



**FRA**

EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS



To the attention of:

Joana Gasiul  
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by email: [efhr@efhr.eu](mailto:efhr@efhr.eu)

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Dear Ms. Joana Gasiul,

Let me thank you for your letter showing interest in our Annual Report. The document you are referring to is a conference edition of the report covering the year 2009. As you rightly point out this document states on page 88: "In Lithuania 42 per cent of ethnic minority survey respondents indicated that they were *experiencing problems* [emphasis added] in the labour market due to poor Lithuanian language skills". However, the respective question in the survey you refer to (Q26 of the questionnaire) was as follows: "In your opinion, what are the main problems that people belonging to national minorities face [emphasis added] while seeking employment or improvement of their situation in the labour market"?

We agree that the word "experiencing" can be read as referring to concrete instances experienced by the respondents rather than a general perception of the situation of the minority population as such. In order to avoid misunderstandings in this regard, we will add a corrigendum to the pdf file to make sure that this passage of the report (that was never published in a final version due to budget restrictions) cannot be misread in future.

You will understand that we do not share your view that the information "was intentionally given as misleading". This should already be clear from the immediate context of the quoted



Morten Kjaerum, Director

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

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sentence which is critical vis-à-vis excessive language requirements - a position that is repeated in the FRA report "Respect for and protection of persons belonging to minorities 2008-2010", pp. 65-72.

We would like to thank you for your input and the resulting improvement of the report. We will send the link to the amended pdf file as soon as it goes online to [efhr@efhr.eu](mailto:efhr@efhr.eu). Moreover we would like to invite you to visit the FRA here in Vienna so that we can inform you directly and extensively on our methodology and various activities.

Yours sincerely,



Morten Kjaerum  
Director