

## My trip in Lithuania

During my one week trip to Vilnius Lithuania, I was exposed to a broad variety of activities concerning social entrepreneurship in the health and social care sector. I came together with likeminded people to explore and construct strategic and interventions that will help enhance social entrepreneurship.

A key skill I learnt was public speaking. I was given instant responsibility, on my second day I had prepared a presentation on social entrepreneurship, I would later be presenting to all the partners. I researched the type of projects IARS was carrying out and what England as a whole was doing to drive social entrepreneurship. SkillUp is a project funded by the Natwest Skills and Opportunities Fund which seeks to engage young people in social entrepreneurship.

Delving into this project, I learned that according to EC 2013 figures, social entrepreneurship has increased from 6% to 6.5% of total European paid employment, thus creating 3.5 million jobs. In addition, UK statistics indicate that social entrepreneurship is expected to be in demand and with the ability to provide viable and sustainable alternatives to the ever widening gap between demand and supply for health and social care services for vulnerable individuals.

As an international social policy think tank, I feel that the organisation learned a great deal from its fellow partners. It was an insightful experience for all parties to see the type of work constructed in different countries.