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Today unemployment is one of the most important problems that threaten the economic and demographic security of Belarus and Lithuania. In this context the most dangerous thing is the growth of youth unemployment which is about 38% in Belarus and 26,4% in Lithuania of the total number of registered unemployed [1][2].

According to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Belarus nowadays the proportion of 16-29 aged youth of the country total population is really less than 22%. Belarusian young people make up about 24% of total employment in the country. However, even with this relatively high rate, this category is very vulnerable in the labor market, often due to low competitiveness [1].

Analyzing the overall structure of the official unemployment rate, we note that 38% are unemployed youth between 16 and 30 years old, i.e. about 200 thousand people of the Belarusian unemployed are young people. In other words, the unemployment rate for this category of Belarusian society is about 15%. This is almost two times higher than the level of total unemployment, and this situation shows that the youth are largely unemployed.

To some extent, the signs of a lost generation are inherent to Belarusian youth. Many young men and women in Belarus live with their parents, and often have unstable or odd jobs being «on rents' neck», i.e. they are not taxpayers and create the preconditions for social unrest. In addition, being out of work leads to the fact that young people lose their skills acquired during their studies in secondary or higher educational establishments. They are not professionally developed and lose the opportunity for career growth.

As for Lithuania, one of the biggest problems is urbanization. The biggest cities like Kaunas and Vilnius are over-crowded and citizens are coming here from countryside. The result is low higher education level in small towns and better social environment in cities.

Furthermore, great condition was created by the Lithuanian government when they fixed high unemployment allowance. The allowance in Lithuania is approximately like a minimum wage, that is a main reason why people do not work. They get the same wage without working. Another problem is a big number of pensioners who are working and taking workplaces from younger, viable and enthusiastic people.

Also we must admit that emigration sentiments among Belarusian and Lithuanian youth is significantly higher than among other population groups. Namely - more than 65% of young people want to emigrate from the country, while as for other layers of population, this figure does not exceed 35-40%, which is also not encouraging. These sentiments are based primarily on the inability of young people to realize themselves in their homeland, to find a decent income. In this case, there is the following tendency: the higher the education level, the higher emigration sentiments among young people. Thus, we can attest that primarily highly educated youth leave the country. This process encompasses a serious challenge for the Belarusian and Lithuanian economic and social models in the near future.

All of the facts above support the importance of the problem of youth unemployment in Belarus and Lithuania. It is worth noting that the Belarusian and Lithuanian governments understand the problem and try to solve it. Unfortunately these measures are far from being effective. Therefore, we think that our countries would have to turn to the European experience to combat youth unemployment.

References

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