

# STREET WORK IN LITHUANIA: HOW TO REACH UNREACHABLE?

# Main forms of youth work:

## Open Work with Youth

Open Work with Youth is a specific form of youth work that covers “work with youth in open youth centres and/or open spaces and that is guided by specific principles of youth work”.



## Mobile Work with Youth

Mobile Work with Youth is work with youth after going to living places, where there is no youth work infrastructure, considering the needs of young people living in that place.



## Development of Young People Practical Skills

Development of Young People Practical Skills is also specific form of youth work based on individual plans with youth and youth worker, individual needs.



## Work with Youth on the Street

Work with Youth on the Street is work with youth in non-institutional environment, but directly in informal places of youth gathering (public spaces, streets, parks, cafes, sport places, clubs and etc).



## Youth Informing and Counseling

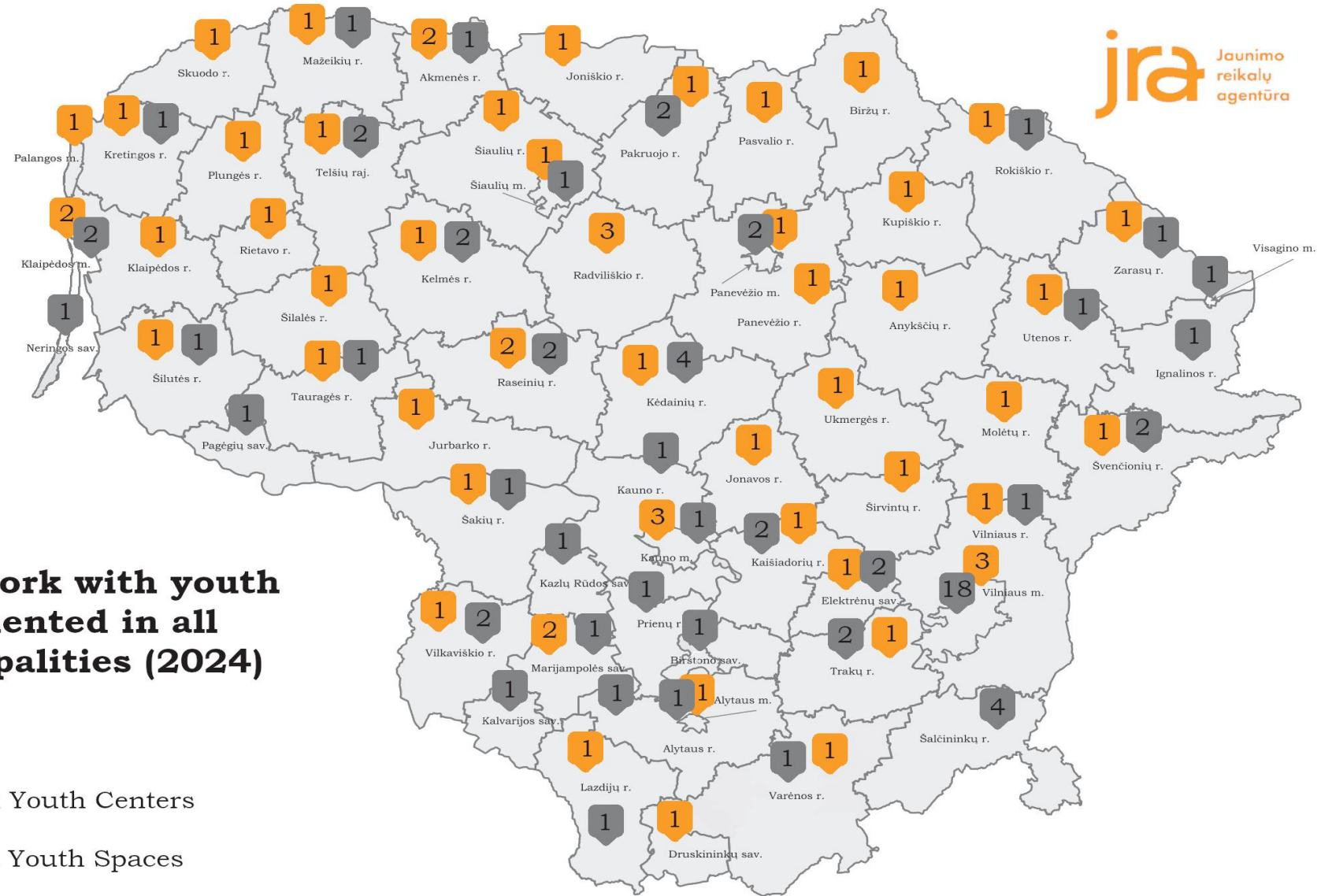
The main goal of Youth Informing and Counselling is to help young people orient themselves in all aspects of their life and to promote taking on independent choices. Knowing different possibilities is the first step, after which comes the consideration of the different possibilities, comparing them in a larger context, and is coordinated with the possibilities of the young person’s possibilities, skills, and goals.





# Differences between youth center and spaces

- The statutes of the institution clearly state that the institution or its branch is an open youth center
  - Two or more rooms for activities with Young people (example sometimes entire building is youth center, but most part of building in first floor in a corner)
  - Open center must work at least 4 days a week, in a day at least 4 hours
  - At least **two workers** work directly at specified time at the same time, and one of them must have specific\* education or youth worker certificate
- The statutes of the institution clearly state youth work as one of the goals or functions
  - One room for activities with Young people, part of building
  - Open spaces must work at least 3 days a week, in a day at least 4 hours
  - At least **one worker** works directly in the open youth area at the same time

*\*social work, social education, psychology, educational.*



## Open work with youth implemented in all municipalities (2024)

-  Open Youth Centers
-  Open Youth Spaces

# Mobile work -

work with Young people in the residential area, where is no infrastructure for Youth work, taking into account the needs of Young people living in the are.

**The aim** - to ensure their leisure, education and social integration and to empower young people to take an active role in the living area.

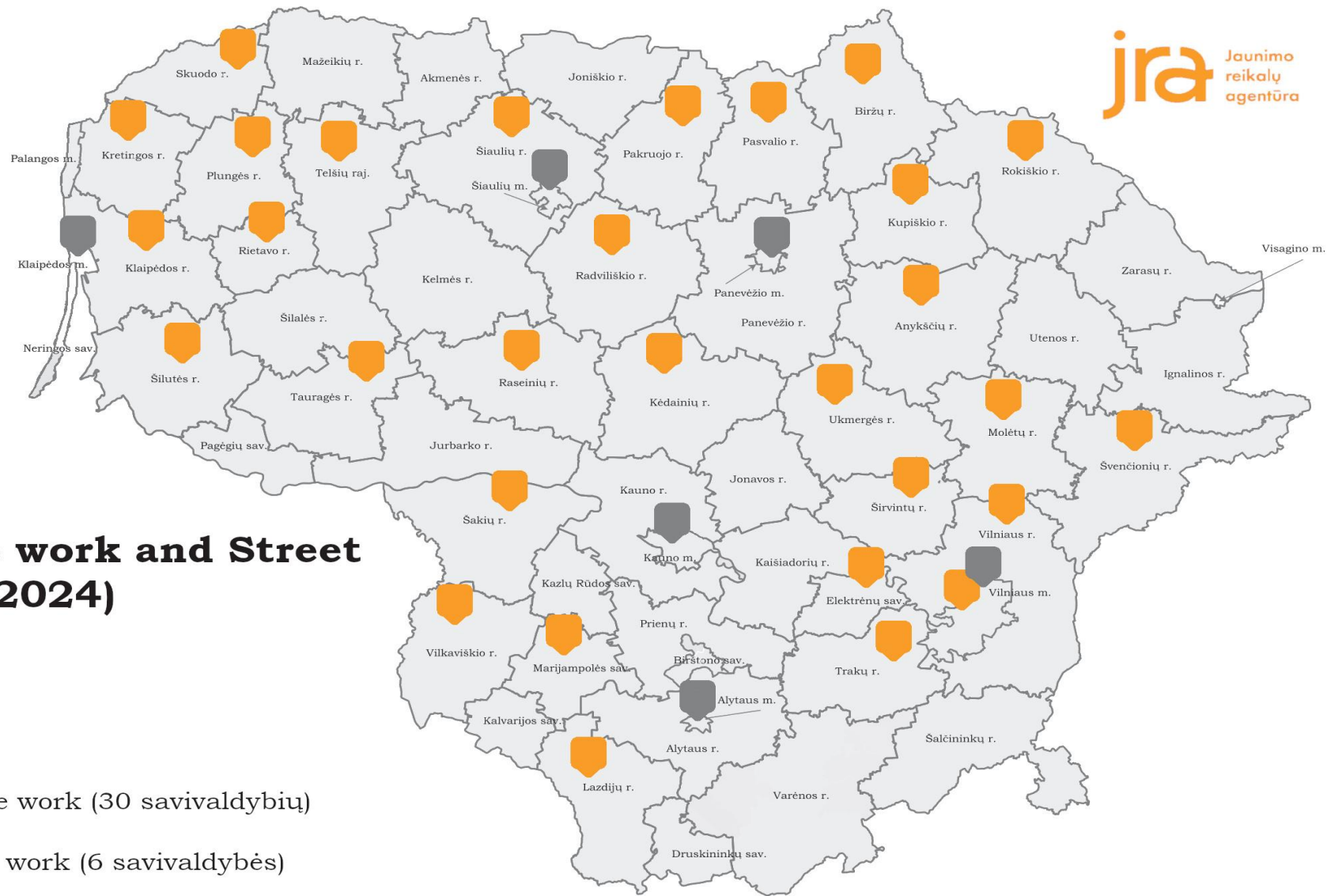


# Street work -

work with young people not in an institutional setting, but directly in informal youth gathering places (public spaces, streets, parks, cafes, sports grounds, clubs, etc.).

**The aim** - to reduce the social exclusion of young people on the street and increase their ability to participate fully in society.





## Mobile work and Street work (2024)

Mobile work (30 savivaldybių)

Street work (6 savivaldybės)

# Differences between mobile work and street work

- The aim – to organize activities, social integration.
  - Team – at least two workers; one of them should be social worker, social educator, psychologist or with youth worker certificate.
  - Team is going in the small cities, villages.
- The aim – to create a relationship with Young people.
  - Team – at least two workers; both of them should be social worker, social educator or psychologist, or with youth worker certificate.
  - Team is working in big cities districts (Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda, Panevėžys, Alytus).





# CHALLENGES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- The safe place, where they can create TRUST BASED relationship.
- Special spaces there to live when You are not safe at home at age 17-18
- Safety in the internet („sexting“, chat'ing with older and etc.)
- Mental health
- Harmful use (electronical cigarettes and etc.)

# CHALLENGES FOR STREET WORKERS

- Those, who meets in the street, are younger and younger.
- The need of different methods and places.
- How to reach those, who are not going to school, spend almost all their time at home?
- To create a contact with young people with delinquent behaviour, who are involved in gangs of older people.
- Accessibility of public spaces (new residential houses are fenced in territory, school stadiums are locked).

# CHALLENGES FOR SYSTEM

- Lack of threshold services for Young people
- Unequal distribution of services for young people - financial support, lack of workers, cities – villages.
- The impact of fake news for Young people.
- Non-recognition of other systems, or recognition through "all that don't handle" routing.
- Not stabile financial support.
- Cross-sectorical cooperation.

MEASUREMENT AND JUSTIFICATION OF RESULTS.

# OPPORTUNITIES

- Development and adaptation of services by age: 14-16; 16-18; 18-24; 24-29
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- Change of young people age in the law – 12-29.
- Foundation of special programs for teenagers (12-14 years old)
- CONNECTIONS - youth worker-case coordinator.
- Methodological support.

