

28 March 2022

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND SPORT

Measure name:

D.1.1. Modern general education as a basis for acquiring basic competencies

LT-C[C4]-R[D-1-1-.D-1-1-]-M[95]

Milestone description:

Entry into force of legislation on the Millennium School Progress Programme

Verification mechanism:

Copy of the publication in the Register of Legal Acts of the legislation on the Millennium School Progress Programme described in the milestone and in the CID and reference to the provisions indicating the entry into force, accompanied by a document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.

A. Evidence provided:

- Annex 1. SMSM-95-2021-12-22-01 22 December 2021 Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania No 1110 “On Amendment of the Approval of the Rules for the Establishment of a Network of Schools Conducting Formal Education Programmes”: the rules for the establishment of the network were amended. Entered into force on 24.12.2021 (sub-clause 1.2.4, 1.2.41 and 1.2.43 of the Resolution shall enter into force on 1.1.2024; sub-clause 1.2.26 and 1.2.42 of the Resolution shall enter into force on 1 January 2026)
<https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/f33800b063ef11ecb2fe9975f8a9e52e?jfwid=296ghkc71>

Clarification on the applicability of sub-clause:

- According to Resolution sub-clause 1.2.4, as of 1 September 2024, special schools with 60 or fewer pupils will no longer be able to operate as separate legal entities. As a result, they will have to be reorganised or dissolved. This provision means that pupils in these schools will have to attend mainstream general education schools. The reorganisation or liquidation of special schools has been postponed for two years, as mainstream schools need to prepare for inclusive education.
- Resolution sub-clause 1.2.41 provides for an increase in the number of pupils in gymnasium third-year classes. In certain gymnasiums, where a single gymnasium class for the third year is allowed to be formed, the minimum number of pupils in gymnasium third-year class shall be 21 as of 1 September 2024 (until 1 September 2024 the minimum number of pupils in gymnasium third-year class was 12).
- Resolution sub-clause 1.2.43 increases the minimum number of pupils in gymnasium third-year class for pupils with special educational needs in certain special-purpose classes from 1 September 2024. Until 1 September 2024, the number of pupils may be up to 12, whereas from 1 September 2024 the number of pupils should be at least 21.
- Resolution sub-clause 1.2.26 reduces the list of gymnasiums that will be able to have a single gymnasium third-year class from 1 September 2026: for certain gymnasiums, two classes for the third year will be compulsory.
- Resolution sub-clause 1.2.42 provides for an increase in the number of pupils in gymnasium third-year classes. For all gymnasiums that are allowed to form a single gymnasium third-year class, the minimum number of pupils in the third year of gymnasium class shall be 21 from 1 September 2026.
- A consistent increase in the number of pupils for gymnasium third-year classes as well as the number of gymnasium third-year classes shall improve the conditions for pupils to follow a secondary education curriculum: it will increase the opportunities to meet their educational needs, to choose the

content of their education, and to select the level of the curriculum in accordance with their plans for further education or the direction of their studies.

- Annex 2. SMSM-95-2021-12-27-02 27 December 2021 Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania No V-2308 “On the Approval of the Minimum Indicators for the Monitoring of Education in Municipalities and Schools Implementing General Education Programmes”: the minimum indicators for the monitoring of education in municipalities and schools implementing general education programmes were approved. Entered into force on 28 December 2021 <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/c821eb72675511ecb2fe9975f8a9e52e?positionInSearchResults=0&searchModelUUID=f33f64fc-a726-4732-8c56-9b4140fa053f>
- Annex 3. SMSM-95-2021-01-31-03 Order No V-137 of 31 January 2022 of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania “On Approval of the Millennium School Programme” – approval of the Millennium Schools Programme. Entered into force on 2 February 2022 <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/1a676d64839e11ecb8b0fe92fb660e20?positionInSearchResults=2&searchModelUUID=44671e04-91c5-4dda-95f5-a332e43b6e7d>
- Annex 4. SMSM-95-2021-02-01-04 1 February 2022 Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania No V-153 “On Development Programme Progress Measure No 12-003-03-01 ‘Implementation of the Millennium Schools Programme’ of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania, which is the manager of the Development Programme for the period of 2021-2030”: the description of the measure is approved. Entered into force on 3 February 2022 <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/edfd45d0840e11ecb8b0fe92fb660e20?positionInSearchResults=0&searchModelUUID=476013a1-0dc5-4b59-a570-ae754cf9d5cb>
- Annex 5. SMSM-95-2021-02-01-05 Description of the conditions for financing a project under the Measure. Entered into force on 3 February 2022.
- Annex 6. SMSM-95-2021-02-01-06 Description cards for monitoring indicators. Entered into force on 3 February 2022.
- Annex 7. Description of measure SMSM-95-2021-02-01-07. ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME MANAGER OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, EDUCATION AND SPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA 2021-2030 No 12-003-03-01-01 'DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MILLENNIUM SCHOOLS PROGRAMME'
- Annex 8. SMSM-95-2021-02-01-08 Requirements for assessing the compliance of the project (including the JM) with the horizontal principle "Do no significant harm". Entered into force on 3 February 2022.
- Annex 9. SMSM-95-2021-02-01-09 description of the justification of the information in the inventory. ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE MANAGER OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, EDUCATION AND SPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA 2021-2030 No 12-003-03-01-01 'IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 'MILLENNIUM SCHOOLS' PROGRAMME' DESCRIPTION OF THE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE DESCRIPTION

- Annex 10. SMSM-95-2021-02-08-10 “Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania On the Establishment of the Project Portfolio Commission of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport“

B. Detailed justification:

MILESTONE NAME:

Entry into force of legislation on the Millennium School Progress Programme

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION:

The legislation will come into force to advance the Millennium Schools Programme, which will include:

- 1) lists of necessary indicators for monitoring the quality of education in municipalities and schools (to be approved by order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport)**

27 December 2021 Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania No V-2308 “On the Approval of the Minimum Indicators for the Monitoring of Education in Municipalities and Schools Implementing General Education Programmes”: the minimum indicators for the monitoring of education in municipalities and schools implementing general education programmes were approved. Entered into force on 28 December 2021

<https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/c821eb72675511ecb2fe9975f8a9e52e?positionInSearchResults=0&searchModelUUID=f33f64fc-a726-4732-8c56-9b4140fa053f>

- 2) amendments to the Rules for the Establishment of a Network of Schools (to be approved by a resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania)**

22 December 2021 Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania No 1110 "On the Approval of the Rules for the Establishment of the Network of Schools Providing Formal Education Programmes": the rules for the establishment of the network were amended. Entered into force on 24 December 2021

<https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/f33800b063ef11ecb2fe9975f8a9e52e?jfwid=296ghkc71>

- 3) the Millennium Schools Progress Programme (to be approved by order of the Minister for Education, Science and Sport)**

31 January 2022 Order No V-137 of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania "On the Approval of the Millennium Schools Programme": the Millennium Schools Programme is approved. Entered into force on 2 February 2022

<https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/1a676d64839e11ecb8b0fe92fb660e20?positionInSearchResults=2&searchModelUUID=44671e04-91c5-4dda-95f5-a332e43b6e7d>

- 4) requirements for the calls for municipalities (targets, indicators, support packages for municipalities and schools)**

31 January 2022 section 14 of the Millennium Schools Programme approved by Order No V-137 of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania "On the Approval of the Millennium Schools Programme" stipulates that the indicative maximum amount available to a municipality for the implementation of the Progress Plan depends on the number of pupils:

Number of pupils in the municipality	The maximum amount of funding for the municipality, in Euro (excluding VAT)
≥ 50 000	43 000 000.00
< 50 000 and ≥ 25 000	21 500 000.00
< 25 000 and ≥ 15 000	10 500 000.00
< 15 000 and ≥ 10 000	5 500 000.00
< 10 000 and ≥ 3 000	2 500 000.00
< 3 000 and ≥ 1 000	1 500 000.00

Section 15 of the Programme stipulates that the maximum amount available to a municipality may be increased in the following cases:

15.1. if the Progress Plan is prepared jointly by several municipalities complying with the provisions of sub-clause 13.2.1 of the Programme, the maximum amount available shall be calculated according to the number of pupils of each municipality that has prepared the Progress Plan and shall be increased up to 10 per cent;

15.2. if the Progress Plan is prepared by several municipalities that comply with the provisions of sub-clause 13.2.2 of the Programme, the maximum amount may be allocated to the municipality with more than 1,000 Pupils, increased up to 10 per cent, and to each municipality with less than 1,000 Pupils up to 0.5 million Euro is allocated for the implementation of Progress Plan.

Section 20 of the Programme stipulates that the Progress Plan must include information on the condition and change of the municipal education system, the problems to be solved, the purpose of the desired change and the areas to be improved; planned activities in the areas of school improvement specified in Chapter VI of the Programme and necessary investments for their implementation; social innovation or other ways to enhance the expression of the characteristics of a Good School; indicators and their specific target values, which they undertake to achieve through the activities of the Programme during implementation (the initial value of the indicator is fixed accordingly: 2021 – if intending to participate in the Programme in 2022, 2022 – if intending to participate in 2023).

The municipality's mandatory indicators of the Programme:

Name of the indicator*	Aimed-for change at the end of the implementation period
A proportion (percentage) of pupils who achieved at least the basic level of Lithuanian language learning achievements (grades 7–10) during the examination of basic education achievements	Will increase
A proportion (percentage) of pupils who achieved at least the basic level of mathematics learning achievements (grades 7–10) during the examination of basic education achievements	Will increase
Proportion of general education network' years 1–8 ** that are joint (percentage)	Will decrease or equal to zero
Number of pupils per relative teacher position in general education schools	Will increase

Notes:

1. * Descriptions of indicators are provided for 2021–2030. Development Programme Manager the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania Education Development Programme Progress

Measures No 12-003-03-01-01 in the Description of the “Implementation of the Millennium Schools Programme” approved by the Minister of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania.

2. ** Special classes are not included.

20.4.2. at least two municipal optional progress indicators* from the following list:

Name of the indicator (number)	Change expected in the municipality
Ratio of teachers under 50 to teachers aged 50 and over (number)	Will increase
Proportion of employees with more than 2 years of pedagogical work experience (percent)	Will remain the same or will decrease
Proportion of children aged 3–5 participating in the pre-school education process (percentage)	Will increase
Proportion of pupils with special educational needs** in integrated general education schools (percentage)	Will remain the same or will increase
Proportion of general education school class sets with less than 8 pupils *** (percent)	Will decrease
Proportion of newly set-up pre-school education groups with no more than 20 pupils *** (percent)	Will increase
Proportion of newly set-up general education schools' general purpose 1st grade sets with a maximum of 24 pupils *** (percent)	Will increase
Proportion of pupils receiving educational support **** (percent)	Will increase
Proportion of school graduates who passed three or more state maturity exams (percent)	Will increase
Part of the post per pedagogical employee (units)	Will increase
Share of educational institutions without a permanent head for more than 12 months in the total number of educational institutions (percent)	Will decrease
Proportion of pupils participating in informal education activities (percentage)	Will increase
Number of educational support professionals per 100 pupils	Will increase

Notes:

1. * Descriptions of indicators are provided for 2021–2030 Development Programme Manager the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania Education Development Programme Progress Measures No 12-003-03-01-01 in the Description of the “Implementation of the Millennium Schools Programme” approved by the Minister of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania.

2. ** Except due to exceptional talents and adverse environmental factors.

3. *** Special classes/groups are not included.

4. **** Calculated from the total number of pupils in need of educational assistance.

20.4.3. no less than 4 (qualitative and/or quantitative) additional established indicators of the municipality, considering the activities to be implemented for each field defined in section 27 of the Programme.

5) a monitoring mechanism

31 January 2022 Section 39 of the Millennium Schools Programme approved by Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania No V-137 "On the Approval of the Millennium Schools Programme" stipulates that the supervision of the implementation of the programme is supervised by the project portfolio commission of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania formed by the order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sports. 8 February 2021 Order No V-215 of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania "On the Establishment of the Project

Portfolio Commission of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport" establishes the Project Portfolio Commission of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport. The Commission consists of 9 members and is chaired by the Minister for Education, Science and Sport. Members: 4 Vice-Ministers, the Chancellor of the Ministry, the Director of the Department of Economics, the Head of the Strategic Programmes Division and the Chief Officer of this Division (Secretary of the Commission).

Municipalities submitting applications will have to meet the following mandatory selection criteria:

1. Eligibility:

1.1. municipality with at least 1,000 pupils enrolled in pre-primary, primary, lower-primary and upper-secondary education programmes

31 January 2022 Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania No V-137 "On the Approval of the Millennium Schools Programme": sub-clause 13.1. of the Millennium Schools Programme (hereinafter referred to as the Programme): "a clausey with at least 1,000 pre-school and general education pupils (hereinafter – Pupils) (not including vocational training schools and higher education institutions), which has developed a Progress Plan, that involves the participation of no less than three schools, except for the instances, where there are no three schools in which the municipality implements the rights of the owner or shareholder (where the state does not participate in the rights of the shareholder)".

1.2. two or more contiguous (territorially contiguous) municipalities meeting criterion 1.

Sub-clause 13.2.1 of the Programme: "where there are at least 1,000 Pupils in the schools (excluding vocational training establishments and institutions of higher education) in the territory of each of the municipalities that have prepared a joint Progress Plan involving at least three schools from at least one municipality, except in cases where the municipality does not have three schools where it exercises the rights of the owner or shareholder (where the State does not participate as a shareholder)".

1.3. two or more neighbouring (territorially neighbouring) municipalities, where one of them does not meet criterion 1.1.

Sub-clause 13.2.2 of the Programme: "where there are at least 1,000 Pupils in the schools (excluding vocational training establishments and institutions of higher education) in the territory of at least one of the municipalities that have prepared a joint Progress Plan involving at least three schools from at least one municipality, except in cases where the municipality does not have three schools where it exercises the rights of the owner or shareholder (where the State does not participate as a shareholder)".

2. Prerequisites:

2.1. a vision for the development of a network of progressive Millennium Schools must be prepared, specifying the investments and innovations planned for achieving the Millennium School quality standard, enhancing the expression of the characteristics of a good school, and fulfilling commitments based on progress indicators;

The Programme has been prepared in accordance with the 2021-2030 National Progress Plan approved by Resolution No 998 of 9 September 2020 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania "On Approval of the 2021-2030 National Progress Plan", the Education Development Programme of the 2021-2030 Development Programme manager, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania, approved by Resolution No 1016 of 1 December 2021 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania "On Approval of the Education Development Programme of the 2021-2030 Development Programme Manager, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania", the annex to Council Implementing Decision CM 4171/21 of 28 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Lithuania, the Rules on the Establishment of a Network of Schools Conducting Formal Education Programmes approved by Resolution No 768 of 29 June 2011 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania "On Approval of the Rules on the Establishment of a Network of Schools Conducting Formal Education Programmes", the Concept of a Good School approved by Order No V-1308 of 21 December 2015 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania "On Approval of the Concept of a Good School", the Description of the Procedure for Allocating a Quality Basket to General Education Schools approved by Order No V-707 of 28

August 2018 of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania “On Approval of the Description of the Procedure for Allocating a Quality Basket to General Education Schools”, and the Description of the Temporary Procedure for the Implementation of Projects Funded or Partially Funded by 2021-2027 European Union Funds and the Recovery and Resilience Facility approved by Order No 1K-240 of 7 July 2021 of the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania “On Approval of the Description of the Temporary Procedure for the Implementation of Projects Funded or Partially Funded by 2021-2027 European Union Funds and the Recovery and Resilience Facility” (hereinafter referred to as the Temporary Procedure). The Programme is being implemented at the municipal level, so in addition to the four mandatory Programme progress indicators set for the municipalities, there are also a minimum of three elective and four (quantitative and/or qualitative) additional progress indicators set by the municipality, taking into account the activities to be implemented in each of the areas of the Programme: leadership in action; inclusive education; cultural education; STEAM education. In their Progress Plans, municipalities are likely to include not only quantitative indicators for evaluating progress, but also qualitative indicators related not only to the implementation of these activities, but also to networking between schools, as well as social innovations or other ways planned by the municipality or school to enhance the expression of the characteristics of a good school. A modern educational infrastructure will be created in municipalities that is accessible to the pupils in all of the schools in each municipality. Due to the opportunities arising from the Programme, i.e. the changes in infrastructure and/or intellectual resources will be available not only to members of the community of schools participating in the Programme, but also to pupils and teachers from other schools in the municipality. For example, if one school is equipped with a modern natural science laboratory, the municipality’s other schools could use it as well. One of the main principles of the Programme – networking – should also be taken into account when preparing the Progress Plans: in the Progress Plan, the municipality will have to clearly define how the opportunities created during implementation of the Programme will be available to the municipality’s other schools, and how all of the municipality’s schools will cooperate with each other and share best practice and experiences. Each municipality will have to commit to increasing the proportion of pupils who have achieved the level of mathematics and Lithuanian language learning achievements required for basic educational achievements testing, decreasing the proportion of sets of joint grades 1-8 in general education schools, and growing the number of pupils per conditional teacher position in general education schools.

One of the principles for implementing the Programme is networking, i.e. encouraging networking between schools by creating new links between schools, and one of the tasks is to introduce education organisation based on networking, opening up access to material, intellectual and human resources for pupils and teachers in other schools. The Programme stipulates that:

1) participation in competence building training and educational events for school leaders and pedagogical staff will be open not only to teachers from schools selected to participate in the Programme and the municipality’s other schools (with less than 200 pupils);

2) the schools participating in the Programme will have to share their experiences and funds may be planned for this;

3) at the end of the Programme implementation period, municipalities will have to ensure the continuity of networking partnerships between schools by creating opportunities for organising joint activities, cooperating, and sharing knowledge and material and human resources.

2.2. a general plan for the reorganisation of the general education school network for 2021-2025 approved by the municipal council, which complies with the provisions of the Rules on the Establishment of a Network of Schools Conducting Formal Education Programmes (e.g. no joint grades 5-8; in grades 1-4, only two adjacent classes, 1 and 2 or 3 and 4 can be merged);

Annex 1 “LIST OF CRITERIA FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CLASSES AND JOINT CLASSES AT GENERAL EDUCATION SCHOOLS FOR THE 2022/2023 AND 2023/2024 SCHOOL YEARS” to the consolidated version of the Rules on the Establishment of a Network of Schools Conducting Formal Education

Programmes approved by Resolution No 768 of 29 June 2011 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania “On Approval of the Rules on the Establishment of a Network of Schools Conducting Formal Education Programmes” (hereinafter referred to as the Rules) after the amendments approved by Resolution No 1110 of 22 December 2021 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania “On Amendment of Resolution No 768 of 29 June 2011 ‘On Approval of the Rules on the Establishment of a Network of Schools Conducting Formal Education Programmes’” establishes that no joint grades 5-8 are to be formed, and that in the primary education curriculum, only two classes can be merged, preferably neighbouring ones. Sub-clause 23.1 of the Millennium School Programme approved by Order No V-137 of 31 January 2022 of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania “On Approval of the Millennium School Programme” establishes that prior to the day of coordination of the Progress Plan with the Executor, the municipality shall amend the municipality’s general plan for the reorganisation of the general education school network for 2021-2025 if said does not comply with the provisions of the Rules on the Establishment of a Network, and shall approve the municipality’s general plan for the reorganisation of the general education school network for 2022-2026 in line with the provisions of the Rules on the Establishment of a Network.”

The municipal council (not the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport) approve a general plan for the reorganisation of the general education school network for 2021-2025 or 2022-2026. This general plan have to comply with the provisions of the Rules on the Establishment of a Network of Schools Conducting Formal Education Programmes (e. g. no joint grades 5-8; in grades 1-4, only two adjacent classes). All municipalities have to prepare this plan. If the municipality do not have this plan or it is not comply with the rules, the municipality can not participate in the Millennium School Programme.

At this moment Ministry of Education, Science and Sport have information, that the general plan of two municipalities do not comply with the provisions of the Rules due to a smaller number of students in 3rd year and 4th year gymnasium classes than it is set in the rules (municipalities would like to finance them from their own budget). The Ministry has already informed the representatives of the Government and municipal administrations about non-compliance with the legal act. Municipalities operate freely and independently, but when they perform the functions transferred to municipalities by the state, they must comply with the decisions of state institutions. It is also important to mention that it will not be possible to register classes in which on 1 September there will be fewer students than the set minimum number in the Students Register. Registration for classes exceeding the maximum allowed number of students is also restricted.

The funds from the state budget are intended to pay for expenses related to the optimization and renewal of the staff of state and municipal school teachers and for school transportation too. The orders of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania that order the allocation of these funds are available at

<https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/98ea97349a6811ec9e62f960e3ee1cb6?jfwid=kjtiqzvh>
<https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/9bdd4a529a6811ec9e62f960e3ee1cb6?jfwid=-cfkfx7m16>

6 million is provided in the state budget for school transportation in 2022, another 5 million EUR is allocated to municipal initiatives to strengthen the school network - these funds can also be used to transport students, as well as provide other measures that improve the quality of education.

2.3. the list approved by the municipal council of the schools that make up the Millennium School network in the municipality and meet the criteria of section 3.

The invitation for municipalities to participate was published at <https://www.esf.lt/lt/susisiekite-su-mumis/noriu-teikti-paraiska/tukstantmecio-mokyklu-programa/846>

Municipalities are requested to announce their intention to participate in the Millennium School Programme by 28 March 2022 by e-mailing tum@esf.lt and including:

- the decision of the municipal council regarding consent to participate in the Programme (a reference to the document published in the Register of Legal Acts). This is regulated by sub-clause 17.1 of the Millennium School Programme approved by Order No V-137 of 31 January 2022 of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania “On Approval of the Millennium School Programme”. Listing the

specific schools in this municipal decision is not required – this will be done by the municipalities later; the schools will be listed in the Progress Plan.

- The municipalities do not currently need to provide information on the specific schools that will participate in the Millennium School Programme (they will do this later).
- the municipality's progress report for the last year (2021 if the municipality intends to participate in the Programme in 2022, 2022 if the municipality intends to participate in 2023) (a reference to the report in the Education Management Information System (EMIS)). This is regulated by sub-clause 17.2 of the Programme.
- Out of the 60 municipalities, 53 municipalities have declared their intention to participate in Stream I of the programme, while 3 municipalities have announced their intention to participate in Stream II.
- On 20, 22 and 26 April, Contact Fairs were held to meet practitioners, innovators, researchers, creators and cultural organisations in the field of education, as well as municipal implementation teams.
- 29 April - 17 May Individual remote consultations with all 53 municipalities.
- 8 group workshops with municipal representatives from 16 May to 2 June.
- After participation in the workshops, municipalities have 3 weeks to send an initial version of their progress plan for evaluation (due dates 6-23 June). Evaluation of the progress plans: compliance of the administrative part, maturity of the progress plans, evaluation of the municipality's readiness for change in each area in parallel.
- Presentation of progress plans to the Evaluation Committee – final list of participants in Phase I approved at the end of June.

3. Criteria for schools (does not apply to schools planned to be established):

3.1. the school does not organise the selection of pupils during admission

Sub-clause 20.5.2 of the Programme establishes that schools that do not select pupils when organising admissions are planned to be included in the programme.

31 January 2022 sub-clause 20.5.2 of the Millennium Schools Programme, approved by Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania No V-137 "On Approval of the Millennium Schools Programme", establishes one of the criteria for inclusion of schools in the programme, i.e. "the school does not carry out a selection of pupils in the course of the organisation of enrolment".

3.2. the number of pupils on 1 September of the current school year is at least 200.

Sub-clause 20.5.3 of the Programme: "the number of pupils in pre-primary and general education curricula at the school, including all its departments, is at least 200 on 1 September of the current school year (does not apply to new schools)."

Newly established schools have no pupils registered in the registers. The construction of new schools will need to be justified in the design of future pupil numbers, e.g. by specifying which schools the pupils will be redistributed from, such as the elimination of the second (afternoon) shift in a neighbouring school.

Implementation of the Programme will be monitored by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (the monitoring group set up therein).

Section 40 of the Programme establishes that "to monitor implementation of the Programme, the Executor shall form a Programme Monitoring Committee consisting of delegated representatives of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, the Executor, the Managing Authority, the National Agency for Education, the Ministry of Culture and other partners. The regulations of the Programme Monitoring Committee shall be approved by the Executor in coordination with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport." Section 41 defines that "by 31 March of the current year, the Executor shall publish a report on the results of Programme implementation."

The Executor submitted an application to the Central Project Management Agency (hereinafter referred to as the Managing Authority) on 28 March 2022, the evaluation of which usually takes up to two months. A Programme Monitoring Committee has been formed, chaired by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and including representatives from the European Social Fund Agency, the National Education Agency, the Central Project Management Agency, the Association of Lithuanian Municipalities, the Association of Lithuanian School Heads and the Ministry of Culture.

C. Contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the (sub)-measure:

D.1.1.3. Millennium School Programme

The objective of this sub-measure is to restructure and improve the school infrastructure in order to ensure equal educational opportunities for all Lithuanian children, regardless of their place of residence and social and economic environment. The approved Millennium School Programme sets out the conditions and requirements for municipalities looking to receive support for school activities, teacher training and infrastructure development. This programme will help municipalities consolidate educational resources and strengthen existing schools in order to create an inclusive education ecosystem and introduce education organisation and management based on networking at schools. The programme is being implemented at the municipal level. Applications to participate in the programme are submitted by municipalities on the basis of clear criteria. Applications may also be submitted by several neighbouring municipalities in order to promote school networking beyond the territory of one municipality, connecting into larger entities and school campuses. School network reorganisation plans are approved by the municipalities each year by 30 April. The programme also aims to increase teacher motivation and make the profession more attractive by providing support for teachers so that they can develop their competencies and acquire higher qualifications. The Millennium School Programme will be implemented by at least 80 per cent of Lithuanian municipalities, with 150 schools receiving support. As part of the implementation of the measure, small schools will become departments or units of larger schools, thus improving the learning environment for pupils, creating better working conditions for teachers, consolidating teaching, and learning resources, and making more efficient use of teaching funds (the share of housekeeping and administrative costs will decrease).

NB. All the above documents are directly relevant to the achievement of indicator 95.