



T-ES(2016)RFG-LTU

LANZAROTE CONVENTION

Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

FOCUSED QUESTIONNAIRE

Protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

LITHUANIA

(Replies sent by the State)

Replies registered by the Secretariat on 20 September 2016

DATA (Lanzarote Convention, Chapter III)

- 1) How many migrant and asylum-seeking children (accompanied and unaccompanied)¹ are in your country as a result of the refugee crisis?
 - a) Please provide estimates, if exact data is not available, for the period between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2016,² and specify how many of these children are victims or presumed victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse;
 - b) Describe how the victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse were identified or describe the challenges faced to identify them. Specify whether a distinction is made between victims of sexual exploitation/abuse prior to the entry on your territory (Group 1) and after entry (Group 2) and provide data/estimates of the two groups of victims. Please also explain how the age is determined in case of doubt;
 - c) Indicate also how the data collected is used to offer a coordinated response between the different agencies in charge of the protection from, the prevention of and the fight against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children;
 - d) Identify the institution(s) responsible for the collection of above data.

More than 450 foreigners granted asylum, the majority of whom are women and children, have been currently residing in Lithuania.

During the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016, 73 children (35 of them unaccompanied teenage refugees) were settled at the Refugee Reception Centre (hereinafter referred to as the "Centre"). No cases of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation were established during the said period. It should be noted that the Centre employs social workers, a psychologist and medical personnel who are working with children and their families, and this staff would provide qualified support and consultations to children at any time if they had been subjected to sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.

The Centre has informed that qualified workers, in order to establish any cases of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, constantly observe the children and analyse their behaviour looking for the following signs:

- too much knowledge about sex (given the child's age);
- continuous sexual games that are not characteristic of a child of a given age and the development level;
- expression of sexual attachment and behaviour;
- prevalent stimulation of one's own genitals;
- imitation of sexual intercourse with one's own siblings or demonstration of sexual affection to animals;
- kissing parents or friends on the lips;
- unusual interest in sexual matters given the child's age;
- compulsiveness (touching breasts or genitals, compulsive undressing) or aggressive sexual behaviour;

¹ Please provide the definition of accompanied/unaccompanied children in your country and, if available, provide separate figures for accompanied and unaccompanied children. If such data is not available, please provide data on migrant and asylum-seeking children.

² If figures for this period are not available, please provide the most recent annual data.

- not understanding or recognising the acceptable boundaries of physical contact;
- changes in feelings related to a certain person or place (for example, I hate uncle John);
- sudden drop in concentration, inability to concentrate, especially when one is reminded about the experienced situation,
- frequent insomnia or strong feeling of fear;
- a fear of a certain person; a fear to return home, a fear to go to an all-day school or the opposite – unwillingness to stay alone, a fear of real or imaginable persons or objects (a monster, mask, uniform) that lasts longer than usual;
- a child's statements about being involved in an unusual, secret and weird relationship with an adult person, especially if this relationship is based on coaxing, luring and giving presents;
- self-destructive behaviour, such as abuse of alcohol, drugs or toxic substances, prostitution, self-harm, threatening or attempting to commit suicide;
- regression to infantile behaviour (urinary incontinence, thumb sucking, unexplained loud and persistent crying, throwing a tantrum) or the opposite – pseudo-mature behaviour.

An important indicator showing that a child experienced sexual abuse is an attempt to express it in words or paintings, stories or references to some publications or photos. A child's confession about sexual abuse can be direct (for example, to a mother or teacher), indirect (to friends hoping that they will tell someone about it) or masked (*I know a person who...*).

When these signs are observed, the case is referred to a psychologist or medical workers. A case of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation must be reported to responsible institutions as provided for by Lithuanian and international laws.

PREVENTION (Lanzarote Convention, Chapter II)

- 2) What are the specific measures taken to prevent that children affected by the refugee crisis fall victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse?
 - a) Highlight in particular the measures (e.g. awareness raising material, specialised training, screening of professionals, etc.) which have proven to be effective;
 - b) Underline any lessons learnt from specific challenges (e.g. in raising awareness on sexual violence amidst other urgent priorities, etc.) that had to be faced to improve prevention.

The order of the Minister of Social Security and Labour of 31 December 2014³ approved the Action Plan for the Implementation of Foreigners' Integration Policy 2015–2017. The measures of the plan are co-financed from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the state budget of the Republic of Lithuania. While implementing the Action Plan for the Implementation of Foreigners' Integration Policy 2015–2017, the following actions have been envisaged:

³ Order No. A1-683 of the Minister of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania of 31 December 2014 "On the Approval of the Action Plan for the Implementation of Foreigners' Integration Policy 2015–2017".

- provision of support to Migrant Counselling and Integration Centres (in Vilnius, Kaunas and Klaipėda), in which migrants may attend the courses of the Lithuanian language and the basics of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, receive psychological, legal, representation, etc. services, as well as participate in training that facilitates their opportunities to find employment;
- preparation and dissemination of information on accessibility of integration services to foreigners in various institutions;
- improvement of foreigners' education measures, as well as legislation governing recognition of professional qualifications of foreigners;
- carrying out of information campaigns about foreigners' integration and organisation of various trainings and educational events;
- organisation of specialist training and promotion of interinstitutional cooperation;
- establishment of a consultative integration forum aimed at inviting representatives of foreigners' organisations, migration experts, representatives of non-governmental organisations and public bodies working in the field of migration to discuss foreigners' integration issues;
- monitoring of the implementation of foreigners' integration processes and policy.

Each year, seminars are organised for employees of state, municipal and non-governmental organisations, other institutions and agencies working in the field of social integration of foreigners granted asylum; various cultural events to encourage the knowledge of other cultures are also held.

PROTECTION (Lanzarote Convention, Chapter IV)

- 3) Has a coordinated child protection approach been put in place to cater for the specific needs of migrant and asylum-seeking children victims of sexual exploitation and/or sexual abuse?
 - a) Describe the measures taken to address the situation and cater for the children's specific needs (multiple traumas, language/cultural differences, etc.), including with respect to guardianship/placement;
 - b) Indicate also what measures have been taken to protect the children concerned from further exploitation/abuse and to assist the victims in seeking redress (please highlight any differences between Groups 1 and 2 of children as outlined above);
 - c) Underline any lessons learnt from specific challenges (in reporting suspicion of sexual exploitation and abuse, in tailoring assistance to the victims, etc.) that had to be faced to improve protection.

Integration of foreigners who have been granted asylum into the local community remains one of the most sensitive elements of the Lithuanian asylum system. Refugees' psychological problems and insufficient knowledge of the community into which persons are integrated still constitute major obstacles to successful integration.

Lithuania creates the following conditions to foreigners who have been granted asylum: provides temporary accommodation, organises education and employment, ensures social and health protection, raises public awareness of foreigners who have been

granted asylum in order to prevent their isolation and social xenophobia and to promote tolerance.

Support for the integration of foreigners who have been granted asylum is started to be provided at the Refugees Reception Centre (for up to 3 months). They are intensively taught the Lithuanian language and Lithuanian culture in order to be properly prepared to integrate in Lithuania's society and the labour market. Foreigners residing at the Refugees Reception Centre are paid monthly allowances for food and minor expenses. After the period of support for integration at the Refugees Reception Centre is over, support for integration is continued in the territory of a municipality (for up to 12 months). Currently there are two non-governmental organisations which have won a public procurement tender for the provision of support for integration to foreigners who have been granted asylum in the territory of a municipality: Caritas of Vilnius Archdiocese and the Lithuanian Red Cross Organisation. Non-governmental organisations provide mentoring services. Mentors help foreigners acquire basic necessities, rent a flat; they pay cash allowances, organise kindergarten services and assist with any other issues. During the period of state support for the integration in the territory of a municipality, a foreigner who has been granted asylum is paid a monthly cash allowance for basic necessities (housing rental, public utilities, food, transportation, etc.).

COOPERATION (Lanzarote Convention, Chapter IX)

- 4) Provide examples of successful cooperation with other Parties to the Lanzarote Convention for the purpose of:
 - a) Preventing and combating sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children affected by the refugee crisis;
 - b) Protecting and providing assistance to victims;
 - c) Investigations or proceedings concerning the offences established in accordance with the Lanzarote Convention.

Seeking to ensure the principle of solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility among the EU Member States and having regard to the proposal of the European Commission and the Republic of Malta to join the European Refugee Fund (ERF) co-funded project, organised by Malta, concerning the relocation of third-country nationals in need of international protection from Malta to other EU Member States, in December 2012 Lithuania relocated four asylum seekers from the Republic of Malta to the Republic of Lithuania and granted asylum to them.

In 2013, support for integration was provided to 94 foreigners who had been granted asylum: mainly from Russia, Afghanistan, Belarus, Kirgizstan, Iraq, Eritrea and Ukraine.

In 2014, support for integration was provided to 175 foreigners who had been granted asylum: mainly from Russia, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Syria and Vietnam.

In 2015, support for integration was provided to 161 foreigners who had been granted asylum: mainly from Russia, Afghanistan, Belarus, Syria, Vietnam and Iraq.

In the first quarter of 2016, support for integration was provided to 31 foreigners who had been granted asylum: mainly from Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Azerbaijan.

ANY OTHER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 5) Please provide any other additional information which may be useful to identify areas for targeted cooperation aimed at ensuring that children affected by the refugee crisis are effectively protected from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and in guaranteeing their human dignity and physical and psychological integrity.