



PILIE TINĖS
VISUOMENĖS
INSTITUTAS



Lietuvos Respublikos
socialinės apsaugos
ir darbo ministerija

Pilietinės visuomenės institutas / Civil Society Institute, Didžioji g. 5, LT-01128 Vilnius, Lietuva
Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania

CIVIC EMPOWERMENT INDEX 2023

The long-term Civic Empowerment Index research was focused in three directions in 2023. First, Lithuanian society's Civic Empowerment Index was measured for the thirteenth time. Second, a separate representative survey of Lithuanian teachers explored the civic power of Lithuanian teachers and their assessment of the strikes at the end of 2023. Teachers' own views and experiences are complemented by data from a public survey. Thirdly, both the public and teachers' surveys focused separately on the population's emergency preparedness and perception of their role in national defence. A summary of the main findings in all three of these areas is presented below.

CIVIC POWER IN LITHUANIAN SOCIETY

The results of the Civic Empowerment Index research revealed that in 2023, civic power in Lithuania did not fluctuate as much as it did in 2020-2022, a year marked by various crises (pandemic, war in Ukraine, migration across the Belarusian border, spike in energy prices, record inflation, and divisions in the society on the basis of traditional vs liberal values). The average value of the Civic Empowerment Index calculated for 2023 is 36.7 points out of a possible 100. This average value is slightly higher than last year's value of 35.9 for 2022, but also significantly lower than the record high of the first year of the pandemic, 2020 (41.3 points).

The biggest contributor to the annual change in the Civic Empowerment Index in 2023 is again a slightly lower public perception of the potential risks associated with civic engagement. In four out of the five cases of potential risks studied, there was a significant decrease in the number of people who see such risks and an increase in the number of people who do not consider such risks likely. For example, the percentage of respondents who consider the risk that members of the public who initiate or actively participate in civic action could be publicly attacked, defamed, subjected to group bullying and attempts to undermine their authority has fallen by ten percentage points to 48% from 58% in 2022. Correspondingly, 7 percentage points more (40% in 2023 compared to 33% in 2022) considered this risk unlikely. A similar change is also seen in the assessment of the other risk, that of being threatened with harassment as a result of the same civic activities. For this risk, there has been a 7 percentage point decrease in the number of respondents who consider this risk to be likely over the year (from 47% in 2022 to 40% in 2023), and a 5 percentage point increase in the number of respondents who consider this risk to be unlikely (to 45% in 2023). The average score on the Civic Engagement Risk Assessment Index increased from 20.0 points in 2022 to 23.1 out of a possible 100 in 2023, but is still significantly lower than the 27.0 points score in 2020.

The indicators for potential civic engagement and civic influence have also changed slightly in a positive direction in 2023 (1.6-point and 1.3-point increase in the average scores compared to 2022, respectively). As before, citizens are most likely to take action in the event of a potential local problem,



PILIE TINĖS
VISUOMENĖS
INSTITUTAS



Lietuvos Respublikos
socialinės apsaugos
ir darbo ministerija

Pilietinės visuomenės institutas / Civil Society Institute, Didžioji g. 5, LT-01128 Vilnius, Lietuva
Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania

with 70% saying that they would take action in such a situation, either by initiating or contributing to it. 47% would be willing to act in the event of an economic problem and 38% in the event of a political problem.

Although slightly higher than in 2022, the assessment of civic influence in Lithuanian society is still down compared to the pre-pandemic period (when the average Civic Influence Index score was a record high of 61.2 points, and in 2023 it was 52.2 points). The Government, Members of the Seimas and the President are considered to have the most influence on important public decisions, with average scores of 9.0 points, 8.8 points and 8.7 points, respectively, on a 10-point scale. At the same time, non-governmental organisations, public organisations and communities have an average score of 4.9 points on the influence scale, while media representatives have an average score of 6.6 points. The influence attributed to the individual and to ordinary people remains the lowest at 3.1 points and 3.3 points out of 10 respectively. The influence attributed to the President and to local authorities - elders, councils and mayors - has increased the most in the eyes of the population over the past year (0.3-0.4 point changes).

Of the four components of the Civic Empowerment Index, civic engagement is the only dimension where a negative change was observed in 2023. In 2023, Lithuanians actively donated (52%), participated in environmental clean-ups (37%), boycotted or bought goods on moral or political grounds (23% and 23% respectively), took part in local community activities (25%), and signed online petitions (22%). However, 8 of the 20 activities mentioned in the survey showed a decrease in participation: e.g., 6 percentage points fewer than in 2022 took part in local community activities, 4 percentage points fewer in public organisations and movements, 4 percentage points fewer in public and civic campaigns, 3 percentage points fewer in signing petitions outside the internet, in communicating with journalists and other opinion-makers or in writing, speaking or writing themselves in the press, on TV, on the radio, in the internet media, or in taking part in demonstrations, support actions, rallies or pickets. Only the proportion of respondents who said they had donated to charity increased over the year (6 percentage points more). However, it should be noted that, although the level of civic participation has fallen slightly compared to the "record" years of 2020 and 2022, it remains high in the overall context of 2007-2023, well ahead of the pre-pandemic years of 2019 or 2015-2016.

CIVIC POWER OF LITHUANIAN TEACHERS

A separate representative survey of Lithuanian teachers at the end of 2023 also assesses the Civic Empowerment Index of Lithuanian teachers. As in previous years, the results showed that Lithuanian teachers have significantly more civic power than the society as a whole. The average value of the Teachers' Civic Power Index in 2023 is 51.6 points out of a possible 100 (14.9 points higher than the general public).

Teachers are the most active in society as a whole (their civic engagement index score is higher by 37.1 points). Teachers are the most active in society as a whole (civic engagement index score is higher by 37.1 points). For example, several times as many teachers take part in local community activities



PILIE TINĖS
VISUOMENĖS
INSTITUTAS



Lietuvos Respublikos
socialinės apsaugos
ir darbo ministerija

Pilielinės visuomenės institutas / Civil Society Institute, Didžioji g. 5, LT-01128 Vilnius, Lietuva
Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania

(76% of teachers vs. 25% of the general population), participate in environmental clean-ups (76% of teachers vs. 37% of the general population), make charitable donations (87% of teachers vs. 52% of the general population), sign online petitions (48% of teachers vs. 22% of the general population), boycott goods (48% of teachers vs. 25% of the general population), etc.

Lithuanian teachers are also more interested in public affairs than the general public, and a higher proportion of them than the general public say they would take action if there was a local, economic or political problem in the country (48%, 15% and 11% of teachers taking the initiative). Teachers' perception of civic influence is also higher than that of all groups in society combined. Teachers are more likely than other members of society to have a higher perception of their own personal influence on important decisions in society (on a ten-point scale, they score 4.1 points, compared to the average for the general public of 3.1 points), to attribute a higher degree of influence to non-governmental organisations, public organisations, and communities (teachers give these organisations a score of 5.5 points on the 'influence scale', compared to the average for the general public of 4.9 points), and to have a higher perception of the influence of the mass media (teachers score 7.3 points, compared to the average for the general public of 6.6 points). However, teachers themselves, as a group, rate their own influence on decision-making lower than the general public as a whole (teachers score 4.8 points for their own group and the general public evaluate teachers' influence with 5.4 points).

It is important to note that in the fourth dimension of the Civic Empowerment Index - the assessment of the risks of civic engagement - Lithuanian teachers are almost indistinguishable from the general public and assess the riskiness of civic engagement in very similar ways. The only significant differences are that 6 percentage points more teachers than members of the general public consider the risk of being seen as a weirdo by those around them to be unlikely (33% of teachers consider this risk unlikely, and another 9% consider it to be not likely at all), but at the same time, 6 percentage points more teachers than members of the general public consider the risk of public attacks, defamation, group bullying or attempts to undermine one's authority to be very likely for civic-minded people (16% of teachers consider it to be very likely, and a further 39% think it is likely).

Comparing the 2023 Teachers' Civic Empowerment Index with the one measured in 2019, the average value of the index decreased by 2.2 points (it was 53.7 in 2019). However, this value remains higher than the average value of the Teachers' Civic Empowerment Index observed in 2014, 2009 or 2008 (48.1 points, 47.8 points and 48.6 points respectively). The decrease in the Teachers' Civic Empowerment Index compared to four years ago is mainly due to a significant drop in the Civic Influence Perception Index and a decrease in the Civic Risk Index (a tendency to perceive more risks), which was somewhat mitigated by the very high level of teachers' civic engagement. It should be noted that all these changes broadly mirror the trends in the society's Civic Empowerment Index and its components as a whole, comparing 2019 and 2023.



PILIETINĖS
VISUOMENĖS
INSTITUTAS



Lietuvos Respublikos
socialinės apsaugos
ir darbo ministerija

Pilietinės visuomenės institutas / Civil Society Institute, Didžioji g. 5, LT-01128 Vilnius, Lietuva
Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania

ASSESSMENT OF LITHUANIAN TEACHERS' WELL-BEING AT WORK, PERCEIVED PROBLEMS AND THE 2023 AUTUMN STRIKES

According to the Teachers' Civic Empowerment Survey, teachers' perception of the prestige of the teaching profession is much lower than that of society as a whole: the majority of teachers (60%) rate it as low, compared to half as many in society (30%). Half (50%) of Lithuanians consider the prestige of the teaching profession to be medium, while a fifth (20%) consider it high. By comparison, only 3% of teachers surveyed thought that the prestige of their profession was high. It is worth noting that in the 2019 survey, following the major teachers' strikes, both the public and teachers had a more positive view of the prestige of the teaching profession.

Most teachers consider that the most pressing and important problems for teachers at the moment are teacher burnout and overwork (73% of the teachers surveyed chose "very important/relevant"), heavy workloads (73%), behavioural problems of pupils (70%), confusion-inducing reforms (67%), excessive number of children in classrooms (57%), and low salaries (56%). If we add the teachers who were more moderate in their assessment of the importance of these problems, i.e. choosing "important" rather than "very important", we can say that 9 out of 10 Lithuanian teachers consider the problems listed above to be important for the Lithuanian teacher communities. Compared to 2019, the situation has changed little and not for the better: for example, the share of teachers who consider high class size to be an important problem has increased.

When asked to what extent they were personally satisfied or dissatisfied with different aspects of their working environment, half of the teachers surveyed indicated that they were dissatisfied with the behaviour of their pupils (50%), the number of children in the classroom (49%), the workload (49%), and the pay (47%). However, the most common point of discontent was the reform of the education system and/or the educational process, with a significant 74% of teachers indicating dissatisfaction with this aspect.

Teachers reported satisfaction with several aspects of their work environment, including good relations with other teachers (82%), good relations with the school administration (75%), and the school's computer facilities (60%).

To summarize the results of the analysis, the differences between teachers' ratings of both general and personal problem relevance by age, location of the school, and subject are minimal and mostly not statistically significant. However, two noteworthy differences emerge from the data: first, the large number of children in the classroom is a much greater source of dissatisfaction for teachers in cities and towns compared to those in rural areas (63%, 57%, and 27% respectively). Second, teachers aged 39 years and younger are much less likely to be dissatisfied with education system reforms compared to teachers aged 40 and older (63% and 78% respectively).

More than half of Lithuanians (59%) supported the teachers' strikes in autumn 2023 over pay and working conditions. As expected, support for the strike was even higher among teachers themselves, with 79% in favor. The proportion of those who did not support the autumn teachers' strike was low in both the general public and among teachers, with less than a tenth opposing. Teachers were fairly accurate in their assessment of public support: 53% of respondents believed that the Lithuanian public



PILIEŲ
VISUOMENĖS
INSTITUTAS



Lietuvos Respublikos
socialinės apsaugos
ir darbo ministerija

Pilielinės visuomenės institutas / Civil Society Institute, Didžioji g. 5, LT-01128 Vilnius, Lietuva
Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania

as a whole supported the strike. However, it was much more difficult for teachers to gauge whether the strike was supported by pupils and their parents, with more than a third of teachers reporting uncertainty (38% and 32% respectively). Additionally, one-fifth of teachers (19%) did not know the position of their school administration on the strike.

In the autumn 2023 teachers' strike, 12% of the surveyed teachers participated in the strike, 75% did not participate, and 12% indicated that they did not want to answer this question. It is noteworthy that in the 2019 survey, the proportion of teachers who did not answer the question about participation in strikes was much lower.

When teachers who did not take part in the strike were asked why they did not take part, the most common reasons given were: not being a member of the union organising the strike (56%), not wanting to interrupt the education process (25%), and 2 out of 10 (19%) also cited the fact that their colleagues did not support the strike as one of the reasons. Only a small proportion of teachers refrained from participating because they did not support the strike demands or considered the strike an inappropriate form of protest.

The majority of teachers view strikes (57%), demonstrations and rallies (58%), and negotiations with the Ministry (58%) as effective means for achieving their goals. The effectiveness of writing letters and petitions is rated lower, with only 39% of respondents considering this method effective.

In summary, 43% of teachers rate their overall well-being at work as good, 43% as average, and 10% as poor.

NATIONAL DEFENCE AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

This year's Civic Empowerment Index research explored people's emergency preparedness and their perception of their role in national defence. The survey revealed that the Lithuanian population's emergency preparedness is relatively low. However, it also indicated a strong desire among the population to understand their role in the national defence plans and a readiness to learn.

The survey showed that only 24% of the population are fully prepared with water and food for 72 hours (three days) as recommended. Additionally, 31% have some supplies but not enough, while 42% do not have any supplies. The least prepared groups are the unemployed, school and university students, and those with the lowest incomes. Furthermore, 41% of the population report that they do not have, or do not know of, a sufficiently accessible place to hide in relative safety in the event of military aggression or other emergencies. Only 10% are aware of a collective shelter, while the rest would rely on their own or relatives' homes. When asked if they would have a safer place to evacuate to in the event of a military threat or other emergency in their area, 38% said they did not have such a place. Others indicated they had another place to which they could evacuate or could take shelter with relatives or friends. The ability to evacuate by themselves varies significantly according to social situation: the highest number of people without a place to evacuate are the unemployed, retired, and those with the lowest incomes.



PILIE TINĖS
VISUOMENĖS
INSTITUTAS



Lietuvos Respublikos
socialinės apsaugos
ir darbo ministerija

Piliėtinė visuomenė institutas / Civil Society Institute, Didžioji g. 5, LT-01128 Vilnius, Lietuva
Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania

When asked if they had discussed an emergency plan with their family and/or other household members, only 28% said yes, while 62% said they had not discussed such a plan. The remaining respondents either did not know or had no one to discuss it with because they live alone. Additionally, when asked about discussing an emergency plan at work, only 14% of people indicated that they had done so.

The survey asked whether people know what role individuals like them are expected to play in national defence plans in the event of a threat of war. Only 9% answered affirmatively, 59% said they did not know, and 31% said they did not know exactly but thought they had some idea. However, nearly 70% indicated that they would like to know their role, and 46% expressed a personal interest in participating in training or exercises to prepare for emergencies, including the threat of war. When asked whether the whole of society should be involved in collective defence and civil resistance in the event of a threat of war, 58% responded 'definitely yes' or 'rather yes', 32% chose 'rather no' or 'definitely no', and the remainder did not know.

The results of the teachers' survey indicate that teachers are more committed to defending Lithuania than the general public. While the proportion of teachers willing to defend the country with arms is nearly the same as in the general population (12% of teachers compared to 15% of the general population), it is important to note that more than 85% of the teachers surveyed are women. Additionally, a significantly higher proportion of teachers (56% compared to 38% in the general population) are prepared to defend the country by other means.

Just over two-thirds of teachers surveyed say they know or anticipate their role in the event of a threat of war (only 40% of the general public). Similarly, more than two thirds of teachers say they would be willing to participate in training and exercises to prepare for emergencies, including war. In society as a whole, the proportion is 20 percentage points lower. Despite the increased willingness to participate in such training, teachers and society as a whole have not participated in it with nearly the same frequency (only 5% of teachers and 3% of society as a whole have participated).

The Civic Empowerment Index 2023 survey provided an opportunity to examine the results from various perspectives, one of which is particularly interesting from the viewpoint of civil society. Among the respondents, a group of 109 individuals who reported involvement in some kind of public organization in the last year was identified. Their answers notably differ from the attitudes and opinions expressed by society as a whole. Specifically, 27% of these respondents indicated they would defend their country with arms if attacked by another country, and 55% said they would defend the country in other ways (compared to 15% and 38%, respectively, in the general public).

Members of social organisations are also more likely than the general public to know or anticipate their role in the event of war (20 percentage points more than the general public). The same difference compared to the general public is also true when asked about their willingness to participate in training and exercises to prepare for emergencies. But the number of those who have taken part in such training is small - only 5% of those involved in public activities. In any case, the results of the survey show that participation in the activities of public organisations is clearly linked to the determination not to stand aside in case of military aggression.



PILIE TINĖS
VISUOMENĖS
INSTITUTAS



Lietuvos Respublikos
socialinės apsaugos
ir darbo ministerija

Pilietinės visuomenės institutas / Civil Society Institute, Didžioji g. 5, LT-01128 Vilnius, Lietuva
Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania

Since 2007, Civic Empowerment Index has been annually calculated by the Civil Society Institute, based on the methodology prepared by scientists Prof. Ainė Ramonaitė, Dr. Rūta Žiliukaitė and Dr. Mindaugas Degutis.

The research of the Civic Empowerment Index is based on representative surveys. In November-December 2023, such society's and teachers' surveys were carried out by the public opinion and market research centre "Vilmorus".

Lithuanian Civic Empowerment Index 2023 research was financed by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania.

More information: Dr. Ieva Petronytė-Urbonavičienė, ieva@civitas.lt, tel. +370 672 21668.