

Housing Provision for the Youth in Lithuania: Theoretical Explanations, Empirical Evidence and Challenges for Public Policy

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Housing Provision for the Youth – one of the most important social problems. Nowadays young people relatively later start independent life from their parents, the transition from parent's home to the independent living becomes more and more complicated and takes longer. Acquiring their own home for many young people becomes a huge challenge and financial burden. This topic is broadly discussed in scientific literature (Forest, 2012; Mackie, 2012; Ronald&Hirayama, 2009 ir t.t.). (Billari, Liefbroer, 2010). Considerable part of the young people lives in low quality households. Poor regulation of the housing sector, high level of commodification and insufficient support for people in need of housing are characteristic of the liberal housing policy in Lithuania (Aidukaite, 2013). In this context, young people much more often affected by the housing deprivation. Theoretical background of the paper is based on the welfare state (Grander, 2017; Boelhourwer, Hoekstra, 2009 and etc.), social inequality and exclusion, quality of life theories and etc. This paper aimed to examine 1) What are the main challenges and opportunities for independent housing provision for the youth? 2) What is the role of youth personal and household characteristics? 3) What is the role of housing policy? Empirical part of the paper is based on the representative survey research carried out in Lithuania in 2017 (N=1200). The empirical basis of the survey consists of more than 500 indicators. In this paper only part of the research findings was discussed: 1) housing policy evaluation; 2) independent housing purchase possibilities; 3) social demographic and housing characteristics and etc. Research results revealed that existing housing policy does not create favourable conditions for housing provision for the youth. Housing provision opportunities are mainly linked to individual social status (education, labour market situation and etc.), parent's social status. In the discussion section main for housing policy challenges and possible solutions were discussed.