In Lithuania social services system was established after the restoration of the Independence. Before the Independence all social services were centralized and were provided only in stationary care institutions. These types of institutions provide services for people with disabilities, children and etc. Government activities of implementation have started since 1991. These activities have been orientated to deinstitutionalization of institutional care and development of community based social services. In each Municipality were established separate structural units which were responsible for persons with disabilities, and lonely elderly care. In 1996 the first Low on Social services was adopted. This low and subordinate legislation was the base for further social services development in Lithuania.

In Low on Social services, according that time the purpose of social services was defined as follow: to meet persons’ vital needs and assure life conditions that do not humiliate human’s dignity. Social work was defined as professional activity which seeks to help person to meet the vital needs, help to restore person and society relations when person is unable to do it independently.

Period of 1991 – 1998 could be defined as quantitative leap in Lithuanian social security system development. In this period were

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founded various social services for children, elderly, person with disabilities, persons at risk. Main feature of this period were number of agencies, variety of social services, number of clients. In new social services agencies were established social workers positions. Universities, colleges started to organize social work studies, but in that time still have been a lack of professional social workers. Therefore started the initial certification of all practician social workers, and begun organization of qualification training programs.

Since 2000, the second social services development stage has started. During which social services development from quantitative started to become more qualitative. In 2004 Government of the Republic of Lithuania ratify conception of Social services provision reform. In 2006 new Low on Social services was adopted. Social services, according new low, aim to allow person or family to develop skills and abilities independently solve social problems, maintain social relations with society, and help to overcome social exclusion.

The second social development stage is more difficult. On the first decade of Independence social services in Municipalities were developed enthusiastically. Meanwhile in the second and the third decades is facing difficulties like aging, economic crisis, lack of effective social services management in Municipalities, interference in persons with disabilities and children homes deinstitutionalization, social worker prestige decline and etc. Social services content and amount do not satisfy society needs, so there is a need to look for new services organize and provision forms.

Social work, as society itself, is some form experience crisis of human values. In society person welfare identify with material person welfare, in this case there is no space for basic values like tolerance, respect, accept person with all his believes and lifestyle, respect for human dignity. Nowadays social worker is identifying with material well-being provision – worker who will give social allowance, bring food.

According Low on Social services (2006) from the 1th of July on 2011 the right to work as social worker has only those persons who have high social work education. A number of challengers are waiting while seeking to make social work more professional activity and consistent
with professional and competent social workers. There are plans critically reconsider the legislation that define social work content, social workers’ qualification requirements, certification, clearly distinguish professional social worker from social worker assistant, specialists of benefits and occupation specialists activities and functions.

In purpose to solve these problems social work community, academics and Municipalities cohesion is needed. In 2011, initiative of the Ministry, consultative body Lithuanian Social Work Council was established. This organization operates on public basics. Organization aims to perform expert functions and provides consultations on satirical social work issues.

In 2010 Lithuania ratified United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. One of the biggest challenges is to solve institutional care for persons with disabilities issues. In cooperation with NGOs that represent rights of person with disabilities, institutional care leader associations and other organization plan to prepare National Strategy for person with disabilities and children deprived of parental care deinstitutionalization.

Very important item is community involvement to social support provision system. Communities Social Development program started in 2011. This Program aims to promote community organizations development in social activities and mutual assistance fields. Program seeks local community involvement in social support provision.

For social services management and provision changes is needed. But seeking social support quality assurance many planned activities should be test through social innovations. At this moment National Progress Program is preparing. This Program is the main document of strategic planning for Lithuanian Progress Strategy (“Lithuania 2030”) implementation. The term of document preparation is coordinated with Europe Union financial support programming period, expecting Europe Union funding and resource from the National budget. One of the planed priorities in social services field is to develop social services system and improve social work quality through empowering persons at social risk, involving social services users and NGO’s to these processes, be able to organize its activities in innovation and voluntary basics.