“CREATION OF THE WELFARE STATE IN LITHUANIA:
MYTH OR REALITY?”

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Everyone is welcome to the presentation of a new monograph in social sciences, which will take place on the 1st of October, 2012 (Monday) at 4 p.m. in Vilnius, at the hotel Šarūnas. The event is sponsored by the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party and entrepreneur Antanas Guoga.

In the past 50 years, quite a number of books, textbooks, monographs and a great many articles were published in science magazines on the idea, topicality and problems of the Welfare State. It is one of the prevailing topics in state policy analysis in public and academic discourse of the Western world in the middle, the end and most recent days of the 20th century. Lithuania is also trying not to fall behind on these tendencies, especially, since their topicality is being dictated by the rapid processes of the development of the state. Even though little research has been carried out on the broader idea of the phenomenon of the welfare state, separate topics in social politics were and are intensively discussed in science digest. A monograph by researchers of the Lithuanian Social Research Centre, Vilnius University and Mykolas Romeris University (Jolanta Aidukaitė, Natalija Bogdanova and Arvydas Guogis) “Creation of the Welfare State in Lithuania: Myth or Reality?” was published in the summer of 2012. It is a new thorough research conducted in the field of the welfare state. It confirms the topicality of the chosen topic as well as determination of Lithuanian researchers to carry out a detailed hard-lined analysis of the peripheries of social policy. The monograph was released based on research financed by the Research Council of Lithuania and conducted in the Lithuanian Social Research Centre. The research was financed by the Research Council of Lithuania according to the project “The Transformation of the Welfare State in Lithuania: the Origin, Specific Features and Main Causal Forces
Behind its Development” (No. SIN-16/2010, project leader—senior lecturer Jolanta Aidukaitė). The monograph is full of important and unique insights and it is distinguished as the first attempt in the Lithuanian academic field to portray an exhaustive overall analysis of the development of the state of Lithuania. Therefore, it unfolds the topic and elaborates on separate aspects of the work in a highly professional way, and the volume of the entire work is truly impressive.

The research is divided into two parts (theoretical and practical) where the authors present a broader conception of the welfare state and reveal the process of the development of the system of social welfare of the state of Lithuania from the historical and modern perspective. The authors of the monograph not only try to answer the seemingly so simple question (which actually appears to be rather complicated as the text unfolds)—is Lithuania a welfare state and what are its characteristics—but also elaborate the way everything happened, this way creating true intrigue on the pages of the book: the course of social reforms, structuring of the system of social security and why it was formed in that particular way, what obstacles on the way to the welfare state were overcome and what problems remained unsolved and what factors and actors made an impact on the process. A much more complex question—how the most recent processes in political-economic Olympus and the most relevant post-crisis changes in social policy are going to affect further development of the welfare state in Lithuania—remains unanswered and by this, so the authors encourage further research of the welfare state and urge to continue this discussion in the public sphere.