



# **Tackling youth violence**

## **Lithuanian experiences**

Audrius Ščeponavičius

Director, Public Health Department Ministry of Health, Lithuania

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# Structure

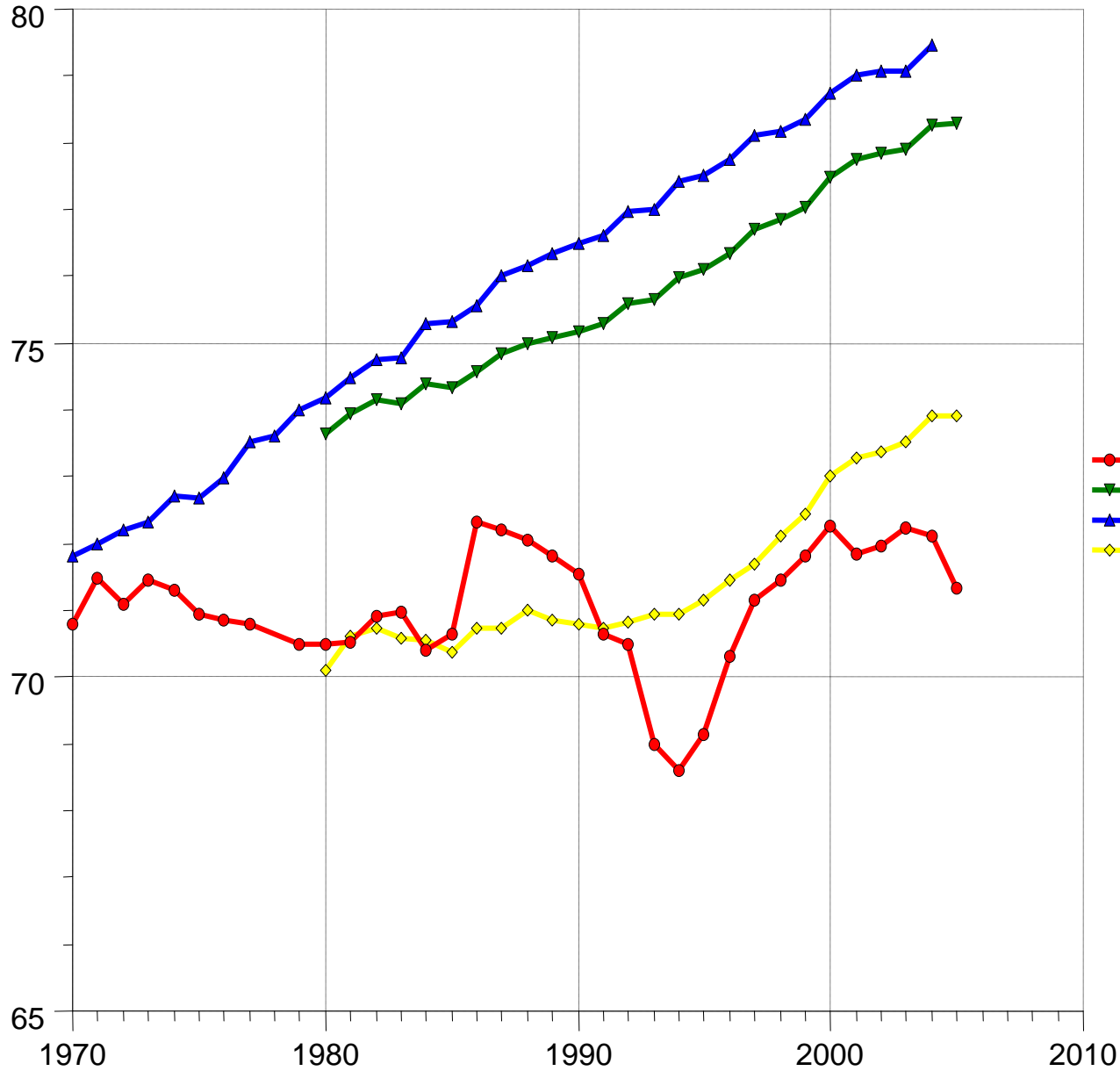
1. Overview of Lithuanian situation
2. National policies and programmes
3. Lessons to be learned
4. Conclusions

# Republic of Lithuania (2009)

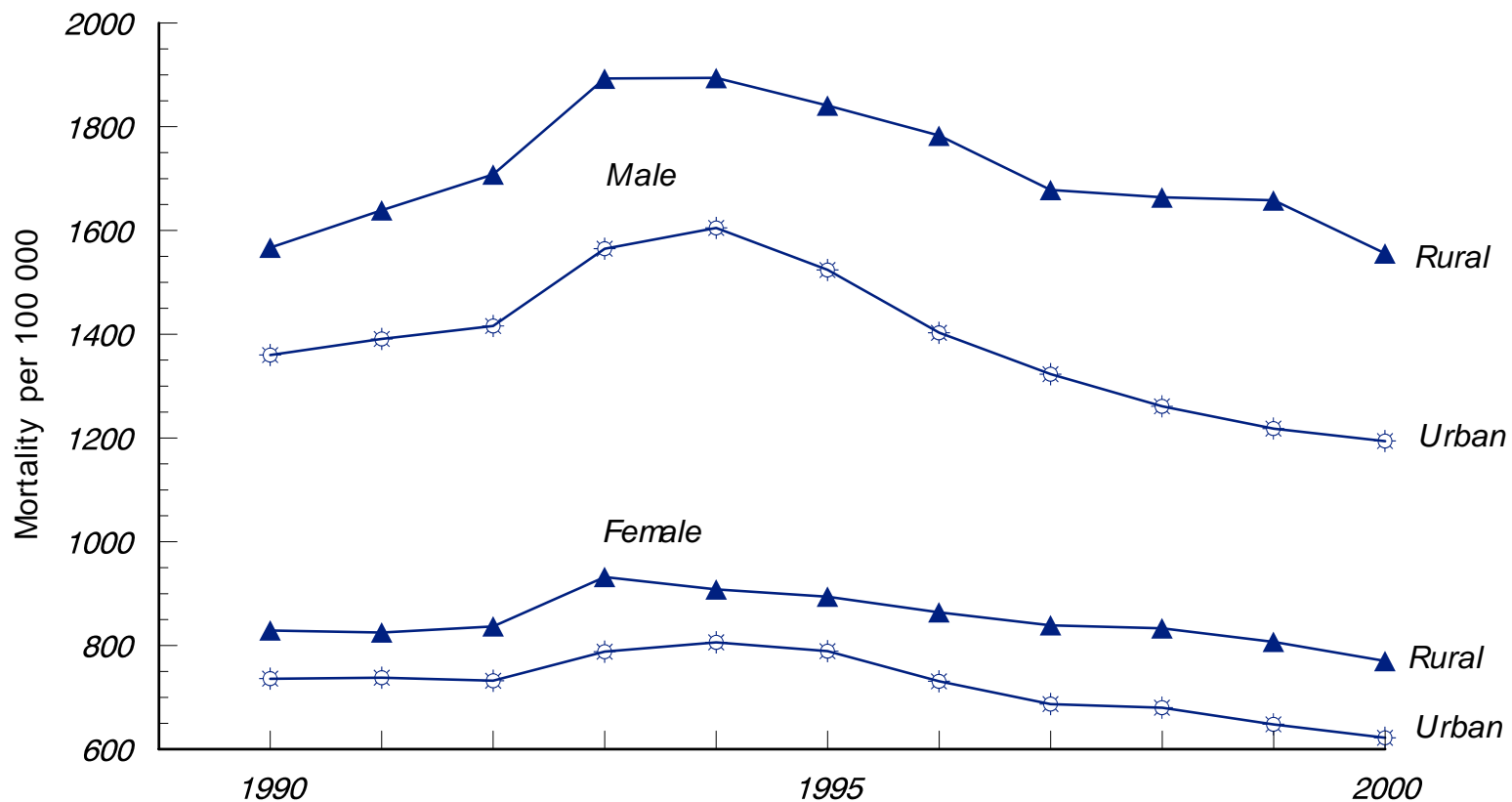


- Territory: 65 303 km<sup>2</sup>
- Population: ~3.4 mln. (83.4 % Lithuanians, 6.7% Poles, 6.3% Russians, and 3.5% others)
- Official language: Lithuanian . Most population speaks well in English , Russian, Polish, German
- Climat : Maritime/continental (Average winter temperature: – 4,9°C, Summer - +17 °C)
- Religion : Majority Roman Catholics
- Capital – Vilnius
- National currency: the litas (LTL) .EUR 1= LTL 3,4528

# Life expectancy at birth, years

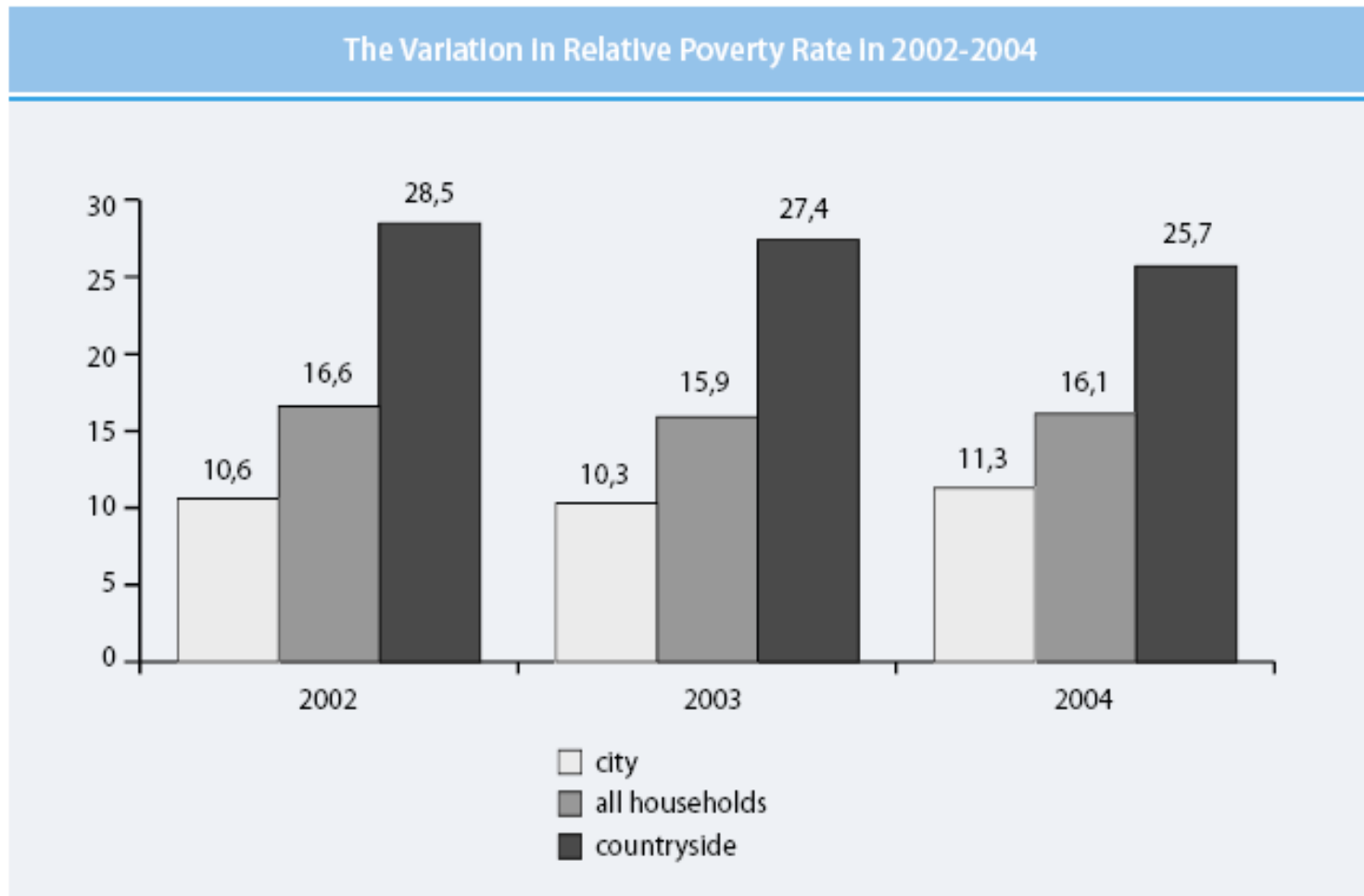


# Overall trends in mortality among the urban and rural populations, 1990-2000

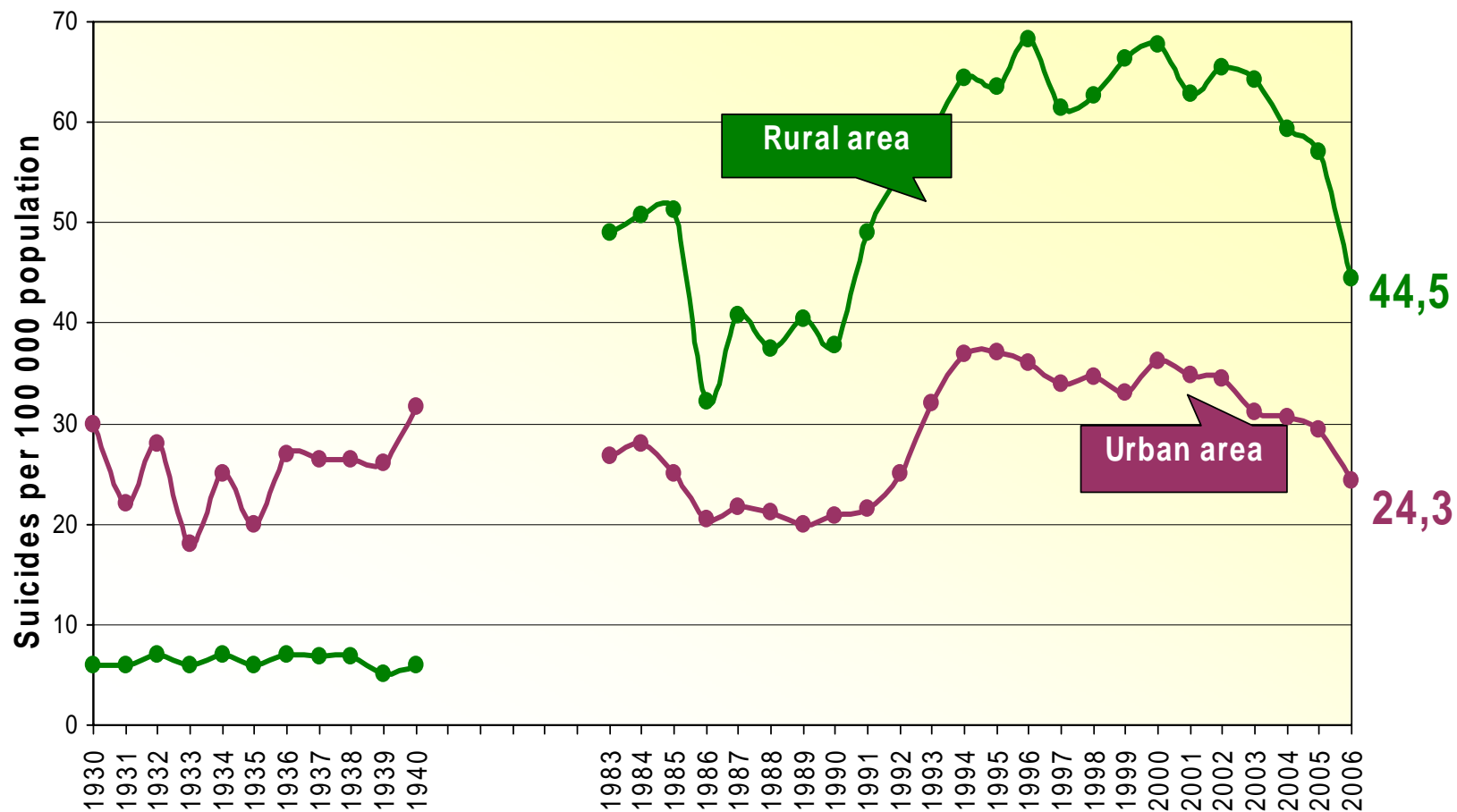


Source: **Socio-economic inequalities in health in Lithuania: indicators for monitoring and latest situation. Report, April 2, 2002**

# Changes in relative poverty.



# SUICIDES IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS IN LITHUANIA 1930-1940 AND 1983-2006 (per 100 000)



# Community factors: unemployment rate

- **In II quarter 2009, the unemployment rate in the country reached 13.6 per cent**
- Based on Eurostat's estimations, the unemployment rate in the EU-27, seasonally adjusted, in July 2009 made up 9 per cent, while in July

# Community factors: Poverty rate

- Households with one children had a **14.0%** poverty rate
- Households with two children had a **-18.7 %** poverty rate
- Households with two, three or more children had a **-38.2 %** poverty rate
- Households with one parent and one or more children had a **41,5%** poverty rate

# Community factors: family model change

- Proportion of extramarital birth increased more than three times from 7% in 1992 to 25,4% in 2005

# Lithuanian Mental Health Policy Framework

1. Law of Mental Health Care of the Republic of Lithuania 1995
2. National Strategy on Child Welfare in 2005-2012
2. National Mental Health Strategy 2007
3. Action Plan for implementation of the Mental Health Strategy 2008-2010
4. National programme of prevention against children violence 2008 – 2010
5. National Family Health Programme 2008

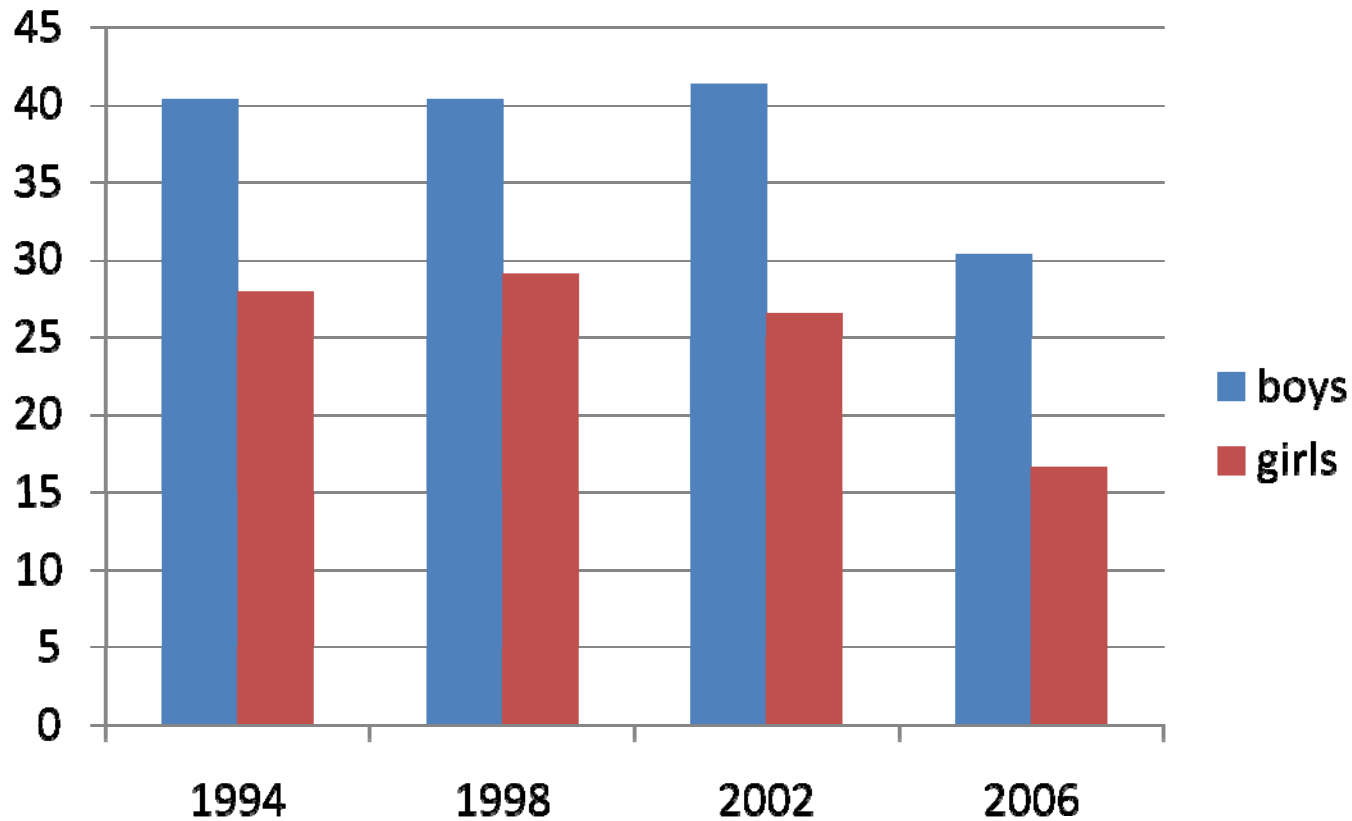
# EU support for Mental

- **2007 Lithuania win the tender to lead CAMHEE project**
- **CAMHEE-** Child and adolescent mental health in enlarged EU: Development of Effective Policies and Practices for the EU's public health program.
- One of the major components in this project, which has 35 participating partners from 16 countries, is prevention of violence, bullying and suicides in schools.

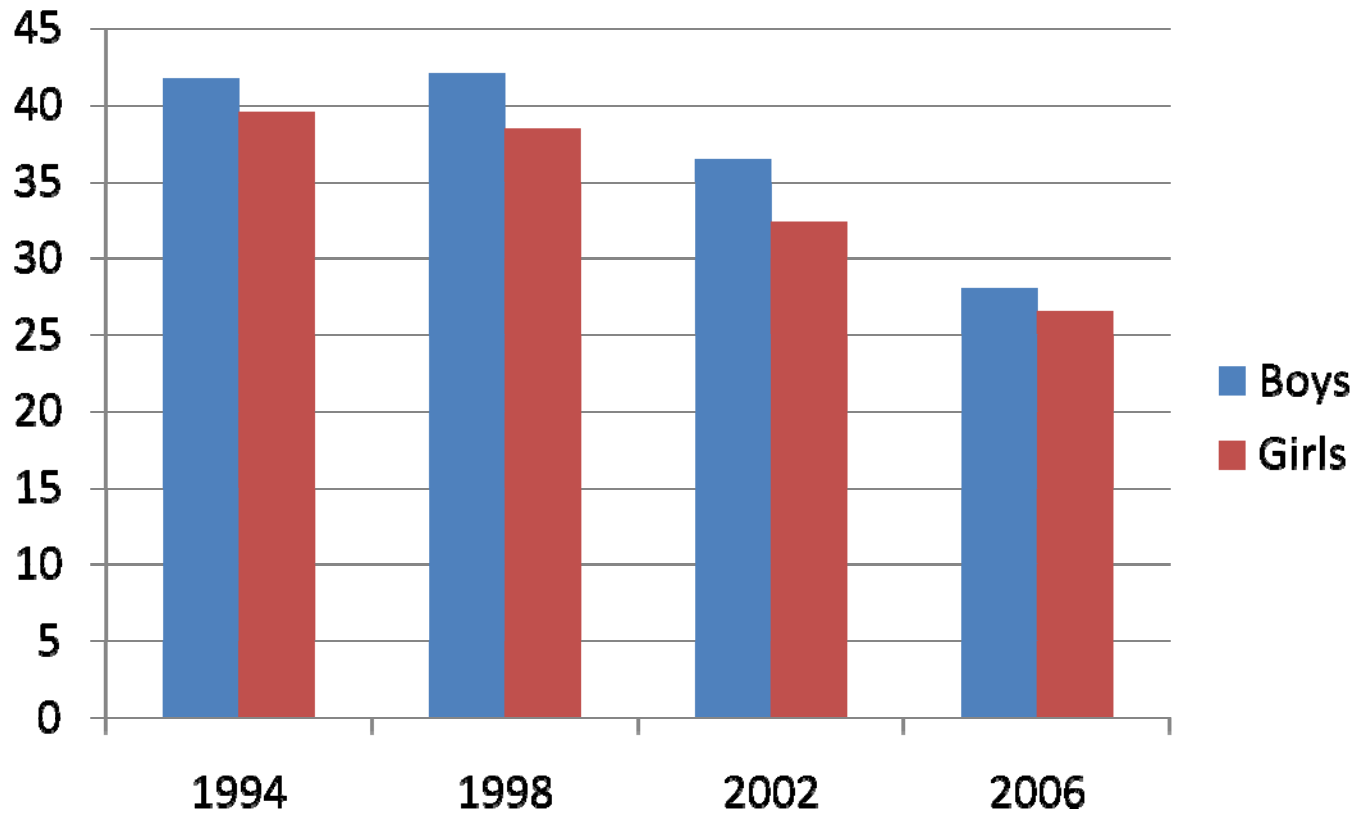
# Good practice examples for violence, suicide and bullying prevention (programmes)

- **Olweus** programme was initiated in Lithuania in 2008. 64 schools actively participating in the process in 2009.
- **The Second Step programme** started in Lithuania in 1999. In 2008 the Second Step programme is being implemented in 89 social organizations across Lithuania.
- **Zippy's Friends is a programme** who helps young children – 5-7 year olds - to develop coping and social skills successfully going on from 2004.
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters program** started in Lithuania in **1995**. The program matches children aged **7 through 17**. Oldest well known and most effective youth mentoring programme.
- **ChildLine campaign "Stop Bullying"** The bullying phenomenon was recognised as one of the most important problems in Lithuanian schools.
- **ChildLine** - free psychological helpline for children in Lithuania. More than 100 000 calls are answered every year.

# Bullied School-aged childrens (HBSC, Lithuania)



# School-aged childrens who bully others (HBSC, Lithuania)



# School-aged childrens who bully others (HBSC, 2005/2006)

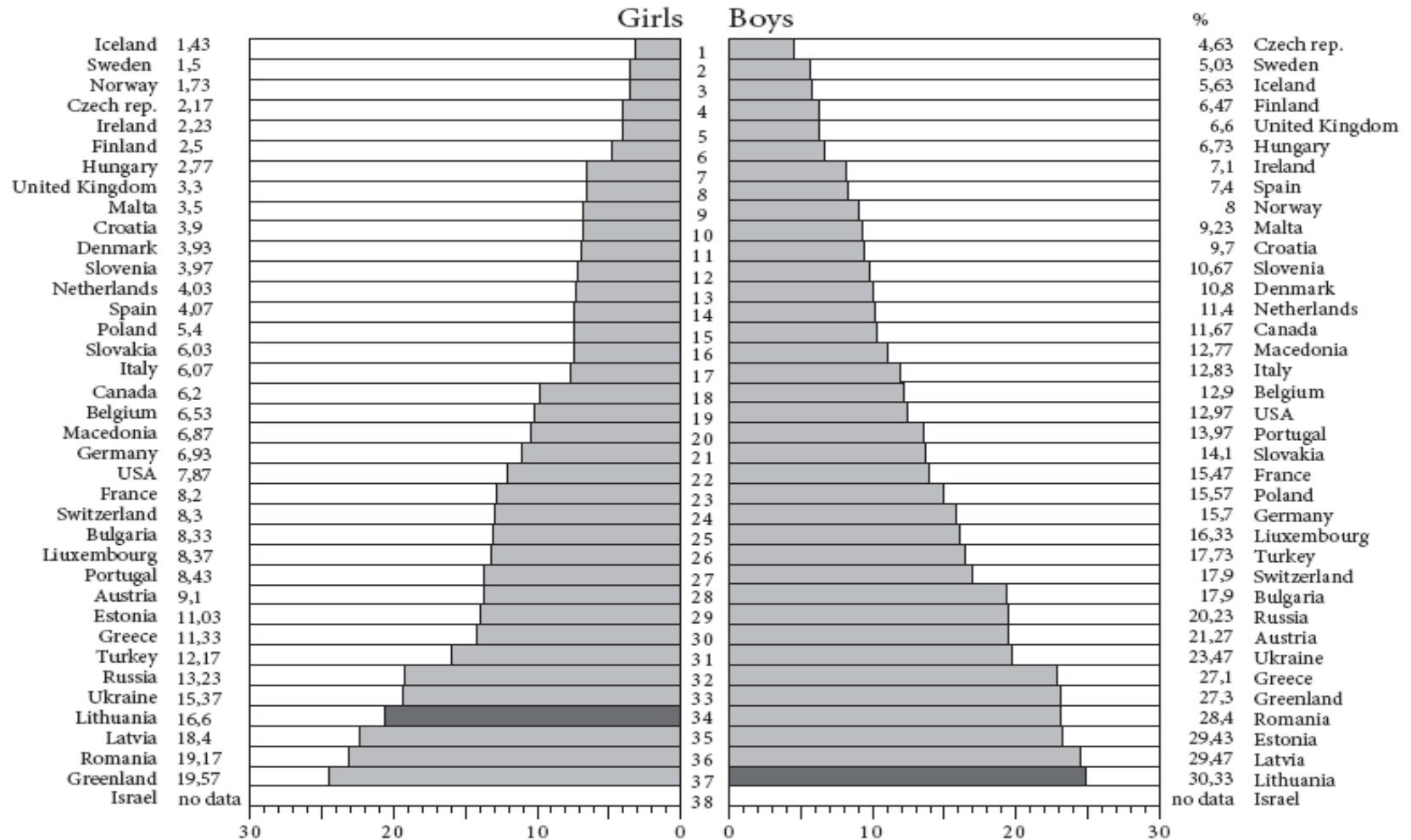


Figure 8. Students who bully others, HBSC – 2005/2006

# Bullied School-aged childrens (HBSC, 2005/2006)

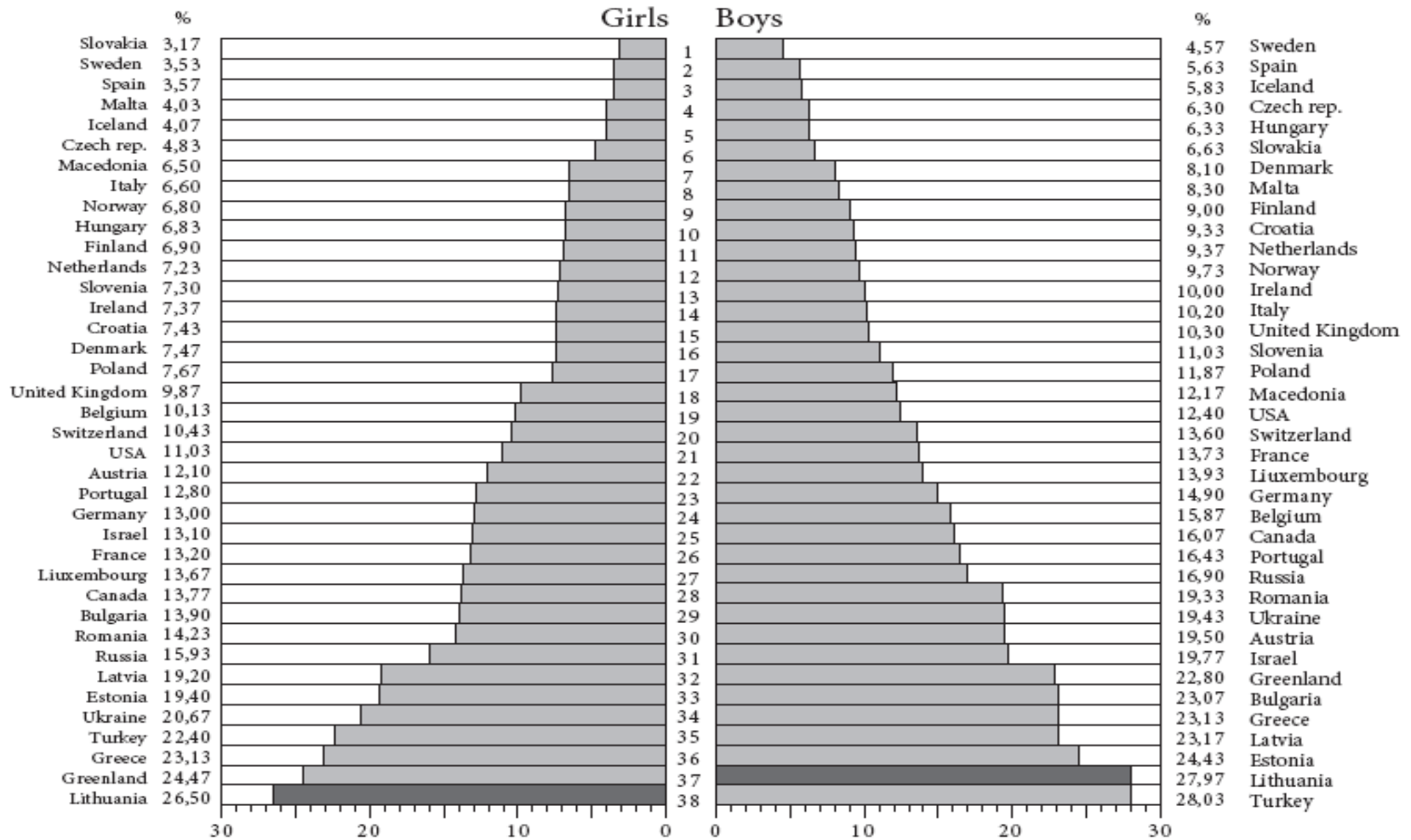


Figure 7. Bullied students, HBSC – 2005/2006

# **Institutional framework dealing with youth violence**

- Pedagogical-Psychological Services are functioning in all municipalities
- Positions of teachers' assistance, psychologists and psychologist assistants and special educators established at schools
- More than 900 teachers have been trained to organise prevention of bullying and violence in schools
- The Procedure for Crisis Management at Schools was approved. Schools are prepared to respond to crisis situations and to manage them.

# Conclusion

- Lithuania facing many problems in the violence field.
- Existing problems fully recognized and awareness raised.
- Political will to solve youth violence at national and local level strongly expressed.
- In spite of being high on the list at the national level, policies regarding youth violence still not very successfully implemented.
- A **modern public health approach**, was offered as an alternative for attempts to tackle violence. Problem of individual people It is a problem of all of us, all our society, and we all have to combine our forces in tackling it.