



The Chairperson

Jonas Ruškus is a Professor at the Department of Social Work at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Lithuania. He is also a member expert of the Committee on the Rights of People with Disabilities of the United Nations (CRPD) for the term of 2019 – 2022.

Domains of his professional activities are disability and human rights, education, and social work.

From 2009 to 2010 he was the Vice-Rector for studies; from 2007 to 2009 -- the Head of Social Work School; from 2010 to 2016 -- the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Vytautas Magnus University. Until 2007 Jonas Ruškus was the Professor at the Department of Social Pedagogy and Psychology, also the Head of Social Research Centre at Šiauliai University.

In 2007 he passed the habilitation procedure in social science (education) at Vytautas Magnus University on the topic of Construction of Social Participation of People with Disabilities and Other Social Exclusion Groups. He defended his PhD in Education in 2000, the title of the thesis Relation Between Special Education Teacher's Attitudes, Pedagogical Interaction and School Socialisation of Children with Intellectual Disabilities. In 1994 he graduated from the D.E.A. (Diplome d'Études Approfondies) in Sciences of Man and Technology, Communication and Safety at the Université de Technologie de Compiègne, in France. In 1992 he graduated with diploma in Special education and speech therapy at Šiauliai Pedagogical Institute, Lithuania.

He gained practical experience of educator and social worker at Pedagogical-Psychological Service of Šiauliai city, Lithuania, and l'Arche Community in France.

Jonas Ruškus is a board member of Lithuanian Human Rights Centre, Kaunas l'Arche Community, Teach for All programme, Kaunas Jesuit Gymnasium, also member of Social Work Council of Lithuania. From 2003 to 2009 he was a member of Education Council of Lithuania. He is the editor-in-chief of the journal "Social Work. Experience and Methods".

He gave lectures and was intern at the universities of Belgium, Finland, the USA, Portugal, Sweden, France, England and Canada. He was a supervisor of research projects, also he is the author of books and articles at academic journals and public media in the areas of education and social work. Most of his

academic work, including research papers are on the issues of discrimination of the specific social groups, including persons with disabilities, women victims of human trafficking and prostitution, ex-prisoners and juvenile, as well as on their empowerment and development of their human rights.

Jonas Ruškus was nominated for the award of tolerance by the Sugihara foundation “Diplomats for Life” in 2007. In 2018 Jonas Ruškus was awarded with the Order of Merits to Lithuania, Cross of Chevalier, by the President of Lithuania.