



## Results of the political literacy survey of the Klaipėda city Youth (aged 14-29)

The coordinators of the "Klaipėda - European Youth Capital 2021" platform "Dialogues" - the Department of Public Administration and Political Science of Klaipėda University, together with the Klaipėda University Students' Union, conducted a survey on the political literacy of Klaipėda's youth aged 14-29.

Political literacy is researched in quite different formats around the world. The format chosen for this particular research is a test, which means that young people had to answer questions covering several levels of difficulty (basic and advanced) and different policy areas (local self-government, Lithuanian political system, current political processes, political theory, youth politics and participation), with one correct and several incorrect answer choices and the possibility of choosing a fair answer choice of "I don't know".

Political literacy is divided into the three main levels: low, medium and high (calculated by dividing the mean scores into thirds: 0.01-0.32, 0.33-0.66, 0.67-1). There is also always a possibility that the survey may reveal **political illiteracy** (with an estimate below 0 points).

### *So, are young people in the Klaipėda city politically literate?*

The survey revealed that the political literacy of young people in the Klaipėda city is, unfortunately, low (the total political literacy score is 0.23). However, it varies according to different policy areas. Young people have a good knowledge of the basics of politics and of youth policy and participation (both areas show an average level of political literacy, i.e., 0.4 points each). However, knowledge of the Lithuanian political system and current political processes is low (0.23 and 0.20 points respectively). In the area of local self-government, unfortunately, political illiteracy is demonstrated (- 0.07 points).

[1 table]

As the questions were also divided into the basic and the advanced levels of political knowledge, the survey showed that both are low (0.29 and 0.18 points respectively).

[2 table]

If we elaborate on individual questions, young people have sufficient knowledge (i.e., they demonstrate average and above average political literacy skills) of general issues such as, for example, the age census to become a member of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania (0.45 points), what is the representative body of the state abroad (0.75 points), or who is the current Prime Minister (0.89 points).

However, young people were unable to identify that Lithuania is a parliamentary state (- 0.03 points), did not know that the much-discussed Istanbul Convention is a document of the Council of Europe (- 0.4 points), and were unable to distinguish that liberalism is a political ideology that advocates minimal state interference in economic relations (- 0.07 points).

*What serve as sources of information for young people on political issues? What is the impact of local media on young people's political literacy?*

The main source of information on political issues for young people is TV news / information programs, well ahead of social networks (second place) and information portals (third place). Although family/relatives as a source of political information is ranked fourth in the survey, just one percentage point ahead of specialized political news programs on TV, both are almost twice lagging from the TV news programs. Young people have little interest in newspapers or magazines. And there is no interest in "live" meetings with local or national politicians.

[3 picture]

We, as well, asked young people what serves as a source of information about political processes in the Klaipėda city.

[4 picture]

The survey revealed that the top three would be: social networks, national TV broadcasters, national internet portals. Could this be the reason why the knowledge about local self-government is so low? Fourth to sixth place would be shared by: family/relatives, local newspapers and local internet portals. If we analyse the official information dissemination channels of the Klaipėda city municipality, the most popular are the Facebook account and the website of the Klaipėda city municipality, while the Youtube streaming is still "tamed" by young people. From the results of the survey, it can be concluded that young people do not talk to their neighbors about local political issues.

The Youth Political Literacy Survey was carried out as part of the "Klaipėda - European Youth Capital 2021" platform "Dialogues". 362 young people aged 14-29 participated in the research in May 2021. More information: Gabrielė Burbulytė-Tsiskarishvili, e-mail: [gabriele.burbulyte-tsiskarishvili@ku.lt](mailto:gabriele.burbulyte-tsiskarishvili@ku.lt)

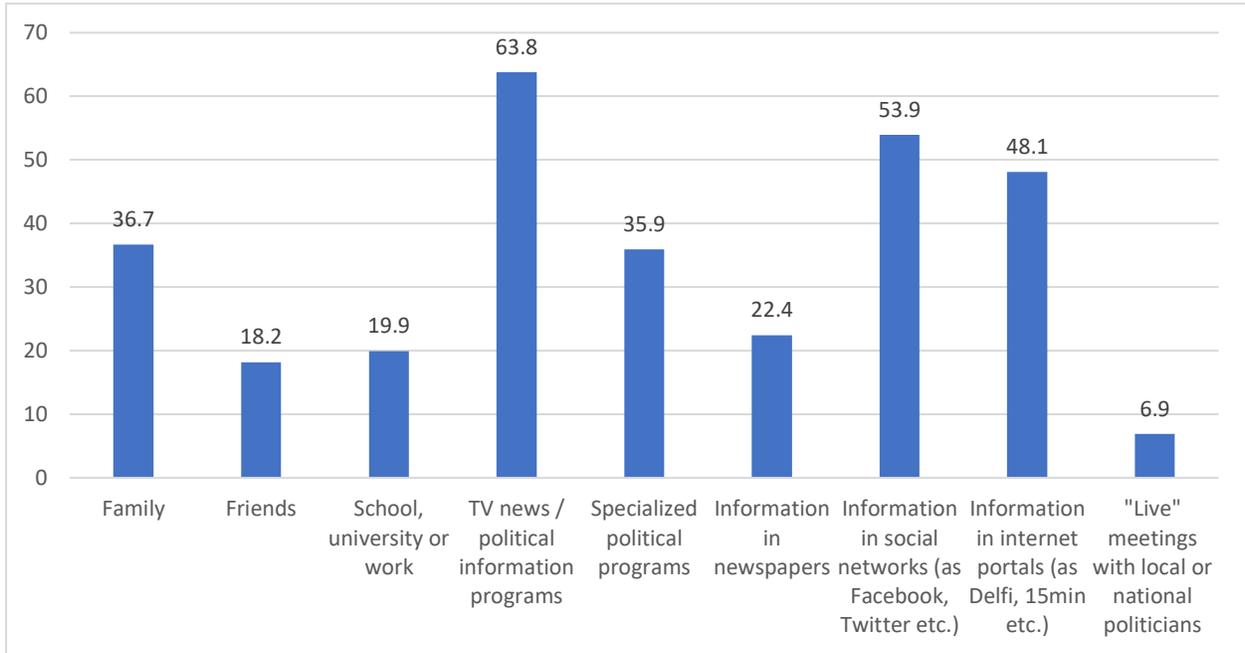
**1 table**

No.	Policy knowledge	Literacy score (points)	Literacy level
1	Local self-government	-0,078	political illiteracy
2	Lithuanian political system	0,231	low
3	Current political processes	0,204	low
4	Political theory	0,403	average
5	Youth politics and participation	0,401	average
<b>Total score</b>		<b>0,232</b>	<b>low</b>

**2 table**

No.	Policy knowledge	Level	Literacy score (points)	Literacy level
1	Local self-government	Basic	0.108	low
		Advanced	-0.264	political illiteracy
2	Lithuanian political system	Basic	0.207	low
		Advanced	0.255	low
3	Current political processes	Basic	0.229	low
		Advanced	0.179	low
4	Political theory	Basic	0.496	average
		Advanced	0.309	low
5	Youth politics and participation	Basic	0.396	average
		Advanced	0.405	average
<b>Political literacy score</b>		<b>Basic</b>	<b>0.287</b>	<b>low</b>
<b>Political literacy score</b>		<b>Advanced</b>	<b>0.177</b>	<b>low</b>

### 3 picture



### 4 picture

