kinds of abuse against children and for victims of abuse.
- Educate children to prevent of teenage addiction and suicide, educate on sexual and reproductive health.
- Prevent families from leaving children to someone when emigrating.
- Etc...

How to do better for children?

IMF 2019 report for Lithuania:

- ✓ targeted social spending should be the main tool used.
- ✓ child benefits should balance their positive impact on reducing child poverty.



Where do we begin?

- ✓ Municipalities need to Buy-in. Local authorities need to carry legal responsibility for children in care. At present, a director of a care home is 100% responsible for all decisions in the life of a child.
- ✓ Evidence based programs to educate Parents to be nurturing, stable, engaging. Attachment based parenting.
- ✓ Educate Caregivers and specialists working with children about the impact of developmental trauma for children and appropriate adult behaviour to diminish emotional and behavioural difficulties.
- ✓ Monitor where and why are the children slipping through the cracks.
- ✓ Support Care Leavers to become independent and valuable citizens.

*At SOS Children's Villages Lithuania:
our team of 100 cares for 1000 children.*



We work to decrease the number of children in care by:

- ✓ *Helping parents to become good enough in parenting;*
- ✓ *Raising children to become independent in life.*