

G R E T A

Group of Experts on Action
against Trafficking in Human Beings

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Lithuania's reply to the questionnaire
for the evaluation of the implementation
of the Council of Europe Convention on Action
against Trafficking in Human Beings
by the Parties

Fourth evaluation round

Thematic focus: Addressing vulnerabilities to
trafficking in human beings

Reply submitted on 16 October 2026

Introduction

In accordance with Article 38, paragraph 1, of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (“the Convention”), GRETA evaluates the implementation of the Convention following a procedure divided into rounds. At the beginning of each round, GRETA selects the specific provisions on which the evaluation procedure is based.

The first round of monitoring of the Convention provided an overview of its implementation by States Parties. The second evaluation round of the Convention examined the impact of legislative, policy and practical measures on the prevention of trafficking in human beings (THB), the protection of the rights of victims of trafficking, and the prosecution of traffickers, paying particular attention to measures taken to address new trends in human trafficking, in particular trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, and the vulnerability of children to trafficking. The third evaluation round focused on trafficking victims’ access to justice and effective remedies.

GRETA has decided that the fourth evaluation round of the Convention will focus on vulnerabilities to human trafficking and measures taken by States Parties to prevent them, detect and support vulnerable victims, and punish the offenders. This includes a focus on the use of information and communication technology (ICT), which brings structural changes to the way offenders operate and exacerbates existing vulnerabilities.¹

A number of provisions of the Convention establishing substantive and procedural obligations are relevant to this topic. The concept of “vulnerability” appears in Articles 4 (definitions), 5 (prevention of trafficking in human beings) and 12 (assistance to victims) of the Convention. According to paragraph 83 of the Explanatory report to the Convention, “by abuse of a position of vulnerability is meant abuse of any situation in which the person involved has no real and acceptable alternative to submitting to the abuse. The vulnerability may be of any kind, whether physical, psychological, emotional, family-related, social or economic. The situation might, for example, involve insecurity or illegality of the victim’s administrative status, economic dependence or fragile health. In short, the situation can be any state of hardship in which a human being is impelled to accept being exploited. Persons abusing such a situation flagrantly infringe human rights and violate human dignity and integrity, which no one can validly renounce.”

GRETA refers to the ICAT Issue Brief No. 12/2022 on Addressing vulnerability to trafficking in persons which refers to vulnerability as “those inherent, environmental or contextual factors that increase the susceptibility of an individual or group to being trafficked”. It classifies vulnerability factors in three categories: personal (e.g. age, gender, ethnicity, disability), situational (e.g. destitution, unemployment, legal status) and contextual (e.g. discriminatory laws, policies and social norms, armed conflicts, crises) factors, which interact and may increase the risk of human trafficking for certain individuals, groups and/or communities.² Vulnerability to human trafficking is also subject to intersectional factors, such as gender, belonging to a minority group and socio-economic status.

¹ [Paolo Campana, Online and Technology-Facilitated Trafficking in Human Beings, Council of Europe, April 2022.](#)

² [ICAT Issue Brief No. 12 on Addressing vulnerability to trafficking in persons - Search \(bing.com\)](#)

Applying a socio-ecological approach to the analysis of vulnerability to human trafficking demonstrates how different risk factors influence vulnerability, and how protective factors may reduce the risk of victimisation by increasing resilience.³ The socio-ecological model considers the complex interplay between individual, relationship, community and societal factors. It helps to understand how anti-trafficking strategies should: (a) reduce the vulnerability of individuals, (b) work with the communities (which may also include relationships) concerned to ensure that their practices or current dynamics do not exacerbate or contribute to vulnerabilities to human trafficking and, (c) change a number of system-driven or structural elements (such as policies) so that they do not facilitate but discourage an environment conducive to human trafficking.

In addition to the thematic focus on vulnerabilities to human trafficking, GRETA has decided that each State Party will receive country-specific follow-up questions related to recommendations not implemented or partially implemented after the third evaluation round.

States Parties are requested to transmit to GRETA a reply to this questionnaire within four months from the date it was sent. The reply to the questionnaire should be submitted in one of the official languages of the Council of Europe (English and French), and preferably also in the original language. Where appropriate, in order to avoid unnecessary repetition, the reply may refer to information contained in the report submitted by the national authorities on measures taken to comply with the Committee of the Parties' recommendation concerning the implementation of the proposals made in GRETA's third evaluation report. States Parties should provide links, copies or extracts of relevant legislation, regulations, national action plans and case law mentioned in the reply to the questionnaire, in the original language and, wherever possible, also in one of the official languages of the Council of Europe.

A variety of stakeholders and civil society representatives should be effectively consulted in the preparation of the reply to the questionnaire, to ensure that the information provided is as comprehensive as possible.

³ https://www.avoiceforcentraloregon.com/uploads/1/3/9/9/139904528/socio_ecological_model_and_trafficking.pdf

Part 1 – Addressing vulnerabilities to trafficking in human beings

I. PREVENTION (Articles 5, 6 and 7)

1. Do you have specific data/research/analysis of what makes people vulnerable to trafficking in human beings (THB) in your country? Please provide information on the categories/groups of people identified as being at risk of becoming victims of human trafficking, and how they are addressed in the national anti-trafficking strategy and/or action plan. Have you identified geographical regions or economic sectors in your country as particularly vulnerable to THB, and how do you address them in your strategy or policy?

The Overview of the Situation in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the Republic of Lithuania in 2025⁴ (Overview), prepared by the Office of the Seimas Ombudspersons (Office), indicates that Lithuania's current risk profile is increasingly associated with labour exploitation of third-country nationals. Since 2019, exploitation for forced labour or services has remained the predominant form of trafficking in human beings, particularly in the transport and construction sectors. The Commission for the Coordination of the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings has also highlighted the growing trend of forced labour, particularly in the logistics sector, and the need to improve the traceability of recruitment chains and workers' activities. Lithuania is increasingly becoming a destination country for trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, with exploitation frequently taking place through legitimate labour-migration channels, including recruitment agencies, subcontracting arrangements and worker-posting schemes. In 2025, foreign nationals accounted for 92% of formally identified victims of trafficking in human beings. The largest groups of identified victims were persons aged 21-30 and 31-40, each representing 34% of all identified victims. Only one child was formally identified as a victim; however, the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service considers that this may indicate under-identification of child trafficking rather than a low prevalence of the phenomenon.

According to the State Labour Inspectorate (SLI), migrant workers often face language barriers, limited knowledge of labour rights, dependency on employers for their residence status, lack of familiarity with available assistance mechanisms and distrust of public institutions. Labour inspections reveal that some workers are recruited through misleading promises of high wages and favourable working conditions, but subsequently face labour law violations, intimidation, restrictions related to residence permits, psychological pressure and various forms of dependency on employers. The SLI notes that affected persons frequently do not perceive themselves as victims of trafficking or exploitation and initially seek assistance only in relation to unpaid wages or other labour disputes. In 2025, the SLI identified 124 foreign nationals who may have been subjected to exploitation for forced labour or services, including 114 persons in the transport sector and 10 Philippine nationals employed in the food industry. Particular attention is devoted to workers arriving from Ukraine, Belarus, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, India, Bangladesh, the Philippines and other third countries, who are disproportionately represented among potential victims identified during labour inspections. The 2025 Overview further notes that foreign nationals often face systematic barriers to being formally recognised as victims of trafficking in human beings and may be treated as victims of labour-law violations rather than trafficking offences. As a result, the exact number of persons affected by labour exploitation and trafficking for the purpose of forced labour or services remains unknown. Many are reluctant to approach public authorities because of concerns about losing employment or residence rights and therefore return to their countries of origin before their situation can be fully investigated.

Pre-trial investigations conducted by Lithuanian police authorities in 2024-2025 revealed additional vulnerability factors affecting both foreign nationals and Lithuanian citizens. Among foreign

⁴ Overview of the Situation Regarding Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the Republic of Lithuania in 2025, available in Lithuanian at: [Kovos su prekyba žmonėmis padeties Lietuvos Respublikoje 2025 metais apžvalga.pdf](#)

nationals, vulnerability was linked to difficult financial circumstances, cultural and linguistic barriers, psychological vulnerability, mental health problems and addictions. The majority of identified victims were third-country nationals. Among Lithuanian citizens, victims most often belonged to socially vulnerable groups and were vulnerable due to disability, social exclusion, difficult socio-economic circumstances or young age. Investigations showed that victims were recruited through direct verbal contact, social media platforms (including Facebook and Instagram), messaging applications such as WhatsApp, online advertisements, dating platforms and employment agencies operating abroad.

National assessments additionally identify several emerging risks:

- increasing use of artificial intelligence and sophisticated online recruitment methods,
- fear among third-country nationals of reporting exploitation,
- an increasing risk in the agricultural sector,
- impact of migration and Russia's war against Ukraine,
- hidden nature of trafficking in human beings.

In 2026, the Order of the Prosecutor General, the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Social Security and Labour approving the Recommendations on the Identification of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, the Specific Features of Pre-trial Investigations and Interinstitutional Cooperation was recast⁵. The revised Recommendations introduced the concept of “vulnerability” and established a detailed catalogue of vulnerability factors and groups at heightened risk of trafficking in human beings, providing a common framework for victim identification and assessment by competent authorities. Vulnerability factors include severe financial hardship, childhood, young or advanced age, disability, mental, behavioural or intellectual disorders, low educational attainment, lack of social skills, addictions, discrimination, unlawful residence, asylum-seeker status, international or temporary protection status, employment-based residence permits and previous experiences of violence, torture or trafficking in human beings. Separate vulnerability indicators are established for adults and children. The Recommendations also identify categories of children at heightened risk, including children deprived of parental care, unaccompanied minors, children who run away from home, children not attending school, children with emotional or behavioural difficulties and children exposed to violence or previous exploitation.

Based on this framework and national assessments, groups considered particularly vulnerable to THB include third-country nationals and migrant workers, asylum seekers, beneficiaries of international or temporary protection, long-term unemployed persons, young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs), persons experiencing poverty and social exclusion, persons with disabilities, persons with addictions, persons with mental health difficulties, victims of previous violence or exploitation, children deprived of parental care and unaccompanied minors. The Employment Service additionally notes increased vulnerability among persons living in smaller towns and rural areas, where lower employment opportunities, social exclusion, lower educational attainment and long-term unemployment may increase susceptibility to deceptive recruitment practices and labour exploitation.

Lithuania has not identified any specific geographical region as being disproportionately affected by trafficking in human beings. Cases investigated in recent years have been recorded in Alytus, Kaunas, Kaunas District, Kėdainiai, Klaipėda, Marijampolė, Palanga, Panevėžys, Plungė, Radviliškis, Utena, Vievis, Vilnius, Vilnius District, Visaginas and other municipalities, demonstrating that THB occurs throughout the country and increasingly includes transnational elements.

Freight road transport, construction, manufacturing, agriculture, food production and processing, accommodation and catering services have been identified as sectors requiring particular

⁵ [I-327/1V-1015/A1-758 Dėl Prekybos žmonėmis aukų nustatymo, ikiteisminio tyrimo ypatumų ir tarpinstitucinio bendradarbi...](#)

attention. In 2025, the SLI identified 124 persons who may have been subjected to exploitation for forced labour or services, including 114 persons in the transport sector (61 nationals of Tajikistan, 16 of Uzbekistan, 15 of Ukraine, 12 of Kyrgyzstan, 9 of Belarus and 1 of Kazakhstan) and 10 Philippine nationals employed in the food industry. Data on illegal employment of foreign nationals further show that 40% of identified cases occurred in the construction sector and 31% in the transport sector.

In 2025, the SLI carried out 8,019 inspections related to illegal work, undeclared work and employment of foreign nationals. These inspections identified 1,623 persons engaged in illegal work or undeclared self-employment activities, including 344 illegally employed foreign nationals and 1,279 third-country nationals employed in breach of employment and notification requirements. Based on these findings, targeted inspections are conducted in high-risk sectors, with particular focus on enterprises employing significant numbers of third-country nationals.

The Action Plan⁶ contains more than 60 measures aimed at strengthening prevention, improving victim identification, enhancing interinstitutional and international cooperation, increasing the capacity of law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges and frontline professionals, improving referral mechanisms and ensuring the provision of assistance tailored to victims' needs. Particular emphasis is placed on combating labour exploitation, strengthening the identification of vulnerable groups, addressing emerging online recruitment methods, improving responses to migration-related vulnerabilities and enhancing awareness-raising activities among groups at increased risk of exploitation.

2. What specific measures are taken to reduce children's vulnerability to THB by creating a protective environment for children? Please provide information in the following areas:

- a. protecting children's rights from attitudes, customs, behaviour and practices that can have an adverse effect (including child, early and forced marriage, and illegal adoption);

Lithuania protects children from harmful practices through a comprehensive child protection framework based on the principle of the best interests of the child and the obligation of competent authorities to respond to all actual or potential violations of children's rights. The Law on the Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child establishes a system for the identification, assessment and response to situations that may endanger a child's physical or psychological safety, health, development or well-being. These safeguards apply irrespective of the form of harm and include situations involving violence, trafficking in human beings, child, early or forced marriage, illegal adoption and other forms of exploitation.

The State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (SCRPAS) and its territorial divisions are required to respond to every report concerning a possible violation of a child's rights. Special procedures apply in cases involving possible violence, threats to a child's safety, health or life, or a child's presence in an unsafe environment. Following an assessment of the child's situation, competent authorities determine the necessary protection measures and organise assistance according to the child's individual needs and best interests.

When indicators of THB or other forms of exploitation are identified, SCRPAS follows the Recommendations⁷. In such cases, a victim identification form is completed, and information is transmitted to the police or prosecution authorities, unless the competent authorities have already been informed. This mechanism helps ensure early identification of exploitation risks and prompt intervention by child-protection and criminal-justice authorities.

⁶ [1V-474 Dėl Kovos su prekyba žmonėmis 2024–2026 metų veiksmų plano patvirtinimo](#)

⁷ [I-327/1V-1015/A1-758 Dėl Prekybos žmonėmis aukų nustatymo, ikiteisminio tyrimo ypatumų ir tarpinstitucinio bendradarbi...](#)

All children, including unaccompanied foreign minors and children of migrant workers, have access to free education, linguistic, social and pedagogical support, healthcare services on an equal basis. Vulnerable children, including children deprived of parental care and children exposed to violence or exploitation, receive additional protection through specialised child protection procedures, social services and interinstitutional cooperation mechanisms. They are also provided with mediation and representation before state and/or municipal institutions and agencies.

Support measures include the provision of meals; essential clothing and footwear; personal hygiene and care services; temporary accommodation (where, due to the violence or exploitation experienced, the child is unable to remain at their place of residence); transportation (including to interviews and from airports, seaports, railway stations, or bus stations); psychological and legal assistance; and support for integration into the labour market.

In addition, other forms of assistance related to criminal proceedings are provided and/or arranged, including accompanying children to investigative interviews, providing emotional support during interviews, arranging transportation to interviews where necessary, and offering other practical support throughout the pre-trial investigation process.

- b. developing children's life skills (including media literacy and online safety skills), knowledge and participation;

To ensure the implementation of Article 43(19)(5) and Article 56(2)(1) and (5) of the Law on Education of the Republic of Lithuania, on March 2024, the Order No. V-317 of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport on the Approval of the Description of the Criteria for Preventive Programmes and the Procedure for Assessing Compliance with Those Criteria⁸ was approved and established the criteria for assessing preventive programmes. The criteria established in the Description require preventive programmes to be evidence-based, coherent with one another, clearly define their objectives, implementation measures and impact assessment, be oriented towards the entire school community, comply with the principles and strategic objectives of education policy, including the Lithuania 2050 Vision⁹, and be implemented by qualified consultants who provide support throughout the implementation process. To date, 16 preventive programmes submitted by various providers have been assessed. At the same time, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport is preparing Recommendations on the Implementation of Preventive Programmes in Schools, which are intended to define measures for identifying and preventing various risk factors to be implemented at both the school and municipal levels.

Since September 2023, the renewed national curriculum has included the Life Skills Programme, implemented from Grades 1 to 10. The programme addresses bullying and violence prevention, protection of health and personal safety, human rights, equal opportunities, responsible decision-making and resilience-building. Topics relevant to THB are integrated throughout the curriculum, including the recognition of dangerous situations, awareness of manipulation and exploitation, understanding preventive measures and available support mechanisms, and the development of help-seeking skills.

The Overview noted that the Life Skills Programme includes THB-related topics in the educational content intended for pupils in grades 5-8. As a result, pupils in grades 1-4 may remain unacquainted with this threat, including basic knowledge on safe interaction with strangers, while the knowledge of pupils in grades 9-12 is neither updated nor further developed. The Overview also identified challenges in the practical implementation of the Programme. Due to heavy workloads, not all teachers are able to participate in professional development activities; there is a lack of methodological materials and clear guidance on how to integrate THB-related topics into the

⁸ [V-317 Dėl Prevencinių programų kriterijų ir atitikties jiems vertinimo tvarkos aprašo patvirtinimo](#)

⁹ [Valstybės ateities vizija „Lietuva 2050“ - LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS VYRIAUSYBĖ](#)

educational process; and there is insufficient information on lecturers able to provide training for teachers or deliver lectures to pupils.

Digital literacy and online safety are addressed across several subjects and educational stages. Students learn the basic principles of safe internet use, protection of personal data, recognition of online manipulation and deceptive behaviour, responsible use of social media, cyberbullying prevention and ethical online communication. Students are taught to identify risks associated with online contacts, misleading information and inappropriate requests from strangers in the virtual environment. These measures contribute to reducing children's vulnerability to online grooming, sexual exploitation and trafficking-related recruitment through digital platforms.

Since September 2024 all preventive programmes implemented in schools providing pre-school, pre-primary, primary, lower secondary, upper secondary and initial vocational education must comply with national quality criteria established by the Minister of Education, Science and Sport. The criteria require programmes to be evidence-based, coherent, aimed at the whole school community and implemented by qualified specialists. To date, 16 preventive programmes have been assessed under this framework. The Ministry is also preparing recommendations for the implementation of preventive programmes at both school and municipal level to support the identification and prevention of risks affecting children.

The 2025 Overview recommended that THB-related topics be incorporated into the Life Skills Programme for pupils of different grades and that the Programme be implemented not merely in a formal or declarative manner, but in a way that promotes greater awareness among children of different age groups by providing them with knowledge on how to recognise THB situations, avoid the risk of exploitation and seek assistance when faced with potential THB-related threats.

Lithuania also participates in the European "Safer Internet" (*Draugiškas internetas*) initiative, which promotes online safety, media literacy, protection of personal data, cyberbullying prevention and emotional well-being among children and young people.

SCRPAS carries out a wide range of awareness-raising and educational activities aimed at children, parents, teachers and communities. Information concerning child safety, children's rights and responsibilities, online risks, sexual exploitation, THB and available support services is regularly disseminated through the SCRPAS website¹⁰, social media channels and public communication campaigns. SCRPAS also promotes children's participation through educational initiatives such as "Hike for a Safe Childhood", which uses interactive learning activities and games to strengthen knowledge of children's rights, safe behaviour, risk recognition and access to assistance. In addition, child rights ambassadors regularly visit schools and local communities throughout Lithuania, providing information to children, parents and educators on child protection, safety and available assistance mechanisms.

Issues related to safe behaviour in the digital environment, online risks, media literacy and child well-being are regularly addressed through the Child Rights Defenders' Forum and events organised in connection with World Children's Day. These initiatives bring together representatives of public authorities, non-governmental organisations, researchers, psychologists and other professionals to disseminate good practices and strengthen competencies related to child protection and prevention.

In 2025, SCRPAS published the children's book "You Are Not Alone. Children's Silent Stories Told Aloud" by Tomas Dirgėla, which encourages children to recognise difficult situations, communicate about problems and seek help. SCRPAS also implements the project "FROM SILENCE – a Child Support House" (No. 07-019-P-0001), which includes educational activities on the prevention of sexual violence for children, parents, guardians and communities.

- c. putting in place a system for monitoring and reporting cases of abuse;

¹⁰ [Pradžia - Valstybės vaiko teisių apsaugos ir įvaikinimo tarnyba prie Socialinės apsaugos ir darbo ministerijos](#)

Article 35 of the Law on the Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child¹¹ obliges employees of educational institutions, healthcare institutions, social service providers, child rights protection authorities, law enforcement bodies and other organisations, as well as any other persons who possess information concerning a possible violation of a child's rights or a criminal offence against a child, to immediately report such information to the police and/or SCRPAS or its territorial divisions. This obligation applies equally to suspected cases of violence, sexual exploitation, trafficking in human beings, neglect and other forms of abuse.

Upon receiving a report, SCRPAS immediately initiates an assessment in accordance with the procedures established by law. Reports are registered, examined and documented, and all decisions are recorded within the child protection system. Where information suggesting a possible criminal offence against a child is identified, the police are informed no later than within 24 hours. At the same time, child protection measures falling within the competence of SCRPAS are initiated in order to ensure the child's safety and well-being.

Monitoring is carried out through continuous assessment of the child's situation, documentation of decisions, information-sharing and coordination between competent institutions. Educational institutions, healthcare providers, social services and other relevant authorities may be involved where necessary to ensure comprehensive protection and continuity of support.

Educational institutions are integrated into the monitoring and reporting system through the Law on Education¹². Article 23(2) of the Law on Education requires members of the school community to report observed incidents of violence to the head of the educational institution. Where school personnel identify signs of abuse, exploitation, THB or other criminal offences against a child, they must inform the competent authorities in accordance with applicable legislation. School heads are responsible for ensuring that effective procedures are in place for receiving and handling reports, allocating responsibilities among staff, coordinating responses, ensuring information-sharing and organising psychological and other support services for affected children. The Law on Education also provides for reporting mechanisms related to cyberbullying and prohibited online content.

Healthcare professionals who have reasonable grounds to suspect violence, neglect or a criminal offence against a child are legally required to immediately notify the police and/or SCRPAS. The same reporting obligations apply when THB or exploitation is suspected. The Ministry of Health has also developed methodological guidance for healthcare professionals on the identification of violence against children.

Reports concerning possible child exploitation, violence or other criminal offences may be submitted through the national emergency number 112, the ePolicija electronic reporting platform, directly at police institutions or through other legally established channels. All reports are registered, assessed and, where indications of a criminal offence exist, may lead to the initiation of a pre-trial investigation. Where violations of children's rights are identified, information is systematically shared with SCRPAS and other competent authorities to ensure coordinated action and protection of the child.

In addition, the Police Virtual Patrol monitors publicly accessible electronic environments and social media for possible violations of law affecting children. Information concerning suspected offences identified online is documented and referred to the competent police units for further assessment or investigation.

- d. providing training to child-care professionals, legal guardians, education professionals;

¹¹ [I-1234 Lietuvos Respublikos vaiko teisių apsaugos pagrindų įstatymas](#) / [I-1234 Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child](#)

¹² [I-1489 Lietuvos Respublikos švietimo įstatymas](#) / [I-1489 Republic of Lithuania Law on Education](#)

SCRPAS regularly organises specialised training for child protection professionals, foster care centre staff, legal guardians, social service providers, child-care workers and other professionals involved in ensuring child well-being. Particular attention is given to strengthening the ability to identify victims of trafficking in children, assess risks and vulnerabilities, recognise indicators of exploitation, organise assistance and apply child-centred approaches when responding to suspected cases of trafficking in human beings. Training also covers the consequences of exploitation on children's physical and emotional well-being, communication with potentially affected children, interinstitutional cooperation and the protection of children's rights throughout different procedures.

Child protection professionals regularly take part in training coordinated by the Ministry of the Interior on legal aspects of trafficking in human beings, victim identification, criminal proceedings and assistance to victims.

A Specialised Assistance Division for Children and Families operating within SCPAS. The Division delivers an accredited 8-hour professional development programme entitled "Sexual Violence against Children: Identification and Response" (programme code SD202500473), as well as shorter educational sessions for professionals from social services, healthcare, education, law enforcement and other sectors. The training focuses on recognising and responding to sexual violence against children and strengthening the ability of professionals to provide appropriate protection and support.

The National Association Against Trafficking in Human Beings annually organises training for professionals working in formal and non-formal education across Lithuania. Particular attention is paid to the links between minors running away from home, risks in the digital environment and trafficking in human beings. Participants receive practical recommendations and tools aimed at helping professionals identify risks, strengthen children's safety and reduce vulnerability to trafficking and exploitation. In 2026, training is planned for 10 groups throughout the country.

In July 2025, a specialised training session for foster care centre staff on recognising recruitment attempts by hostile states in online environments and responding to related risks was attended by 135 participants. The training was based on recommendations prepared by the Police Department, the National Crisis Management Centre and the State Security Department.

Since 2023, two accredited national professional development programmes for teachers have been implemented: "Life Skills Education" at Vilnius University and "Implementation of the Life Skills Subject in Basic Education" at Vytautas Magnus University. Teachers responsible for delivering the Life Skills subject are required to complete one of these programmes by September 2026. It is expected that approximately 900 teachers will complete the programmes, including 810 through Vytautas Magnus University and 90 through Vilnius University.

Within the health sector, methodological guidance developed by the Ministry of Health supports healthcare professionals in recognising physical, psychological and sexual violence, conducting child-sensitive examinations, documenting findings and initiating mandatory reporting and referral procedures. School public health specialists also play a role in early identification and prevention efforts.

- e. access to education and health care for vulnerable children, including from minority groups, unaccompanied migrant children, and children of migrant workers;

The Constitution and the Law on Education guarantee access to education for all children residing in Lithuania, including children belonging to national minorities, asylum seekers, children of migrant workers, unaccompanied foreign minors and children who are victims or potential victims of trafficking in human beings. Municipalities are responsible for organising school enrolment, while educational institutions provide the support necessary for successful integration, including Lithuanian

language classes, adaptation of the educational process to individual needs, and access to psychological, social pedagogical, special pedagogical and other educational support services.

Educational institutions provide Lithuanian language instruction, adaptation measures and educational support services, including psychological, social pedagogical and special pedagogical assistance, according to individual needs. Schools receive methodological support and recommendations concerning the education and integration of newly arrived children, including Lithuanian language learning, adaptation of the educational process, provision of educational support and implementation of inclusive education principles.

Educational institutions cooperate with child protection authorities, social service providers, healthcare institutions and other competent authorities where vulnerabilities or protection concerns are identified in order to ensure continued access to education and appropriate protection.

Unaccompanied foreign minors are entitled to pre-school, pre-primary, general and vocational education regardless of their legal status in Lithuania. Access to pre-school, pre-primary and general education must be ensured within three months of the child being identified in Lithuania. In line with the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, this period is expected to be reduced to two months.

The Reception and Integration Agency (RIA) supports the integration of unaccompanied minors into the education system by facilitating enrolment in educational institutions and providing assistance throughout the learning process, including support with homework and adaptation to the educational environment. Regular awareness-raising activities on THB are organised at the Rukla Reception Centre.

Upon identification of an unaccompanied foreign minor, legal representation is ensured without delay, the child's situation and needs are assessed, and the necessary educational, healthcare, social and legal assistance is organised. Since 2024, a specialised annex to the Child Situation Assessment Data Questionnaire has been used for unaccompanied foreign minors. The tool includes information on the child's background, family situation, migration history and possible indicators of trafficking in human beings.

Children under the age of 18 residing in Lithuania are covered by state-funded health insurance. Unaccompanied foreign minors are also entitled to state-funded healthcare irrespective of their legal status, while emergency healthcare is provided regardless of insurance status.

Children have access to primary healthcare, specialist consultations, hospital care, mental health services and psychosocial support. During their stay in reception facilities, unaccompanied minors are guaranteed healthcare services, including mental health and psychosocial support.

Where children have experienced violence, exploitation, THB or other traumatic events, appropriate healthcare and specialised support services are provided according to their individual needs and best interests.

f. birth registration for all children born in the country.

The birth of every child born in Lithuania is registered through the civil registration system in accordance with the Law on Registration of Civil Status Acts¹³. Birth registration is mandatory, free of charge and accessible to all children irrespective of their parents' nationality, citizenship, migration status or legal situation.

According to Article 11 of the Law on Registration of Civil Status Acts, every birth in Lithuania must be registered by a civil registry office on the basis of a birth notification and a medical birth certificate issued by a healthcare institution. Healthcare institutions prepare the electronic medical

¹³ [XII-2111 Republic of Lithuania Law on the Registration of Civil Status Acts](#) / [XII-2111 Lietuvos Respublikos civilinės būklės aktų registravimo įstatymas](#)

document “Child Birth Certificate” through the national e-health system and transmit the information required for civil registration. A medical birth certificate is issued for every child born in Lithuania.

Where a child is born outside a healthcare institution, the birth certificate is issued by the maternity facility that subsequently examines the mother and child or, where applicable, by a primary healthcare institution after verification of the birth.

Parents are required to notify the civil registry office of a child's birth within three months of the birth. If the parents are unable to do so, the competent child protection authority may submit the notification on the child's behalf. In the case of a found child, the child protection authority must submit an application for birth registration within three days of the child being found.

Civil registry offices register a birth immediately and no later than the next working day following receipt of the required documents. Where notification of birth is submitted after the statutory deadline, registration is still carried out through the ordinary procedure without additional fees, penalties or special administrative requirements.

3. What measures are taken in your country to address vulnerabilities related to the gender dimension of human trafficking?

National assessments and operational experience indicate that women and girls are disproportionately exposed to sexual exploitation and may also be vulnerable to sham or forced marriages, domestic servitude and other forms of gender-based exploitation. Men are more frequently identified in cases of labour exploitation and exploitation for criminal activities. Persons with disabilities, irrespective of gender, may be vulnerable to exploitation for begging, while girls living in alternative care settings are considered a group at heightened risk of sexual exploitation and trafficking in human beings.

The Recommendations¹⁴ introduced the concept of vulnerability and recognise that risks are often shaped by gender, age, pregnancy, single parenthood, disability, poverty, social exclusion, discrimination, addictions, migration status and previous experiences of physical, psychological, sexual or economic violence.

Assistance is provided on the basis of an individual assessment of the victim's circumstances and needs and may include temporary accommodation, healthcare, psychological support, legal assistance and social services.

The Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for 2024-2026¹⁵ includes measures aimed at strengthening prevention, victim identification, professional training and access to assistance. It supports targeted prevention activities, enhanced cooperation between public authorities and non-governmental organisations, and measures to improve the identification of different forms of trafficking affecting women, men and children. Specialised assistance services are primarily provided by NGOs, while municipalities cooperate with organisations working in the fields of women's rights, equal opportunities and social inclusion.

In 2024, four animated videos addressing trafficking for sexual exploitation, labour exploitation and criminal exploitation were produced at the initiative of the Ministry of the Interior, including a video specifically designed for school-age children. The campaign continued through social media dissemination in 2025 and is planned to continue in 2026.

The Employment Service provides equal access to employment services and active labour market measures and supports groups facing greater barriers to labour market participation, including

¹⁴ [I-327/1V-1015/A1-758 Dėl Prekybos žmonėmis aukų nustatymo, ikiteisminio tyrimo ypatumų ir tarpinstitucinio bendradarbi...](#)

¹⁵ [1V-474 Dėl Kovos su prekyba žmonėmis 2024–2026 metų veiksmų plano patvirtinimo](#)

long-term unemployed persons, single parents and persons returning to work after extended periods of inactivity.

Preparatory work on the Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for 2027-2029 includes consideration of additional measures aimed at protecting women and girls from sexual exploitation, strengthening the protection of children and young people, improving victim identification and ensuring that assistance responds to the specific needs of different groups of victims.

4. What specific measures are taken to reduce the vulnerability to trafficking of persons from disadvantaged minorities? Please provide information on policies and measures in the following areas:

a. research;

The Employment Service does not maintain a dedicated research programme on THB affecting disadvantaged minorities. Nevertheless, information gathered through employment services and labour market monitoring helps identify groups experiencing greater barriers to employment and increased socio-economic vulnerability.

In practice, available administrative data and interinstitutional assessments contribute to the identification of groups facing elevated risks of exploitation, including third-country nationals, asylum seekers, migrant workers, persons experiencing poverty and social exclusion, and other vulnerable groups.

b. information, awareness-raising and education campaigns;

Particular focus is paid to third-country nationals, asylum seekers and persons residing in reception and accommodation facilities. In cooperation with the police, regular information sessions and seminars are organised for residents of temporary accommodation centres for foreign nationals. These activities address trafficking in human beings, labour exploitation, domestic violence, gender-based violence, available protection mechanisms and ways of seeking help.

The RIA have developed several tools to improve access to information among foreign nationals. The multilingual mobile application “InfoDesk App”¹⁶ provides information in up to 20 languages on human rights, protection from violence, trafficking in human beings, children's rights and available support services, including psychological and emotional assistance.

RIA also cooperates with the national initiative “Žvelk giliau” (Look Deeper), work is underway to involve initiative ambassadors in sharing personal recovery stories with foreign nationals in order to promote mental health awareness, encourage help-seeking behaviour and reduce stigma associated with mental health difficulties. Plans are being developed to involve ambassadors with migration backgrounds to strengthen outreach to foreign communities. The initiative aims to empower vulnerable people, promote mental health literacy, and further reduce stigma. Training on best practices for working with foreign nationals, focusing on the Mindspring methodology for refugee parents, was delivered. Seven RIA staff members successfully completed the training. Problem Management Plus (PM+) training was delivered to 10 specialists from the Lithuanian Red Cross, Malta Relief Organisation in Lithuania, and municipalities, strengthening their capacity to provide mental health and psychosocial support services and improving service accessibility.

The Employment Service¹⁷ conducts continuous prevention and awareness-raising activities for jobseekers, including persons from socially vulnerable groups, EU citizens and third-country nationals.

¹⁶ [Pirmoji mobilioji programėlė užsieniečiams: tinkamas informavimas skatina savarankiškumą ir palengvina integraciją - Priėmimo ir integracijos agentūra](#)

¹⁷ [Employment Service](#)

Information campaigns focus on trafficking in human beings, labour exploitation, unsafe recruitment practices, workers' rights, misleading employment offers, exploitation for criminal activities and available assistance mechanisms. During 2024-2026, more than 1,500 jobseekers participated in preventive information events addressing trafficking in human beings, labour exploitation risks, warning signs and available support services.

The Employment Service also organised three training sessions entitled "Protect Yourself and Others: How to Recognize and Avoid the Traps of Exploitation", attended by 72 participants. These sessions aimed to improve participants' ability to recognise deceptive recruitment practices, labour exploitation and THB and to support informed employment decisions.

Information on trafficking in human beings' prevention, labour exploitation risks, workers' rights and available support services is publicly available on the Employment Service website in Lithuanian, English, Ukrainian and Russian and is further disseminated through institutional communication channels and public events to ensure accessibility for foreign nationals and other vulnerable groups.

c. socio-economic initiatives targeting underlying and structural causes;

The Employment Service implements measures aimed at reducing unemployment, social exclusion and barriers to labour market participation. Priority support is provided to long-term unemployed persons, persons with low qualifications, young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs), persons with disabilities, individuals returning to the labour market after prolonged periods of inactivity and other socially vulnerable jobseekers.

The Employment Service provides individualised support through employment services, career guidance, employment counselling, labour market mediation and active labour market policy measures. These services support the acquisition of skills and qualifications and facilitate access to lawful and sustainable employment opportunities.

d. education, vocational training and job placement programmes.

The Employment Service provides individual employment counselling, career guidance, vocational training, skills development, labour market mediation and job placement services.

Access to education is guaranteed on the basis of equality and non-discrimination. Children from socially vulnerable groups, including migrant children, asylum seekers and children facing an increased risk of trafficking in human beings, are entitled to participate in the education system and receive the educational support necessary for successful learning and integration. Schools provide psychological, social pedagogical, special pedagogical and other support services according to individual needs, while municipalities are responsible for ensuring access to education and supporting the integration of newly arrived children.

The education system also supports the inclusion of children arriving from abroad through Lithuanian language instruction, adaptation measures and methodological assistance to schools. Schools receive methodological support and recommendations concerning the education and integration of newly arrived children, including Lithuanian language learning, adaptation of the educational process and implementation of inclusive education principles.

To increase educational opportunities for socially vulnerable persons, an additional admission pathway to higher education institutions has been available since 2024 for applicants from low-income families, orphans, persons with disabilities, persons with work experience and graduates of short-cycle studies. In 2025, approximately 1,300 state-funded study places were allocated through this additional admission group.

Access to vocational education and training is provided under the general admission system. Foreign nationals, including persons belonging to vulnerable groups, may participate in vocational education and training programmes in accordance with the Law on Education, the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens¹⁸ and other applicable legislation. Assistance is available for persons who are unable to complete admission procedures independently, thereby helping to ensure equal access to training opportunities.

The Employment Service complements these measures through a broad range of education, vocational training and employment support programmes. Individual career guidance and vocational information services help jobseekers identify suitable employment opportunities, assess their skills and plan further professional development. Particular attention is given to groups facing barriers to labour market participation, including long-term unemployed persons, persons with low qualifications, young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs), persons with disabilities and other socially vulnerable individuals.

Jobseekers have access to formal and non-formal vocational training, apprenticeship schemes and other skills development measures designed to improve employability and facilitate access to sustainable employment. Employment Service specialists also provide assistance with job-search skills, preparation for interviews, preparation of applications and navigation of labour market opportunities.

Individual counselling and employment mediation services support jobseekers throughout the employment process by helping them identify suitable vacancies, establish contact with employers and transition into lawful employment. These measures are designed to strengthen self-sufficiency and reduce vulnerabilities associated with unemployment, poverty and social exclusion, which are recognised risk factors for trafficking in human beings.

5. What specific measures are taken to reduce the vulnerability to THB of persons with disabilities? Please provide information in the following areas:

- a. deinstitutionalisation, including community and family-based services for children and support for independent living;

Lithuania continues the transition from institutional care to community-based services for persons with disabilities through the project “Transition from Institutional Care to Community-Based Services in the Capital Region and the Central and Western Lithuania Region” (Project No. 07-018-P-0001), implemented since April 2024. The project provides supported decision-making, social workshop and case management services aimed at strengthening independent living, self-determination and social participation of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities. By 31 March 2026, supported decision-making services had been provided to 906 persons, social workshop services to 1,073 persons, and case management services to 1,811 persons.

Supported decision-making, social workshops and case management services strengthen independent living, self-determination, social participation and access to coordinated support, while facilitating the identification of risks affecting beneficiaries' safety and well-being.

Personal assistance services constitute another important mechanism supporting independent living. Personal assistants help persons with disabilities access public services, maintain social relationships, participate in education and employment, manage daily activities and exercise greater control over their lives. In 2025, personal assistance services were provided to 893 persons with intellectual, psychosocial or complex disabilities, including 146 persons with intellectual disabilities, 348 persons with psychosocial disabilities and 399 persons with complex disabilities.

¹⁸ [IX-2206 Republic of Lithuania Law on the Legal Status of Aliens](#) / [IX-2206 Lietuvos Respublikos įstatymas dėl užsieniečių teisinės padėties](#)

Lithuania prioritises family-based care and community-based services instead of institutional placement. Child protection authorities, municipalities and social service providers work together to ensure that children grow up in family or family-like environments and receive support corresponding to their individual needs.

From August 2026 to July 2029, additional measures will be implemented under the European Child Guarantee for children living in family-based foster care households and community-based children's care homes, including children displaying high-risk behaviour. Measures include training and consultations based on the Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) approach, support for children and caregivers, activities aimed at promoting trauma-informed and child-centred care.

Lithuania is also expanding Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) services for children and adolescents experiencing complex behavioural, family and social difficulties. MDFT is currently available in 42 municipalities, and expansion is planned to all 60 municipalities. In addition, specialised interventions are being developed for children displaying sexualised or harmful sexual behaviour, including structured risk-assessment tools and targeted intervention programmes designed to prevent future exploitation, abuse and other related risks.

The health sector supports deinstitutionalisation through the expansion of community-based mental health services, multidisciplinary treatment teams, outpatient psychosocial rehabilitation, day-care services and case management. Dedicated child and adolescent mental health services, together with support for families and caregivers, help children and adults with developmental, intellectual or psychosocial disabilities remain integrated in their communities while receiving the support they require.

b. monitoring institutions and foster families accommodating persons with disabilities;

Within the framework of the project "Transition from Institutional Care to Community-Based Services in the Capital Region and the Central and Western Lithuania Region" (Project No. 07-018-P-0001), a quality monitoring and evaluation system has been established for community-based services provided to persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities. Specialists of the Agency for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, together with project experts, regularly conduct monitoring visits to municipalities and service providers, including social workshops and supported housing facilities. The visits assess service provision, beneficiaries' well-being and the protection of their rights.

In addition, the Office, acting as the National Preventive Mechanism, carries out monitoring visits to social care institutions accommodating persons with disabilities. These visits assess human rights safeguards, living conditions, accessibility of information and the protection of residents against abuse, exploitation and other risks.

An Individual Needs and Capabilities Assessment and Support Plan is prepared for each beneficiary and reviewed on a regular basis to assess progress and the adequacy of support provided.

Children with disabilities who are placed under guardianship or alternative care are subject to continuous monitoring by SCRPAS. Monitoring includes regular communication with the child and guardian, assessment of living conditions, fulfilment of individual needs, relationships within the child's environment and overall well-being.

The monitoring process involves close cooperation with guardians, foster care centres, municipalities, educational institutions, healthcare providers, social service organisations and other relevant stakeholders.

In 2026, SCRPAS updated its internal procedures, including the Act on Visiting a Child under Guardianship (Care). The revised approach places greater emphasis on assessing the child's individual

needs, hearing the child's views, evaluating well-being and identifying circumstances that may increase vulnerability to exploitation, including trafficking in human beings. Particular attention is paid to the needs of children with disabilities and to assessing the accessibility and adequacy of support measures provided to them. Where difficulties, risk factors or additional support needs are identified, appropriate assistance measures are initiated, specialists are involved and interinstitutional cooperation is reinforced in order to ensure the protection of the child's rights and best interests.

Municipalities further contribute to monitoring through the project "Development of Services Promoting and Effectively Supporting Family-Based Care". Under this scheme, every child placed in foster care is assigned a dedicated care coordinator who prepares an individual support plan, coordinates assistance and ensures that the child's needs are appropriately addressed. In addition, municipalities are responsible under the Law on Social Services for monitoring and evaluating the quality of social services provided to residents, including children and adults with disabilities.

c. procedure for the selection and appointment of legal guardians and monitoring of their work;

Under the Civil Code, a person may be declared incapable only by a court and only in specifically defined areas where, as a result of a mental disorder, the person is unable to understand the consequences of their actions or control them. Courts are required to apply the least restrictive approach possible, individualise decisions according to the circumstances of each case and interpret any doubts in favour of preserving the person's legal capacity.

Only a person with full legal capacity in the relevant area may be appointed as a guardian or curator, and only with their written consent. When appointing a guardian, the court assesses the candidate's moral and personal qualities, ability to perform guardianship functions, relationship with the person concerned, the wishes of the prospective guardian, the views of the person under guardianship, where these can be expressed, and other relevant circumstances.

The activities of guardians, curators and supported decision-making providers are supervised by municipal administrations. Ongoing monitoring serves as an important mechanism for identifying situations that may place persons with disabilities at risk of neglect, financial abuse, coercion, exploitation or trafficking in human beings.

For children with disabilities, additional safeguards are provided through the child protection system. Persons wishing to become guardians undergo an assessment of their motivation, ability to provide a safe and stable environment, capacity to meet the child's individual needs and willingness to cooperate with specialists. Prospective guardians participate in mandatory preparation and training programmes and may be appointed only after receiving a positive assessment from the competent specialists. The appointment of a guardian is subsequently decided by the court in accordance with the procedure established by law.

When selecting a guardian for a specific child, particular attention is paid to the child's individual circumstances, including disability-related needs, health condition and support requirements.

SCRPAS carries out continuous supervision of child guardianship arrangements. Monitoring includes communication with the child and guardian, assessment of living conditions, fulfilment of the child's needs, relationships within the child's environment and overall well-being. The supervision process is supported through cooperation with foster care centres, municipalities, educational institutions, healthcare providers and social service organisations.

In 2026, SCRPAS updated its internal procedures, including the Act on Visiting a Child under Guardianship (Care). The revised approach places greater emphasis on assessing the child's individual needs, hearing the child's views, evaluating well-being and identifying circumstances that may increase vulnerability to exploitation, including trafficking in human beings. Particular attention is paid to the accessibility and adequacy of support provided to children with disabilities.

Where risks, difficulties or additional support needs are identified, appropriate assistance measures, consultations and specialised services are initiated for both the child and the guardian. These mechanisms are intended to ensure that children with disabilities receive appropriate support, remain protected from exploitation and abuse, and have their rights and best interests effectively safeguarded.

Additional safeguards are provided through the state-guaranteed legal aid system. Under Article 51 of the Law on Criminal Procedure, legal representation must be ensured in specified situations involving vulnerable persons, including persons with disabilities and minors. The State Guaranteed Legal Aid Service appoints legal representatives where required and maintains specialised lawyers experienced in working with vulnerable persons.

d. access to adequate accommodation, education and work;

Access to adequate accommodation^{19 20 21} is supported through the system of housing assistance established under the Law on Support for Housing Acquisition or Rental. Persons may benefit from housing support measures, including social housing, compensation of part of housing rental costs, housing acquisition support and other forms of state-supported housing assistance. Certain categories of persons with disabilities may be provided with social housing without waiting in the general queue.

Article 5 of the Law on Education establishes the principles of equal opportunities and inclusion. Persons with disabilities are entitled to access education at all levels and to receive educational support, including psychological, social pedagogical, special pedagogical and other assistance according to individual needs. Since 1 September 2024, all schools providing compulsory and universal education have been required to ensure inclusive education and create conditions enabling learners with special educational needs to participate fully in education and obtain appropriate educational support. The amendments also ensure that pupils with special educational needs are admitted to general education schools if their parents (guardians, carers) choose such an educational institution.

Article 29(3¹) of the Law on Education of the Republic of Lithuania establishes that where a school is unable to meet all the educational needs of an admitted pupil and, in accordance with the procedure established by the Minister of Education, Science and Sport, it is determined that appropriate educational conditions cannot be ensured due to a disproportionate or unreasonable burden on the school, the head of the school shall apply to the institution exercising the rights and duties of the owner regarding a proposal for the pupil to continue education in another school and/or for appropriate adaptation of conditions to enable the pupil's education.

Since 2024, applicants with disabilities have been eligible for admission through an additional admission pathway to higher education institutions. In 2025, approximately 1,300 state-funded study places were allocated through this additional admission group. Access to vocational education and training is provided under the general admission system. Persons with disabilities may participate in vocational education and training programmes on an equal basis with other applicants and receive assistance where necessary to complete admission procedures and access educational opportunities.

Access to work is supported through a range of employment and vocational rehabilitation measures implemented by the Employment Service. Persons with disabilities receive individualised employment services, including vocational information, career guidance, counselling, employment mediation and skills assessment. They also have access to formal and non-formal vocational training programmes designed to improve qualifications and facilitate sustainable labour market participation.

¹⁹ [XII-1215 Lietuvos Respublikos paramos būstui įsigyti ar išsinuomoti įstatymas](#)

²⁰ [Parama būstui įsigyti ar išsinuomoti - Lietuvos Respublikos socialinės apsaugos ir darbo ministerija](#)

²¹ [IX-2206 Lietuvos Respublikos įstatymas dėl užsieniečių teisinės padėties](#)

The Employment Service cooperates with the Agency for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to provide professional rehabilitation services for persons whose work capacity has been reduced due to disability or health conditions.

A particularly important measure is the provision of supported employment services, which offer individualised assistance in obtaining and maintaining employment. Support may include assistance during recruitment procedures, communication with employers, explanation of employment conditions, workplace adaptation and follow-up support after employment. Such measures help persons with disabilities access lawful employment, remain economically active and reduce risks associated with exclusion, dependency and potential labour exploitation.

- e. access to information and reporting/complaints mechanisms which are accessible to persons with disabilities.

The Law on the Fundamentals of the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities²² establishes the right of persons with disabilities to seek, receive and impart information through accessible means of communication of their choice. The law also defines “accessible means of communication” as the transmission and receipt of spoken, written, audio and visual information using Braille, easy-to-understand language, audio and visual aids, including Lithuanian Sign Language, and other accessible communication formats. State and municipal institutions are required to provide information in the format chosen by the person with a disability and provide information in accessible formats, including easy-to-understand language, Braille, audio and visual formats, and Lithuanian Sign Language.

To improve access to information, public authorities are required to publish essential information in easy-to-understand language and Lithuanian Sign Language on their websites. The “My Government” portal and the websites of ministries, government agencies and municipalities include dedicated sections providing information in accessible formats.

The ongoing deinstitutionalisation project “Transition from Institutional Care to Community-Based Services in the Capital Region and the Central and Western Lithuania Region” (Project No. 07-018-P-0001) also promotes accessible access to information. Information materials concerning community services, individual rights and protection mechanisms are adapted into easy-to-read formats and supplemented with visual aids for persons with intellectual disabilities. Supported decision-making specialists additionally use individual communication methods, including pictograms, gestures and digital tools, to ensure that beneficiaries understand available support options and can make informed decisions. Information on where and how to seek help in cases of violence, abuse, exploitation or violations of rights is also provided through project websites²³ and service platforms in formats adapted to persons with disabilities.

Accessible reporting and complaint mechanisms are available through several channels. Information on where and how to seek help in cases of violence, abuse, exploitation or violations of rights is provided through the project website and related service platforms. These measures are intended to ensure that persons with disabilities are able to identify situations of exploitation and access support and protection services without unnecessary obstacles.

Since June 2025, the mobile application “LGK vertimai” (*LSL translations*) has enabled 24/7 access to Lithuanian Sign Language interpretation services free of charge. Through the application, deaf and hard-of-hearing persons can communicate with public authorities, emergency services and

²² [I-2044 Republic of Lithuania Law on the Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabil... / I-2044 Lietuvos Respublikos asmens su negalia teisių apsaugos pagrindų įstatymas](#)

²³ [Projektas „Perėjimas nuo institucinės globos prie bendruomeninių paslaugų Sostinės regione, Vidurio ir Vakarų Lietuvos regione” - Asmens su negalia teisių apsaugos agentūra prie Lietuvos Respublikos socialinės apsaugos ir darbo ministerijos](#)

service providers in real time with the assistance of a sign language interpreter. The application also serves as an accessible channel for independently reporting abuse, exploitation or other violations of rights and obtaining assistance without relying on third parties.

The police have also introduced specific measures to improve accessibility. The Description of the Procedure for the Preparation and/or Provision of Police Information to Persons with Disabilities by Accessible Means of Communication of Their Choice, approved by Order No. 5-V-1402 of the Commissioner-General of the Police of 8 December 2025, establishes procedures for providing police information in accessible formats, including easy-to-understand language, Lithuanian Sign Language, Braille, audio recordings and adapted visual materials. The procedures apply to persons with hearing, visual and intellectual disabilities.

In addition, persons with hearing impairments have the right to free Lithuanian Sign Language interpretation services when communicating with the police. These services are provided in cooperation with the Lithuanian Sign Language Translation Centre and support effective access to reporting mechanisms, complaint procedures and protection services.

The Office has nevertheless identified continuing challenges regarding the practical accessibility of information and complaint mechanisms for persons with disabilities. In the course of its National Preventive Mechanism visits to social care institutions and other places of deprivation or restriction of liberty, the Office has repeatedly noted the lack of information adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities. Deficiencies identified include information displayed at inaccessible heights for wheelchair users, the use of small print or complex administrative language, and insufficient use of accessible formats such as easy-to-understand language, information adapted for persons with visual impairments and visual communication tools. The Office has also observed that information concerning the risks of trafficking in human beings, available assistance services and reporting mechanisms is often insufficient or entirely absent. In particular, during visits to the Foreigners' Registration Centre in 2025 and 2026, information on trafficking risks and available assistance was available, but information specifically adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities was not. The Office has therefore recommended that responsible authorities strengthen the accessibility of information and communication materials in order to ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively exercise their rights and access protection and assistance mechanisms.

6. How do you ensure in practice that an assessment of the vulnerability and special needs of asylum seekers is carried out at an early stage? What procedures are followed when vulnerability to THB is detected? Please provide information on policies and measures in the following areas:

- a. provision of comprehensive and accessible information, in a range of relevant languages, on the rights of asylum seekers, indicators of THB, rights of victims of THB, and contacts of relevant organisations;

Since the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum became applicable on 12 June 2026, preliminary assessment of vulnerability of third country nationals, entering a member state illegally, became mandatory (the screening procedure.) Even before the Pact introduced health and vulnerability checks at the border, Lithuania had an asylum border procedure where first data of vulnerability on the applicants for international protection was recorded during the initial interview conducted by the border guards, based on which the determining authority (the Migration Department) used to do vulnerability assessment. Vulnerability assessment was also done for those who applied for international protection on territory. Vulnerability assessment was an ongoing process. All personal data was then and is now stored in the national information system Migris as a part of an electronic case.

During the asylum procedure, applicants are informed of their rights and obligations in a language they understand and acknowledge receipt of this information by signature. Information is

provided during registration, reception and examination of the asylum application. Where necessary, interpretation and translation services are used to ensure effective communication and understanding of procedural rights and available support.

Information on trafficking in human beings' risks, indicators of exploitation, available assistance and referral mechanisms is disseminated through several channels. The National Association Against Trafficking in Human Beings has translated information on identifying trafficking risks, obtaining assistance and available support services into Russian, English, Ukrainian, Kazakh, Uzbek, Tajik and Kyrgyz. The materials are publicly available and are disseminated in cooperation with the Police Department and other competent institutions.

Where indicators of THB are identified during asylum interviews or vulnerability assessments, the applicant is granted appropriate procedural guarantees and may be referred for further assessment, specialised assistance and cooperation with competent authorities in accordance with national procedures.

The RIA have developed the InfoDesk App, which provides multilingual information in up to 20 languages on human rights, protection from violence, trafficking in human beings, children's rights and available support services, including psychological and emotional assistance.

RIA has also established the VERTIS Translation Information System, which enables the provision and management of translation and interpretation services for third-country nationals and stateless persons. The system supports access to assistance and protection services for vulnerable persons, including potential victims of trafficking in human beings, who may otherwise face difficulties obtaining information and support due to language barriers.

Foreign nationals accommodated in facilities operated by the State Border Guard Service (SBGS) receive information, orally and in writing, concerning their rights, available services and internal rules. Information boards in accommodation/detention facilities display contact details of organisations providing assistance and advice, including specialised NGOs assisting victims of trafficking in human beings, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Seimas Ombudspersons' Office and the Lithuanian Red Cross.

Asylum seekers are also informed, where necessary through interpretation services, about healthcare entitlements, emergency and mental health services, confidentiality guarantees and referral contacts.

Persons with physical, intellectual or psychosocial disabilities are provided with information on rights, support services and protection mechanisms in accessible formats, including easy-to-read language and alternative communication methods. Information made available through pervarka.lt²⁴ is adapted to enable persons with disabilities and their representatives to understand their rights, recognise indicators of exploitation and access assistance.

b. access to legal assistance and representation;

All asylum seekers are entitled to free state-guaranteed legal aid during the examination of their asylum applications.

Unaccompanied minors participate in asylum procedures with the involvement of a representative of the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service and a provider of state-guaranteed legal aid until a legal representative is appointed.

Additional support is available for asylum seekers with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities. Within the framework of the project "Transition from Institutional Care to Community-Based Services in the Capital Region and the Central and Western Lithuania Region" (Project No. 07-018-P-0001),

²⁴ [Institucinės globos pertvarka – Institucinės globos pertvarka](https://pervarka.lt)

supported decision-making services assist individuals in understanding legal procedures, expressing their wishes and communicating with state-guaranteed legal aid lawyers.

Under a project funded by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour (MSSL), the National Association Against Trafficking in Human Beings provides free legal assistance and legal representation to persons in need.

Where indicators of THB are identified during the asylum procedure or vulnerability assessment, applicants may be referred to competent authorities and specialised service providers and receive information on available legal, social and protection measures.

- c. access to decent accommodation, health (including psychological) care, work and education.

When accommodating minors, reception authorities ensure living conditions appropriate to their physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. To strengthen protection against exploitation and trafficking, RIA has established separate accommodation areas for unaccompanied minors and for persons presumed to be victims of trafficking in human beings.

Where an asylum seeker is identified as a victim or presumed victim of trafficking in human beings, or as a person who has experienced torture, rape or other serious forms of violence, appropriate healthcare and specialised support are provided. This includes access to physical and mental healthcare, psychosocial assistance, trauma-informed support and, where necessary, referrals to specialised service providers and non-governmental organisations.

Asylum seekers are entitled to emergency and necessary healthcare services, including psychological and psychiatric care where required. Unaccompanied foreign minors are entitled to state-guaranteed healthcare irrespective of the legality of their stay.

Persons whose physical, intellectual or psychosocial disabilities have been identified may receive individual support planning and assistance coordination. These mechanisms ensure that support needs are assessed and that appropriate services are coordinated among relevant institutions. Personal assistance services may also facilitate access to healthcare, education and daily activities, thereby reducing dependency and social isolation, which are recognised vulnerability factors for exploitation. In 2025, personal assistance services were provided to seven persons with disabilities who were asylum seekers from Ukraine.

School-age children seeking asylum are provided access to education in accordance with Lithuanian legislation. Special attention is given to unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable children to ensure continuity of education and access to support services.

Access to legal assistance, psychosocial support and health services is complemented by cooperation with specialised organisations assisting victims of trafficking in human beings. Where appropriate and subject to informed consent, information may be shared with non-governmental organisations that provide specialised assistance to victims.

7. What specific measures are taken to reduce the vulnerability to THB of migrant workers (including seasonal workers, seconded/posted workers, domestic workers, diplomatic household employees)? Please provide information on policies and measures in the following areas:

- a. provision of comprehensive and accessible information, in a range of relevant languages, on migration and labour laws, worker protection and contacts of relevant organisations;

SLI provides consultations and information on labour law, employment of foreign nationals, wages, working time, occupational safety and health, workers' rights, illegal work and labour exploitation. Information is available through the SLI website and consultation services and is provided in Lithuanian, English, Russian and Ukrainian. The Employment Service, the Migration Department, the International Organization for Migration (IOM Lithuania) and non-governmental organisations also contribute to informing migrant workers about their rights and available protection mechanisms.

The Employment Service maintains a dedicated section on THB and labour exploitation on its website. Information is available in Lithuanian, English and Russian and includes indicators of exploitation, safe employment practices, labour rights, warning signs of THB and labour exploitation, and contact details of institutions and organisations providing assistance.

Since 1 August 2023, employers applying for seasonal work permits have been required to provide each worker with an Information Sheet in a language they understand. Introduced in the framework of implementing Directive 2014/36/EU, the Information Sheet includes practical information on workers' rights, labour conditions, available remedies in case of labour rights violations, institutions responsible for monitoring working conditions, complaint mechanisms and organisations providing assistance and support.

The Migration Department provides information on trafficking in human beings, labour rights and available assistance through its website in Lithuanian, English, Ukrainian and Russian. Information includes different forms of trafficking and exploitation and contact details of organisations providing assistance to victims. Informational leaflets distributed through territorial units of the Migration Department contain information on trafficking in human beings, assistance services, labour legislation, migration requirements and the rights and obligations of foreign nationals residing and working in Lithuania.

The National Association Against Trafficking in Human Beings has translated information on trafficking risks, indicators of exploitation, available assistance and referral mechanisms into Russian, English, Ukrainian, Kazakh, Uzbek, Tajik and Kyrgyz. The materials are publicly available and disseminated in cooperation with the Police Department and other competent institutions.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through Lithuanian diplomatic missions and consular posts abroad, also contributes to the dissemination of information to Lithuanian citizens and other persons seeking consular assistance. Within the limits of consular functions established by the Consular Statute of the Republic of Lithuania, consular officers may provide general information and guidance to persons who may be vulnerable to trafficking in human beings, including migrant workers abroad. Depending on the circumstances, information may include contacts of relevant help lines, specialised support organisations, emergency assistance services and competent authorities in Lithuania and the host country. Information may be provided in different languages according to the needs of the person concerned and the capacities of the diplomatic mission or consular post.

Migrant workers are informed that written employment contracts are mandatory and must be provided in a language they understand. Complaints may be submitted to the State Labour Inspectorate and Labour Disputes Commissions in Lithuanian, English or Russian. Information indicating possible THB is transmitted to law-enforcement authorities.

Foreign nationals holding the relevant residence permits may, under the conditions established by legislation, change employers without automatically losing their legal basis for stay in Lithuania. Information on these possibilities is provided through migration and employment-related procedures.

b. provision of clear employment contracts;

Lithuanian labour legislation requires employment contracts to be concluded in writing before work commences. Employment contracts must clearly specify the essential terms and conditions of employment, including the type of work, remuneration, working time, workplace and other mandatory

employment conditions. The SLI monitors compliance with these requirements, including in sectors at elevated risk of labour exploitation and among foreign workers.

The Employment Service contributes to prevention efforts by informing migrant workers that lawful employment in Lithuania must be based on a written employment contract signed before employment begins. Through counselling and information activities, workers are encouraged to review employment conditions carefully and seek assistance if they encounter unclear, misleading or potentially exploitative arrangements.

Particular protection measures apply to seasonal workers. Since 1 August 2023, employers applying for seasonal work permits have been required to submit an employment contract both in Lithuanian and in a language understood by the foreign worker. This requirement complements the obligation to provide an information sheet informing workers of their labour rights, available remedies and complaint mechanisms, institutions monitoring working conditions and organisations providing assistance.

Compliance with employment contract requirements is further reinforced through labour inspections and complaint mechanisms. Migrant workers may seek assistance from the SLI and Labour Disputes Commissions, including in English and Russian, in matters related to wages, working conditions and other employment rights. Information obtained during inspections or complaints that indicates possible labour exploitation or THB is referred to law-enforcement authorities for further action.

c. access to decent work and housing, health care, social services and education;

Access to decent work is ensured through labour and migration legislation, which establish safeguards relating to lawful employment, written employment contracts, remuneration, working conditions and oversight of employers. Foreign nationals are informed about their labour rights and may seek assistance from the SLI, Labour Disputes Commissions and other competent institutions if their rights are violated.

Migrant workers also benefit from legal safeguards linked to residence and employment. Under the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens, foreign nationals holding temporary residence permits issued for employment purposes may, subject to statutory conditions, change employers without automatically losing their legal basis for stay in Lithuania.

Access to adequate accommodation constitutes an important element of protection against exploitation. In the case of seasonal workers, employers applying for seasonal work permits must provide documentary evidence that suitable accommodation has been arranged for the worker in Lithuania. The Employment Service verifies compliance with this requirement during the permit application process. Under the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens, accommodation must satisfy minimum space requirements, thereby providing an additional safeguard against inadequate living conditions that may facilitate exploitation.

Lithuania also provides housing support measures to certain categories of foreign nationals who have been granted asylum or temporary protection. Available support includes social housing, compensation of part of rental costs, housing lease support and certain forms of support for housing acquisition.

Healthcare services are available to migrant workers in accordance with their residence and insurance status. Foreign nationals holding temporary residence permits and employed in Lithuania are covered by compulsory health insurance and may access primary healthcare, specialist consultations, hospital care and mental healthcare under the same conditions as other insured persons. Workers insured in another EU/EEA country, Switzerland or the United Kingdom may access healthcare through the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or registered S1 document.

Foreign nationals meeting the conditions established by Lithuanian legislation may participate in vocational education and training programmes, pursue studies in higher education institutions and benefit from other learning opportunities available within the education system. Educational and vocational opportunities contribute to the acquisition of qualifications, improve long-term employment prospects and strengthen social and economic integration, thereby reducing vulnerability to THB.

d. possibility to change employers;

The legal framework provides migrant workers with opportunities to change employers while maintaining lawful residence status under conditions established by the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens. Foreign nationals holding temporary residence permits issued for employment purposes may apply to change employers during the validity period of their permit.

The Article 44(8) of the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens provides for the right of a foreigner who has held a temporary residence permit issued on the basis of work in the Republic of Lithuania for less than 2 years to apply for the change of an employer after the employment relationship has ended during the period of validity of the temporary residence permit having submitted the notification specified in Article 36(3)(1) in accordance with the procedure established in Article 44(10) no later than within 3 months from the end of the employment relationship. A foreigner who has held a temporary residence permit issued on the basis of work in the Republic of Lithuania for more than 2 years has a right to apply for the change of employer after the employment relationship has ended during the period of validity of the temporary residence permit having submitted the specified notification no later than within 6 months from the end of the employment relationship.

The procedure is administered by the Migration Department. As a general rule, a foreign national may change employer or job function after obtaining the relevant decision from the Migration Department. To initiate the procedure, the new employer submits a mediation letter through the MIGRIS system and the worker submits an application through the same platform. Following a positive decision, employment with the new employer must commence within the period established by law.

Highly qualified workers who meet the statutory conditions may benefit from simplified procedures allowing employer changes through notification mechanisms rather than a full authorisation process.

The Employment Service contributes to the implementation of these safeguards by providing employment mediation services to foreign nationals who are legally entitled to work in Lithuania and wish to change employers. Through employment counselling and job-matching services, migrant workers may identify alternative lawful employment opportunities and continue their labour market participation.

Migrant workers may seek assistance from the SLI and Labour Disputes Commissions regarding labour rights violations, including cases involving unpaid wages or exploitative working conditions. Information indicating possible THB or labour exploitation is referred to law-enforcement authorities.

e. access to confidential complaints mechanisms;

Migrant workers may submit complaints concerning labour rights violations, including unpaid wages, excessive working hours, unsafe working conditions, illegal employment and other forms of exploitation, to the SLI. Complaints may be submitted through multiple channels, including electronic means, and workers are entitled to request that the identity of the complainant is not disclosed to the employer.

Confidential complaint procedures are complemented by the system of Labour Disputes Commissions operating under the SLI. Migrant workers may submit individual complaints concerning employment-related disputes and seek remedies for violations of labour rights. To improve

accessibility, complaints and supporting documentation may be submitted in languages commonly used by foreign workers, including English and Russian.

The SLI applies a risk-based approach in its inspections and gives particular attention to sectors identified as presenting elevated risks of labour exploitation, including transport, construction, manufacturing, agriculture and food production. Information received through complaints may trigger inspections and further inquiries. Where labour inspectors identify indicators of THB, forced labour or other serious forms of exploitation, information is transmitted to law-enforcement authorities in accordance with established interinstitutional cooperation procedures.

Additional reporting channels are available through law-enforcement institutions. Migrant workers may report suspected THB, forced labour or other criminal offences directly to the police, through the emergency number 112, the ePolicija platform or other legally established channels. Reports are registered and assessed, and where there are indications of criminal conduct, investigative measures may be initiated.

Victims and presumed victims of THB may also seek assistance through specialised support organisations. Information on available assistance and reporting mechanisms is disseminated through the Migration Department, the Employment Service, the SLI, reception facilities and awareness-raising materials distributed to foreign nationals. Migrant workers are informed that reporting labour exploitation or trafficking indicators may lead to referrals to specialised assistance providers and other protection mechanisms.

Foreign nationals are informed about their right to change employers under the conditions established by the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens and about available remedies in cases of labour rights violations.

f. right to join trade unions and to engage in collective bargaining;

The Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania and the Labour Code guarantee the right of workers to establish and join trade unions and to participate in collective labour relations without discrimination. These rights apply equally to Lithuanian nationals and legally employed foreign workers. Migrant workers enjoy the same rights as other employees to join trade unions, participate in workers' representation structures and benefit from collective agreements.

Trade unions play an important role in protecting workers from exploitation by providing information on labour rights, advising workers on employment conditions, representing workers in disputes with employers and supporting access to remedies in cases of labour rights violations.

The Labour Code provides workers with the right to collective bargaining and allows trade unions and employers' organisations to conclude collective agreements at national, sectoral, territorial and workplace levels. Collective agreements may regulate wages, working time, occupational safety and health, working conditions and additional social guarantees.

Migrant workers may also seek assistance from employee representatives and trade unions in cases involving unpaid wages, unlawful deductions, excessive working hours, occupational safety concerns and other labour rights violations.

The protection afforded by trade union membership and collective representation complements other safeguards available to migrant workers, including labour inspections conducted by the State Labour Inspectorate, access to Labour Disputes Commissions, confidential complaint mechanisms and the possibility to change employers under the conditions established by the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens.

g. legal avenues for regularising their stay in the country.

The Law on the Legal Status of Aliens provides several grounds on which foreign nationals may obtain or retain temporary residence permits in Lithuania, including employment, highly qualified employment, studies, family reunification and other legally established purposes.

Under Article 44(8) of the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens, foreign nationals holding temporary residence permits issued for employment purposes may remain in Lithuania for a legally established period while seeking new employment and applying to change employers. A foreign national who has held such a permit for less than two years may do so within three months after termination of employment, while a foreign national who has held the permit for more than two years may do so within six months. During these periods, the residence permit remains valid and is not automatically withdrawn solely because the employment relationship has ended.

Foreign nationals who become victims or presumed victims of THB may benefit from additional protection measures. Lithuania's victim identification and referral mechanisms provide for cooperation between law-enforcement authorities, migration authorities and specialised assistance providers. Where indicators of THB are identified, victims may be referred to assistance services and informed of the residence-related safeguards available under national legislation.

Where foreign nationals cooperate with competent authorities in criminal proceedings concerning THB or other serious offences, residence-related measures may be applied in accordance with the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens. In addition, Lithuanian legislation provides for the possibility of issuing residence permits on other legal grounds where the statutory conditions are met, thereby helping to prevent situations in which vulnerable persons become dependent on exploitative relationships in order to remain in the country.

The Migration Department provides information to foreign nationals regarding residence rights, procedures, changes of employer, obligations under migration legislation and available assistance mechanisms. Information is disseminated through the Migration Department's website, informational materials and migration procedures conducted through the MIGRIS system.

The availability of legal avenues for maintaining or regularising lawful stay is complemented by access to labour inspections, complaint mechanisms, legal assistance and employment services.

8. Do labour inspectorates and other authorities checking workplace conditions possess a comprehensive mandate, and adequate human, financial and technical resources, to conduct regular, proactive workplace inspections in all economic sectors, with a particular emphasis on high-risk sectors prone to exploitation? How do labour inspectors co-operate with other authorities and trade unions? Is there a separation between labour inspection and immigration control functions?

The SLI has a comprehensive mandate to inspect workplaces across all sectors of economic activity, monitor compliance with labour legislation, detect illegal and undeclared work, supervise the employment of foreigners, and identify possible indicators of human trafficking for labour exploitation. In line with GRETA recommendations, SLI prioritises inspections in sectors assessed as presenting the highest risk of labour exploitation, including construction, transport, agriculture, accommodation and food services, as well as companies employing larger numbers of third-country nationals.

Since 2020, specialised human trafficking for forced labour prevention and control groups have operated in Vilnius and, since 2022, in Kaunas, with two inspectors assigned to each unit. In 2025, these groups carried out 47 targeted inspections, completed six potential victim identification forms, and referred several cases to the police for consideration of pre-trial investigations.

SLI continuously strengthens inspectors' competencies through specialised training programmes, participation in national and international seminars, and practical cooperation with partner institutions. In 2025-2026, specialised training was organised on THB, labour exploitation and the identification of potential victims.

While most GRETA recommendations have been implemented, SLI considers that additional human and financial resources remain necessary to further expand targeted inspections and specialised anti-trafficking activities. At present, specialised groups operate only in Vilnius and Kaunas. SLI continuously assesses the need and possibilities for extending specialised capacity to other regions, taking into account available human and financial resources as well as identified risks.

The Overview drew attention to the fact that, over the preceding year, no additional efforts had been made to ensure that the SLI had sufficient staff and resources to play a key role in preventing and detecting THB for the purpose of labour exploitation, with particular attention to high-risk sectors such as transport, construction, hotels and agriculture. No additional funding was allocated for these activities in 2025.

SLI cooperates closely with the Police Department, the Prosecutor General's Office, the Migration Department, the SBGS, the State Tax Inspectorate, IOM Lithuania, the National Association against Trafficking in Human Beings and other non-governmental organisations. Cooperation includes joint inspections, exchange of information, specialised training, case discussions, victim identification and referral, and the organisation of assistance for potential victims. SLI also participates in international inspections coordinated by the European Labour Authority (ELA) and in activities implemented under the EMPACT platform.

Labour inspection functions are clearly separated from immigration control functions. SLI does not carry out immigration enforcement; its mandate is limited to labour law compliance, prevention of illegal work, combating labour exploitation and identifying potential victims of THB. Immigration control is carried out by the Migration Department and the SBGS. This separation constitutes an important safeguard, as it enables workers, including those in an irregular situation, to approach SLI regarding labour law violations without fear that labour inspections will automatically trigger immigration-related consequences.

At the same time, effective cooperation and information exchange between SLI, the Migration Department and the SBGS support timely interventions in situations involving possible exploitation of foreign workers and facilitate the identification of potential victims of THB.

9. How are employment and recruitment agencies regulated and monitored? Are all stages of the recruitment process, including advertisements, selection, transport, and placement, subject to regulation? Are recruitment fees and related costs prohibited from being borne by workers or jobseekers?

Employment mediation and temporary employment activities in Lithuania are regulated by the Labour Code, the Law on Employment, the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens and other relevant legislation. Their supervision is carried out by the SLI and other competent authorities according to their mandate.

Temporary employment agencies are subject to a specific regulatory regime. The SLI maintains a public list of temporary employment agencies, and a company intending to carry out temporary employment activities must meet the established legal criteria and apply for inclusion in that list. Temporary employment agencies are also required to submit monthly reports to the SLI, via the Electronic Services for Employers System²⁵ (EPDS), on the number of temporary workers employed, the countries in which they worked and the actual volume of hours worked. Failure to comply with these reporting obligations may result in enforcement measures, including a decision that the company no longer meets the criteria applicable to temporary employment agencies.

The recruitment process is regulated from the stage of worker search and selection through placement and commencement of employment. Labour legislation establishes requirements

²⁵ [Mano VDI bendroji informacija - Valstybinė darbo inspekcija](#)

concerning the conclusion of employment contracts, information on working conditions, remuneration, working time, occupational safety and health, and other minimum labour guarantees. Additional requirements under the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens and related implementing legislation apply to the recruitment and employment of third-country nationals.

The SLI conducts targeted inspections of temporary employment agencies as well as undertakings using temporary workers. These inspections assess compliance with labour legislation, employment contracts, wage payments, recording of working and rest time, occupational safety and health requirements, equal working conditions for temporary workers and possible indicators of illegal work, labour exploitation or THB.

The employment of foreign workers is additionally monitored through a notification mechanism. An employer hiring a foreign national under an employment contract, or a company receiving a posted foreign worker, must submit a Notification on Foreigners Working in Lithuania (LDU notification) through The Board of the State Social Insurance Fund under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour's (Sodra) Electronic Insured Persons' Service System (EDAS) no later than one working day before the employment or posting begins. Employers are also required to report significant changes affecting the employment relationship, including changes in the grounds of legal stay or early termination of employment. Depending on the form of employment, LDU notifications are administered either by the Employment Service (for foreign nationals employed under employment contracts) or by the State Labour Inspectorate (for posted workers). This dual notification mechanism enables the competent authorities to verify whether foreign nationals are working for the employer or temporary employment agency under the conditions originally declared and facilitates the timely identification of discrepancies that may indicate illegal work, labour exploitation or THB. In 2025 alone, 1,279 violations relating to the employment and notification procedures applicable to third-country nationals were identified.

In addition, the State Tax Inspectorate (STI) monitors compliance with tax obligations and may identify situations where contractual arrangements are used to conceal the true nature of employment relationships or obtain unjustified tax advantages. Applying the "substance over form" principle, the STI may disregard the formal legal expression of transactions, establish their actual economic substance and assess additional tax liabilities. In such cases, default interest is charged on unpaid taxes and, where provided for by law, fines ranging from 20% to 100% of the underpaid tax amount may be imposed.

Lithuanian legislation prohibits charging workers or jobseekers recruitment fees or other recruitment-related costs where such costs are legally attributable to employers or intermediaries. During inspections, the SLI assesses whether recruitment-related payments create situations of dependency, debt or exploitation. It examines possible illegal intermediation fees, document-processing or translation charges, debt arrangements and other forms of economic dependency that may increase workers' vulnerability to labour exploitation and THB.

10. How do you prevent and sanction abuses of legal constructions such as self-employment, letter-box companies, sub-contracting, and posting of workers, which may be used to commit THB?

The prevention of abusive self-employment arrangements, letter-box companies, unlawful subcontracting practices and violations related to the posting of workers involves labour inspection, migration control, tax supervision, criminal investigations and interinstitutional cooperation.

The SLI plays a central role in identifying arrangements that may be used to circumvent labour legislation and disguise employment relationships. Labour inspectors assess whether contractual relationships formally presented as self-employment or civil service arrangements in fact exhibit the characteristics of an employment relationship. Where violations are identified, the SLI may require the

regularisation of employment relations, impose administrative sanctions or refer information to other competent authorities.

Particular attention is paid to sectors identified as presenting elevated risks of labour exploitation and THB, including transport, construction, manufacturing, agriculture and food production. Risk-based inspections focus on complex employment arrangements involving subcontracting chains, extensive use of foreign labour and situations where responsibility for workers' conditions may be fragmented across multiple entities.

The legal framework governing the posting of workers incorporates the requirements of European Union legislation and establishes obligations regarding employment conditions, remuneration, working time and occupational safety and health. Employers posting workers to Lithuania must comply with notification requirements and ensure that posted workers receive the employment protections guaranteed by law. Compliance is monitored by the SLI, which conducts inspections and cooperates with labour authorities in other EU Member States through established administrative cooperation mechanisms.

The detection of abusive business structures is supported by cooperation between labour inspectors, the State Tax Inspectorate, the Financial Crime Investigation Service, the Migration Department, law-enforcement authorities and social insurance institutions. Information exchange enables the identification of fictitious economic activities, shell entities, undeclared employment, tax evasion schemes and other irregular business arrangements.

Migration-related safeguards also contribute to prevention efforts. The employment of third-country nationals is subject to controls concerning residence permits, lawful employment, employer compliance and notification obligations. During inspections and administrative procedures, authorities assess whether employers comply with the conditions under which foreign nationals were authorised to work in Lithuania.

Where indicators of THB, forced labour or severe labour exploitation are identified, cases may be referred to law-enforcement authorities for criminal investigation. Labour inspectors, police officers and prosecutors cooperate in accordance with the Recommendations on the Identification of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, the Specific Features of Pre-Trial Investigations and Interinstitutional Cooperation. Potential victims may be referred to assistance services, while criminal investigations may be initiated against persons responsible for organising or benefiting from exploitation.

Criminal, administrative and financial sanctions may be applied depending on the nature of the violation. Employers and intermediaries may be held liable for illegal employment, undeclared work, violations of labour legislation, migration-related offences, tax infringements and, where the constituent elements are established, THB or related criminal offences.

11. How do your country's migration legislation and policies seek to prevent THB by enabling lawful migration and legal employment opportunities accompanied by decent work conditions?

The Law on the Legal Status of Aliens establishes a framework for legal entry, residence and employment of foreign nationals. Foreign nationals may obtain temporary residence permits on a number of lawful grounds, including employment, highly qualified employment, studies and family reunification.

The Law on the Legal Status of Aliens also establishes conditions that must be met by employers wishing to employ third-country nationals. Employers must hold any licences or permits required for their activities, must have carried out the relevant economic activity for at least six months and must not have been sanctioned for illegal or undeclared work, violations related to the employment of foreign nationals, or the provision of false information in migration procedures. The legal framework further requires that there be no grounds to consider the employer a shell company.

Migration and labour market procedures include safeguards designed to ensure that employment is carried out under lawful and transparent conditions. Foreign nationals employed in Lithuania must work on the basis of a written employment contract and enjoy labour rights and protections established under Lithuanian labour legislation. Employers are required to comply with labour law requirements regarding remuneration, working time, occupational safety and health, social insurance and other employment conditions. Compliance with these requirements is monitored by SLI.

Particular attention is paid to the employment of third-country nationals, who are identified in national assessments as a group facing increased vulnerability to labour exploitation and THB. To address these risks, labour inspectors conduct targeted inspections in sectors identified as high-risk, including transport, construction, manufacturing, agriculture and food production. In 2025, the SLI carried out 8,019 inspections related to illegal work, undeclared work and the employment of foreign nationals and identified 124 persons who may have been subjected to exploitation for forced labour or services.

Preventive measures are reinforced through information and awareness-raising activities. Foreign nationals receive information on migration procedures, labour rights, available assistance mechanisms and indicators of THB through the Migration Department, the Employment Service, the SLI and other institutions. Information is made available in several languages, including Lithuanian, English, Russian and Ukrainian. Seasonal workers additionally receive an information sheet in a language they understand concerning labour rights, complaint mechanisms and available remedies.

Under Article 44(8) of the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens, foreign nationals holding temporary residence permits for employment purposes may, under specified conditions, remain in Lithuania and seek alternative employment after termination of their employment relationship. A foreign national who has held such a permit for less than two years may seek new employment for up to three months following termination of employment, while a foreign national who has held the permit for more than two years may do so for up to six months.

A foreign national may also change employers after six months of employment, subject to authorisation by the Migration Department. This restriction does not apply where grounds exist for the revocation of a temporary residence permit due to the employer's fault, including cases involving false information, forged documents, illegal or undeclared work, or violations of the procedures governing the employment of foreign nationals. In such cases, the foreign national is granted three months to find employment with a new employer.

Where the Migration Department receives information from a pre-trial investigation authority, the prosecutor's office or a court indicating reasonable grounds to believe that a foreign national holding a temporary residence permit for employment purposes has worked under conditions of particularly exploitative employment, that foreign national is granted six or nine months, as applicable under the law, to change employer.

Migrant workers are further protected through access to confidential complaints mechanisms, labour dispute resolution procedures and law-enforcement authorities. Workers may submit complaints to the SLI and Labour Disputes Commissions, including in English and Russian. Information indicating possible THB or labour exploitation is referred to competent law-enforcement authorities and handled in accordance with established interinstitutional cooperation procedures.

The migration and labour market framework is supported by close cooperation among the Migration Department, the SLI, the Employment Service, law-enforcement authorities and other competent institutions. This cooperation facilitates the identification of risky employers, detection of illegal employment, monitoring of labour conditions and referral of potential victims of THB to assistance mechanisms.

12. How do your country's law and policies to discourage demand that leads to THB address particular vulnerabilities and groups at risk of THB?

The Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for 2024-2026 includes measures aimed at preventing labour exploitation, strengthening victim identification, improving awareness among employers and consumers, and increasing the capacity of institutions responsible for detecting and responding to trafficking-related offences. Particular attention is given to sectors identified as presenting elevated risks of labour exploitation, including road transport, construction, manufacturing, agriculture, food production and catering services.

Labour inspections constitute a key enforcement measure addressing exploitative labour practices. The SLI carries out risk-based inspections focused on illegal work, undeclared work and the employment of foreign nationals. In 2025, the SLI conducted 8,019 inspections and identified 124 persons who may have been subjected to exploitation for forced labour or services. These inspections contribute to the detection of labour exploitation and forced labour schemes.

Particular attention is paid to groups identified as being at increased risk of THB, including third-country nationals, migrant workers, asylum seekers, children, persons with disabilities, persons experiencing poverty and social exclusion, and individuals with addictions or mental health difficulties. National assessments indicate that particular vulnerabilities include dependence on an employer for residence or employment, insufficient knowledge of labour rights, language barriers, economic hardship, social isolation, migration status and fear of contacting public authorities due to possible loss of legal status. These vulnerability factors are taken into account when planning inspections, developing prevention measures and training labour inspectors and other frontline professionals.

Several awareness-raising initiatives address THB and the consequences of exploitation. In 2024, four animated awareness-raising videos were produced at the initiative of the Ministry of the Interior. The campaign addressed sexual exploitation, labour exploitation and criminal exploitation, including content targeted specifically at school-age children. The campaign continued through social media dissemination in 2025 and is planned to continue in 2026. Police preventive activities also seek to reduce public tolerance for sexual exploitation, forced labour, forced begging and exploitation for criminal activities through targeted information campaigns and community outreach activities.

Lithuania seeks to reduce demand by strengthening transparency in recruitment and employment. Foreign workers must be employed under written employment contracts, receive information on their rights in a language they understand and have access to complaint mechanisms and labour dispute procedures. Employers engaging foreign workers are subject to monitoring and legal obligations concerning working conditions, remuneration and accommodation where applicable. These measures reduce opportunities for employers to benefit from exploitative labour arrangements.

Additional safeguards apply in the construction sector, which is considered a higher-risk sector for labour exploitation. Under the Law on Employment, construction organisers and contractors must ensure that persons performing construction work possess a valid transparent-work identification code and, where applicable, documents confirming the right to work in Lithuania. In relation to third-country nationals, contractors and receiving companies must verify that the person is legally employed and entitled to stay and work in Lithuania before allowing work to commence. Where these obligations are breached, contractors may be held liable for illegal employment, including obligations to declare illegal work, pay outstanding wages, pay applicable fines and, where provided by law, assume subsidiary liability for obligations owed to the illegally employed worker. These measures are intended to discourage the use of illegally employed labour and reduce risks of labour exploitation and THB.

In November 2025 and March 2026, the Commission for the Coordination of the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings concluded that forced labour was becoming the predominant form of THB in Lithuania, particularly in the logistics sector, where migrant labour, subcontracting arrangements and intermediary schemes are widely used. Risks were also identified in agriculture, construction and warehousing. The Commission highlighted the need for increased transparency in temporary

employment and labour-supply chains, enhanced risk analysis and targeted inspections, improved information for incoming foreign workers on lawful employment conditions and available assistance, and stronger assessments of the reliability of employers and recruitment agencies.

In 2025 and 2026, the Commission also identified the need to review approaches to prostitution-related exploitation and to strengthen accountability of organisers, exploiters and purchasers of prostitution services. Draft legislative amendments currently under consideration would substantially increase administrative fines for the purchase of prostitution services, providing for fines ranging from EUR 1,000 to EUR 1,600, and from EUR 1,600 to EUR 3,500 in the case of repeated offences. The objective of these measures is to reduce demand contributing to sexual exploitation and THB and to strengthen the deterrent effect of sanctions. At present, these amendments remain under legislative consideration.

Particular emphasis is also placed on emerging risks associated with online environments. National assessments indicate that recruitment increasingly occurs through social media platforms, messaging applications, online advertisements and other digital channels. Awareness-raising activities and preventive measures are therefore increasingly focused on reducing the demand that fuels online-facilitated exploitation and THB, especially where children and young people may be targeted.

Lithuania also addresses demand that may contribute to THB and labour exploitation through public procurement policy and measures promoting responsible business conduct and supply-chain transparency.

The Law on Public Procurement requires contracting authorities to exclude suppliers from procurement procedures where the supplier, or a responsible person of the supplier, has been convicted of THB or child trafficking offences. In addition, suppliers may be excluded where they have violated social or labour-law obligations established under European Union law, national legislation, collective agreements or relevant international labour standards, including International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions concerning forced labour and child labour.

Public procurement legislation also enables contracting authorities to assess suppliers' supply-chain management and monitoring systems when examining their technical and professional capacity. Suppliers may be required to provide descriptions of the supply-chain management and monitoring measures that will be applied during contract implementation, thereby promoting greater transparency and accountability throughout supply chains.

Furthermore, contracting authorities are required to seek compliance with social and labour-law obligations during contract implementation. Standard public procurement contract terms approved by the Public Procurement Office include suppliers' obligations to comply with social and labour standards established by applicable legislation and international conventions.

The Public Procurement Office has developed a Supplier Code of Ethics, which encourages suppliers to prohibit forced labour, modern slavery and THB in their operations and supply chains. Contracting authorities are encouraged to incorporate relevant provisions of the Code into procurement contracts and to define consequences for non-compliance.

In addition, the Public Procurement Office promotes socially responsible procurement through training, conferences and methodological guidance. Socially Responsible Public Procurement Guidelines encourage the use of fair-trade and equivalent certification schemes for certain product categories in order to support transparent and responsible supply chains and respect for human rights, particularly the rights of women and children.

13. How do your country's legislation and practice ensure that there is an individual assessment of protection needs at the borders prior to any refusals of entry or expulsions?

Individual assessments are carried out within the framework of procedures implemented by the SBGS, the Migration Department and other competent authorities in accordance with the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens and related legislation. Border officials are required to assess whether a person may have protection needs, including the need for international protection, assistance as a victim of THB or other forms of special protection. These assessments are conducted before decisions on return, refusal of entry or other migration-related measures are implemented.

Since the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum became applicable, screening procedures are applied to all third-country nationals who cross the external border irregularly except in cases where, pursuant to Regulation (EU) No. 2024/1356, exceptions and cases are provided for in which no inspection is conducted, regardless of whether they apply for asylum. The screening procedure includes initial identification, database checks, immediate assistance, identification of unaccompanied minors, an initial vulnerability assessment, emergency healthcare, an assessment of the circumstances of entry and checks in relevant databases. A specific methodology is used to identify persons with special reception or procedural needs, including victims of THB. During the screening process, individuals are informed of their rights and an electronic case file is created and integrated into the national MIGRIS information system.

In cases of irregular border crossings, border guards are required to carry out an individual assessment of the need for assistance and to assess all grounds relevant to entry into the Republic of Lithuania, including vulnerability, possible protection needs, the risk of persecution, armed conflict and humanitarian considerations, before decisions concerning entry, refusal of entry or return are implemented. Where such circumstances are identified, including indicators that a person belongs to a vulnerable group, the non-admission procedure is not applied and the person's legal status is determined in accordance with the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens.

The identification of THB indicators forms part of the broader vulnerability assessment process. Border and migration officers are trained to recognise signs of THB, labour exploitation, sexual exploitation and other forms of abuse. Where indicators are identified, the person is referred for additional assessment under the Recommendations on the Identification of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, the Specific Features of Pre-Trial Investigations and Interinstitutional Cooperation and, where appropriate, for specialised protection and assistance

Particular safeguards apply to children. When an unaccompanied foreign minor is identified, SCRPAS is immediately informed and a representative is appointed to safeguard the child's interests. The child's situation, family circumstances, migration history and protection needs are assessed before any decisions affecting the child are taken. In 2024, SCRPAS introduced a specialised annex to the Child Situation Assessment Data Questionnaire for unaccompanied foreign minors, strengthening the collection of information relevant to vulnerability, including possible indicators of THB.

Persons who express a wish to seek asylum, as well as those for whom indications of vulnerability are identified, are referred into the asylum procedure where additional assessments are conducted. During asylum procedures, applicants are interviewed and assessed for special procedural needs, vulnerability factors and possible indicators of THB. Where concerns arise, additional procedural safeguards and referrals to specialised assistance services may be applied. Vulnerability assessments are conducted as an ongoing process throughout asylum and migration procedures. Relevant information is recorded in the electronic case file and updated where new vulnerability indicators are identified.

The assessment process is supported by interpretation and translation services to ensure that foreign nationals can effectively communicate their circumstances and understand their rights. Information on rights, available assistance, asylum procedures and mechanisms for seeking protection is provided in a language understood by the individual.

Interinstitutional cooperation plays a key role in ensuring effective protection. The SBGS, the Migration Department, SCRPAS, law-enforcement authorities, healthcare institutions, the RIA and

specialised non-governmental organisations exchange information and coordinate responses where vulnerabilities or indicators of THB are identified.

In 2026, additional safeguards were introduced to ensure that individuals subject to non-admission decisions receive a formal decision explaining the reasons for refusal, information on available humanitarian assistance and the procedure for appealing the decision.

Where a person is identified as a victim or presumed victim of THB, return or expulsion procedures are assessed in light of the individual's circumstances and applicable legal safeguards. Potential victims may be referred to assistance mechanisms, law-enforcement authorities and specialised support organisations. These measures help ensure that victims of THB are identified before removal measures are carried out and are afforded the protections available under national legislation and applicable international obligations

14. What measures are taken to prevent THB in sports? What sectors and categories/groups of people have been identified as being at risk?

A key element of prevention is the broader child protection framework, which applies equally within sport settings. Sports organisations, educational institutions, child protection authorities and municipalities share responsibility for ensuring a safe environment for children and responding to indicators of violence, abuse, exploitation or other violations of children's rights.

Lithuania's preventive approach is linked to measures aimed at strengthening children's resilience to exploitation. The Life Skills Programme implemented within the national education curriculum promotes personal safety, decision-making skills, recognition of harmful behaviour, understanding of rights, help-seeking behaviour and resilience to manipulation.

Children and adolescents are considered the group most vulnerable to exploitation within the sports environment. Particular attention is paid to young athletes, foreign athletes, children living away from their families for training purposes, children in vulnerable social situations and children with disabilities. Children living away from their families for training purposes, children in vulnerable social situations and children with disabilities may face additional vulnerabilities requiring targeted safeguards.

Awareness-raising and prevention activities implemented by child protection institutions also contribute to safeguarding children involved in sport. Information campaigns, educational activities, child participation initiatives and online safety programmes help children recognise inappropriate behaviour, understand where to seek assistance and identify situations that may place them at risk of exploitation.

Law-enforcement authorities have observed that social media platforms, messaging applications and other online communication channels are used to approach vulnerable persons, including young people. Preventive efforts aimed at improving media literacy and online safety therefore also contribute to reducing risks affecting children and young athletes.

Sport professionals working with children benefit from broader safeguarding and child-protection training initiatives implemented by child protection, education and other competent authorities. These activities strengthen the ability of professionals to recognise indicators of abuse, exploitation and THB and to respond appropriately where concerns arise.

Although Lithuania has not identified sports as a major sector for THB compared to sectors such as transport, construction or agriculture, preventive measures are aimed at ensuring that vulnerabilities associated with age, dependency, unequal power relationships and aspirations for sporting success do not create opportunities for exploitation.

15. Have you identified online practices that may increase the risk of becoming a victim of THB for different forms of exploitation? What mechanisms have been developed to prevent the misuse of information and communication technology for THB purposes? What is the practical effect of their implementation?

Recent investigations conducted by law-enforcement authorities have shown that traffickers increasingly use social media platforms, messaging applications, online job advertisements, dating platforms and other digital communication channels to establish contact with potential victims. Authorities have identified deceptive employment offers, fraudulent recruitment schemes, online grooming, manipulation through social media and the use of false promises concerning employment, education or personal relationships as significant risk factors. National authorities have also observed emerging risks associated with the use of artificial intelligence and increasingly sophisticated online deception techniques.

Children and young people are considered particularly vulnerable to technology-facilitated recruitment. Online environments may be used to establish trust-based relationships, manipulate victims and facilitate sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation or other forms of THB. These risks have been addressed through broader child-protection, online safety and media literacy initiatives, including the national Life Skills Programme and Lithuania's participation in the European Safer Internet initiative ("Draugiškas internetas"), which promote critical thinking, safe online behaviour and the ability to recognise manipulation and exploitation risks in digital environments.

Lithuania has developed a range of preventive mechanisms aimed at reducing the misuse of ICT for trafficking purposes. Awareness-raising campaigns implemented under the Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for 2024-2026 increasingly address online recruitment methods and digital risks. In 2024, four animated awareness-raising videos were produced at the initiative of the Ministry of the Interior, addressing trafficking for sexual exploitation, labour exploitation and criminal exploitation, including content specifically targeted at school-age children. The campaign continued through social media dissemination in 2025 and is planned to continue in 2026.

The Police Virtual Patrol constitutes an important practical tool for identifying illegal and harmful online activities. It monitors publicly accessible electronic environments, including social media and other online platforms, for possible violations of the law affecting children and other vulnerable persons. Information concerning suspected criminal activities identified online is documented and referred to competent police units for further assessment or investigation. The Police Virtual Patrol provides a mechanism for the systematic monitoring of publicly accessible online environments and the referral of suspected offences for further investigation, supporting the identification of online conduct that may be linked to exploitation and THB.

Preventive measures are reinforced through information and awareness-raising activities targeting groups identified as being at increased risk of exploitation. Information concerning THB, safe employment, labour rights and online recruitment risks is disseminated through the Employment Service, the Migration Department, child-protection authorities and other institutions. Particular attention is given to migrant workers and third-country nationals, who may be targeted through online recruitment schemes involving misleading job offers and deceptive employment arrangements.

National assessments and law-enforcement practice indicate that online recruitment through social media, messaging applications, online job advertisements and other digital platforms has become an increasingly significant trafficking risk factor. Prevention measures and awareness-raising activities have been adapted accordingly, including the integration of digital safety, media literacy and online risk awareness into education and child-protection policies.

16. What measures are taken to raise awareness of the risks of technology-facilitated THB, including among children, parents, teachers, childcare professionals and social workers? What technology-based initiatives exist in your country to disseminate information to groups/communities at risk of THB?

Lithuania recognises that technologies are increasingly used by traffickers to recruit, manipulate and exploit victims and therefore places growing emphasis on awareness-raising and prevention activities addressing technology-facilitated THB. National efforts focus on strengthening digital literacy, online safety skills, the recognition of online recruitment and exploitation risks, and the ability of vulnerable persons and professionals to identify and respond to indicators of THB.

Children and young people constitute one of the primary target groups of these measures. Since September 2023, the national Life Skills General Programme has been implemented in schools and includes topics related to personal safety, online behaviour, critical thinking, manipulation, exploitation risks and help-seeking mechanisms. Pupils are taught to recognise misleading online contacts, deceptive offers, online grooming and other forms of manipulation that may facilitate THB or other forms of exploitation.

Lithuania also participates in the European Safer Internet initiative (*Draugiškas internetas*), which promotes online safety, media literacy, protection of personal data, prevention of cyberbullying and safe use of digital technologies. The initiative provides educational materials, awareness-raising activities and resources for children, parents and educators.

In the field of media and information literacy, the Ministry of Culture implements the national Media and Information Literacy Competence Development (MIRKT) Programme through public libraries. The programme addresses digital safety in the broader context of safe online behaviour, and learning materials are also disseminated through the MIRKT website. THB risks are not addressed as a separate topic within the programme.

In 2024, four animated awareness-raising videos were produced at the initiative of the Ministry of the Interior. The videos addressed trafficking for labour exploitation, sexual exploitation and criminal exploitation, while a separate video was specifically developed for school-age children. The campaign continued through social media dissemination in 2025 and is planned to continue in 2026.

SCRPAS regularly disseminates information through its website, social media platforms and public information campaigns on children's rights, online safety, sexual exploitation, THB and available support services.

Professionals working with children regularly participate in training programmes addressing exploitation risks, child protection, online safety and THB. In July 2025, SCRPAS organised specialised training for foster care centre staff on recognising recruitment attempts targeting children in online environments. The training, attended by 135 participants, was based on recommendations prepared by the Police Department, the National Crisis Management Centre and the State Security Department and focused on recognising online manipulation and recruitment techniques.

Technology-based information tools are also used to reach migrant communities and other vulnerable groups. The RIA developed the InfoDesk App, which provides information in up to 20 languages on human rights, protection from violence, THB, children's rights and available support services. The application is intended to ensure that third-country nationals and other vulnerable persons can access reliable information regardless of language barriers and are informed about available protection mechanisms.

The Employment Service and the Migration Department additionally use websites and electronic information platforms to disseminate information on THB, labour exploitation, safe recruitment, workers' rights and available assistance mechanisms. Information is available in several languages and targets groups identified as being particularly vulnerable to online recruitment schemes and deceptive employment offers.

National assessments indicate that social media, messaging applications, online advertisements and other digital platforms are increasingly used by traffickers. Awareness-raising campaigns, digital literacy programmes and technology-based information tools therefore serve as important preventive measures by helping children, parents, professionals, migrant workers and other vulnerable groups recognise risks and seek assistance before exploitation occurs.

17. How do you cooperate with ICT companies and Internet service providers, including content hosts and social media, in preventing THB?

Lithuania cooperates with ICT companies, hosting service providers and online platforms primarily through mechanisms established by Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 on a Single Market for Digital Services (Digital Services Act, DSA) and national legislation.

Under the DSA, there is no general obligation for intermediary service providers to monitor transmitted or stored information or actively seek facts indicating illegal activity. However, where THB-related online content constitutes illegal content under EU or national law, a number of reporting and enforcement mechanisms apply.

The Communications Regulatory Authority (RRT) operates the Internet Hotline “Švarus internetas” (*Clean Internet*), through which members of the public may report illegal or harmful online content. RRT examines received reports and cooperates with the police and other competent authorities where the reported material falls within their competence or may be related to criminal offences. Where the legal conditions are met, RRT may issue mandatory orders to hosting service providers established in Lithuania requiring the removal of illegal content or the disabling of access to such content.

The DSA requires hosting service providers to establish notice-and-action mechanisms enabling individuals and organisations to report allegedly illegal online content (Article 16 DSA). Notices submitted by designated trusted flaggers must be processed with priority and without undue delay (Article 22 DSA). Intermediary service providers are also required to comply with orders issued by competent judicial or administrative authorities to act against specific items of illegal content (Article 9 DSA).

Article 18 DSA requires hosting service providers that become aware of information giving rise to a suspicion that a criminal offence involving a threat to the life or safety of a person has taken place, is taking place or is likely to take place, to inform competent law-enforcement or judicial authorities and provide the relevant information available to them. Depending on the circumstances, this obligation may also apply in serious THB-related cases.

At national level, RRT and participating hosting service providers cooperate under the Memorandum on a Clean Internet Environment, which provides a voluntary framework for addressing prohibited online content. While the Memorandum is not specifically dedicated to THB, the mechanisms may also be used in relation to illegal online content associated with trafficking-related offences.

In its capacity as Lithuania’s Digital Services Coordinator (DSC), RRT also communicates with providers of intermediary services regarding compliance with their obligations under the DSA, including notice-and-action mechanisms and orders issued by competent judicial or administrative authorities. Where a relevant provider falls under the jurisdiction of another EU Member State, RRT may cooperate with the Digital Services Coordinator of that Member State and, where appropriate, with the European Commission through the cooperation mechanisms established by the DSA. These mechanisms are not specific to THB but may also be used where online services or content are connected with trafficking-related illegal activities. To date, RRT has not had to undertake significant THB-specific supervisory intervention under the DSA.

Under Lithuanian criminal law, online activities related to THB, including recruitment for exploitation, advertising of sexual exploitation or the organisation of trafficking activities, may

constitute criminal offences under Article 147 of the Criminal Code. Online dissemination of pornographic material related to the exploitation of trafficking victims may also give rise to criminal liability under Article 309 of the Criminal Code.

Where information received through the Internet Hotline, DSA mechanisms or police monitoring activities indicates that a person may be a victim of THB, law-enforcement authorities act in accordance with the national referral mechanism and the Recommendations on the Identification of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, the Specific Features of Pre-trial Investigations and Interinstitutional Cooperation. Potential victims are referred to specialised assistance providers to ensure protection and access to support services.

While the Ministry of Culture does not carry out specialised cooperation with ICT companies specifically aimed at preventing THB, it implements media, information and digital literacy measures, including the national MIRKT Programme delivered through public libraries through broader national initiatives that contribute to safer online behaviour and awareness of online risks.

18. How are policies and practices aimed at preventing THB informed by the experiences of victims and at-risk individuals?

Trafficking prevention policy and practice in Lithuania are informed not only by statistical data but also by the experience gained by law enforcement authorities, the SLI, non-governmental organisations and assistance providers through direct work with victims of THB and persons at risk. The analysis of actual cases helps to identify recruitment methods, forms of exploitation, circumstances in which vulnerability is abused, and obstacles preventing victims from recognising exploitation or seeking assistance.

Practical experience shows, for example, that foreign nationals do not always perceive themselves as victims of THB or forced labour and may regard their situation merely as a labour-rights violation. Victims may also be reluctant to contact authorities because of threats, dependence on employers, language barriers, insufficient knowledge of their rights or fear of losing their legal status in Lithuania. These insights are used to develop targeted prevention measures for jobseekers and migrants, prepare information in relevant languages, strengthen professional training and improve the early identification of exploitation indicators in high-risk sectors.

The Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for 2024-2026 includes both general public-awareness activities and targeted preventive measures aimed at specific risk groups, including Lithuanian and foreign nationals seeking employment and children growing up in residential care institutions. Public authorities and non-governmental organisations that work directly with victims and persons at risk participate in the implementation of these measures and contribute practical knowledge and experience.

Victim-centred approaches are reflected in the Recommendations on the Identification of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, the Specific Features of Pre-Trial Investigations and Interinstitutional Cooperation. The Recommendations recognise that victims may experience fear, shame, guilt or distrust of institutions, may avoid communication, refuse assistance, fail to identify themselves as victims, or be unable to provide a consistent account because of trauma. Accordingly, victim identification is not based solely on an individual's statement but on an assessment of the overall indicators, circumstances and experiences associated with the case.

The experiences of victims and at-risk groups also contribute directly to public-awareness activities. Prior to the development of preventive information campaigns, the Ministry of the Interior consulted the police, prosecutors, courts, labour-market supervisory authorities, non-governmental organisations and other entities working directly with victims to identify the recruitment and exploitation scenarios most frequently encountered in practice. Based on this information, four animated awareness-raising videos were produced covering forced labour, sexual exploitation,

exploitation for criminal activities and trafficking risks affecting children. The aim was to ensure that prevention materials reflected real-life recruitment methods, vulnerabilities and assistance needs rather than hypothetical situations. The videos were disseminated through social media channels in order to reach the broadest possible audience, including young people.

In addition, organisations providing assistance to victims use anonymised trafficking cases and victim experiences in professional training and awareness-raising activities. Analysis of anonymised cases helps practitioners better understand trafficking risks, vulnerabilities and indicators of exploitation and apply these lessons in their daily work. Anonymised victim stories are also used for public-awareness purposes, helping to illustrate the realities and consequences of THB while fully protecting victims' identities and privacy.

National assessments and practical experience have also contributed to the identification of emerging risks, including the increasing use of social media platforms, online advertisements and messaging applications for recruitment, as well as the growing vulnerability of migrant workers. These findings are reflected in prevention campaigns, awareness-raising measures and professional training activities aimed at reducing the risks of THB and improving the protection of vulnerable groups.

II. IDENTIFICATION OF VICTIMS AND PROTECTION OF THEIR RIGHTS (Articles 10, 11, 12, 14 and 16)

19. Among the victims of THB identified, were any subjected to exploitation on the basis of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity (LGBTI+: lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex), especially teenagers and young adults? If yes, did any of them report on police misconduct?

During the reporting period, Lithuanian authorities have not identified THB victims on the basis of officially recorded data specifically indicating exploitation linked to sexual orientation or gender identity. Likewise, the available information provided by competent authorities does not indicate any reported cases in which identified victims of THB alleged police misconduct related to their sexual orientation or gender identity.

The Recommendations on the Identification of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, the Specific Features of Pre-Trial Investigations and Interinstitutional Cooperation provide for an individualised assessment of vulnerability and support needs. Assistance measures are tailored to the particular circumstances of each victim and may include accommodation, psychological support, healthcare, legal assistance and social services.

Victim identification, assistance and protection measures are applied on the basis of individual needs and vulnerabilities and are available to all victims of THB without discrimination.

20. What specific measures are taken to ensure that trafficked persons who are migrant workers, including in an irregular situation, are identified as victims of THB and have access to the rights provided for in the Convention? Is there cooperation with specialised NGOs, trade unions, and employers to enhance the identification and protection of potential victims within these at-risk groups?

The identification of victims is guided by the Recommendations on the Identification of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, the Specific Features of Pre-Trial Investigations and Interinstitutional Cooperation. These Recommendations provide a common framework for labour inspectors, police officers, prosecutors, migration officials, social workers and other frontline professionals to recognise indicators of THB and assess vulnerability factors affecting migrant workers. Particular attention is given to situations involving employer dependency, confiscation of identity documents, language

barriers, restriction of movement, deception regarding working conditions, non-payment or unjustified reduction of wages, debt-related pressures, coercion, intimidation and other indicators associated with labour exploitation.

The SLI plays a key role in identifying potential victims among migrant workers. During workplace inspections, labour inspectors assess not only compliance with labour legislation but also indicators of THB and forced labour. Importantly, these assessments are carried out regardless of a worker's migration status. Since SLI's mandate is limited to labour-law supervision and does not include migration control functions, the fact that a migrant worker may be in an irregular situation does not prevent that person from being assessed as a potential victim of THB.

Where indicators of trafficking are identified, SLI inspectors complete a victim-identification form and transmit the collected information to the police or another competent pre-trial investigation authority. Based on the information received, the competent authority decides whether to initiate a pre-trial investigation and determines the victim's procedural status and access to protection measures. At the same time, SLI may notify specialised non-governmental organisations providing assistance to victims so that support can be organised without delay and in accordance with applicable data-protection requirements.

Specialised SLI prevention and control groups focusing on THB for labour exploitation have been operating in Vilnius since 2020 and in Kaunas since 2022. In 2025, these groups carried out 47 targeted inspections, completed six potential victim-identification forms and referred several cases to the police, resulting in the initiation of pre-trial investigations. Persons wishing to report possible cases of forced labour or THB may contact SLI through a dedicated e-mail address (priverstinisdarbas@vdi.lt) or by telephone, and such reports are processed as a matter of priority.

Victim identification is supported by close cooperation among the SLI, the Police Department, the Prosecutor General's Office, the Migration Department, the SBGS and other relevant institutions. This cooperation includes information exchange, coordinated inspections, joint prevention measures, victim identification activities and referrals to specialised assistance mechanisms.

Lithuania applies a victim-centred approach regardless of a person's migration status. Migrant workers identified as victims or presumed victims of THB may be referred to specialised assistance providers and granted access to assistance measures available under national legislation. Assistance is not limited to persons who have already been formally recognised as victims by a decision of a pre-trial investigation officer, prosecutor or court. Support may also be provided to persons who may have suffered THB, regardless of whether they wish to be formally recognised as victims or whether such recognition has already taken place.

Assistance financed by the MSSL is provided by the National Association against Trafficking in Human Beings. Support includes temporary accommodation, social services, counselling, mediation, legal assistance, psychological support, healthcare services, educational support, assistance during pre-trial investigations and court proceedings, support in obtaining personal documents, and assistance in finding employment and reintegration into society.

Specialised non-governmental organisations play an important role in victim identification and protection. The National Association against Trafficking in Human Beings cooperates with the SLI, the Police Department and other competent institutions to facilitate the identification of potential victims, including migrant workers in vulnerable situations. It also disseminates information on trafficking risks, available assistance and support services in languages and formats accessible to the persons concerned.

Trade unions and worker-representation structures contribute to prevention and early detection by informing workers of their labour rights, assisting workers in cases of labour-rights violations and drawing attention to exploitative practices. Although trade unions are not involved in every individual

trafficking case, they may contribute to the identification of labour exploitation situations and provide information that supports the planning of targeted inspections and preventive measures.

Information on labour rights, indicators of exploitation, complaint mechanisms and available assistance is disseminated through the SLI, the Employment Service, migration authorities, specialised NGOs and other institutions. These measures support self-identification by victims, facilitate access to assistance and strengthen protection for migrant workers, including those in irregular situations.

21. What measures are in place to encourage victims of THB to report their situation to the authorities and/or civil society organisations?

A key element of the national system is the availability of specialised assistance for victims and presumed victims of THB. Victims identified by competent authorities or referred through established cooperation mechanisms may receive accommodation, psychological support, social assistance, legal information and counselling, healthcare services and assistance with reintegration. Assistance is available irrespective of a victim's immediate participation in criminal proceedings.

The Recommendations on the Identification of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, the Specific Features of Pre-Trial Investigations and Interinstitutional Cooperation provide a framework for the early identification and referral of victims. During initial contacts, professionals are required to assess indicators of trafficking in a respectful and trauma-informed manner, communicate in a language understood by the person or with the assistance of an interpreter, and provide information on the victim's rights, confidentiality guarantees and available support services. Victims are informed that assistance may include safe accommodation, psychological, social, legal and medical support tailored to their individual needs.

Specialised non-governmental organisations play a particularly important role in encouraging reporting. Through outreach activities, counselling, psychosocial support and direct assistance, NGOs help victims understand their rights, available protection measures and options for reporting exploitation. Their involvement is especially important for foreign victims, migrant workers, children and other vulnerable groups who may distrust official institutions or fear negative consequences of reporting. With the victim's consent, information may be shared directly with specialised assistance providers, and persons may seek help not only from law-enforcement authorities but also from NGOs and other support organisations.

A comprehensive package of assistance is also provided by specialised support organisations, including psychological assistance, information on victims' rights and reporting procedures, and individualised support adapted to the circumstances and needs of each person. These measures are intended to create a safe and supportive environment in which victims can make an informed decision about whether and how to report their situation.

An important protection measure is the 30-day recovery and reflection period available to foreign nationals who may be victims of THB. During this period, victims may receive assistance, remain lawfully in Lithuania and make an informed decision about whether to cooperate with criminal proceedings. As a general rule, they are not required to actively participate in procedural actions, may not be compelled to provide evidence and are protected from unnecessary re-traumatisation. These safeguards help reduce fears related to removal, loss of legal status or other negative consequences and create safer conditions for reporting exploitation.

Victims and third parties may report suspected THB directly to the police, through the emergency number 112, via the ePolicija platform or through other legally established channels. Reports may also reach authorities through labour inspections, migration procedures, child-protection mechanisms or contacts with social and healthcare services.

For migrant workers and other foreign nationals, reporting is encouraged through multilingual information campaigns and information tools explaining labour rights, indicators of exploitation and

available assistance. The Migration Department, the Employment Service, SLI and RIA disseminate information in several languages and provide guidance on where and how to seek help.

Children are supported through dedicated child-protection mechanisms. SCRPAS, educational institutions and other child-protection actors provide information about children's rights, available support services and reporting options. Schools, child-protection services and awareness-raising initiatives seek to encourage children to disclose situations involving exploitation, abuse or trafficking and to seek assistance from trusted adults and competent authorities.

Police prevention activities also contribute to encouraging reporting. Community policing officers regularly provide information in municipalities, schools, training institutions and public events on the indicators of THB, common forms of exploitation, available assistance and reporting channels. In 2024, police officers organised 676 awareness-raising activities reaching 21,845 persons. In 2025, 518 activities reached 17,181 persons, while 328 activities involving 10,383 participants were organised in the first half of 2026. Police officers also actively disseminate preventive information through social media.

Awareness-raising campaigns implemented under the Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for 2024-2026 further contribute to reporting by increasing public awareness of trafficking, encouraging recognition of trafficking indicators and promoting available assistance mechanisms. In 2024, four animated awareness-raising videos addressing labour exploitation, sexual exploitation and criminal exploitation, including one specifically targeted at school-age children, were produced at the initiative of the Ministry of the Interior. The campaign continued through social media dissemination in 2025 and is planned to continue in 2026.

22. What specific measures are taken in your country to detect/identify and refer to assistance possible victims of THB at the borders? What measures are taken in your country to identify victims of THB during the examination of asylum applications and prior to the return of persons whose applications are rejected?

At the border, the SBGS conducts an initial assessment of foreign nationals encountered during border procedures, entry procedures and migration-related actions. Border officials are trained to recognise indicators of THB and other vulnerability factors and apply screening measures aimed at identifying persons who may require special protection. Particular attention is paid to signs of coercion, inconsistencies in travel circumstances, dependency on accompanying persons, indicators of exploitation and other circumstances that may suggest THB. During initial asylum interviews, officials may also ask specific questions relating to violence, sexual abuse, psychological abuse and exploitation that may indicate possible trafficking.

The identification of trafficking indicators forms part of a broader vulnerability assessment framework applied throughout migration procedures. Where indications of THB are identified, officials follow the Recommendations on the Identification of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, the Specific Features of Pre-Trial Investigations and Interinstitutional Cooperation. Potential victims may be referred to law-enforcement authorities, specialised assistance providers and other competent institutions for further assessment and support.

Within the asylum procedure, vulnerability assessments are conducted by the Migration Department. Applicants are interviewed and assessed for special procedural needs and vulnerability factors, including possible indicators of THB. Information gathered during interviews, personal contacts and subsequent procedural stages is used to identify persons who may require additional safeguards or protection measures. Where there are indications that an applicant may be a victim of THB, the person may be referred for further assessment and specialised assistance.

The RIA contributes to the identification of potential victims through screening, vulnerability assessments and medical examinations. The RIA ensures that vulnerable persons, including presumed

victims of THB and other foreigners with specific reception needs, receive appropriate assistance taking into account their physical and mental health. Medical personnel and psychologists participate in the early identification of potential victims during the screening process.

Special procedures are applied in cases involving children. Where a possible victim of THB is identified as a minor, the SCRPAS is informed immediately. SCRPAS organises an assessment of the child's situation and coordinates further assistance in cooperation with healthcare, education, social services and law-enforcement institutions. Measures include the appointment of appropriate representation, protection of the child's interests, safe accommodation, and access to medical, psychological, social and legal assistance, as well as referral to specialised non-governmental organisations.

Prior to the return of a person whose asylum application has been rejected, an individual assessment is carried out to determine whether legal or factual obstacles to return exist, including risks related to THB, re-exploitation or other vulnerability factors. Authorities assess family and social circumstances, information obtained during asylum and migration procedures, and any indicators suggesting that the person may be a victim or potential victim of THB. Decisions on return are taken on an individual basis in accordance with the principle of non-refoulement, international protection standards and national legislation.

Where there are reasonable grounds to believe that a person may be a victim or potential victim of THB, the person is referred to the competent authorities for formal identification and assistance procedures. If indicators of trafficking are identified during return procedures, the person's situation is reassessed, protection measures may be strengthened, and referral to specialised assistance organisations is ensured before any return decision is implemented.

Interinstitutional cooperation plays a central role throughout the process. The SBGS, the Migration Department, SCRPAS, the Police Department, prosecutors, the RIA, healthcare institutions and specialised non-governmental organisations cooperate in the identification, referral and protection of potential victims of THB during border, asylum and return procedures.

23. What measures are taken in your country to identify victims of THB in immigration detention centres and prisons?

In immigration detention and accommodation facilities managed by SBGS, foreign nationals are informed, both orally and in writing, about their rights, applicable procedures and available support mechanisms. Upon arrival, questionnaires are completed and individual interviews may be conducted, including questions relating to violence, sexual exploitation, psychological abuse and other experiences that may indicate THB or other forms of exploitation.

The identification process is supported by vulnerability assessments carried out during screening procedures. These assessments include psychological and medical evaluations and are aimed at identifying vulnerable persons, including presumed victims of THB. Foreign nationals are also provided with information on available assistance services, including contact details of non-governmental organisations assisting victims of THB, as well as information about UNHCR, the Seimas Ombudsmen's Office and the Lithuanian Red Cross.

To strengthen the capacity to detect trafficking cases at the border and in immigration detention facilities, SBGS personnel, including officers working at border check points, border guards carrying non-admission procedures, staff of the Foreigners Registration Centre, receive specialised training on THB, vulnerable persons and fundamental rights.

Where indicators of THB are identified, officials act in accordance with the Recommendations on the Identification of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, the Specific Features of Pre-Trial Investigations and Interinstitutional Cooperation. Potential victims may be referred to law-enforcement

authorities, specialised assistance providers and other competent institutions for further assessment, protection and support.

Within the prison system, the Lithuanian Prison Service does not apply a separate THB identification procedure specific to prisons. However, the identification of victims is carried out in accordance with national legislation, established procedures and interinstitutional recommendations.

A comprehensive range of measures is applied in prisons to identify possible victims of THB. Upon admission, prison officers and other professionals carry out an initial assessment, paying attention to indicators such as previous exploitation, dependency on other persons, signs of violence, fear, coercion, debt bondage or other forms of control. Psychologists, social workers, healthcare professionals and other specialists conduct individual confidential interviews during which information relating to possible experiences of exploitation or trafficking may emerge.

Prison staff receive training aimed at improving their ability to recognise trafficking indicators, identify potential victims and ensure an appropriate response. Where signs of THB are identified, cooperation is initiated with the police, prosecutors, specialised non-governmental organisations, the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (where relevant) and other competent institutions. Persons identified as potential victims are provided with access to psychological, social and legal assistance, and all information concerning possible victims is handled in accordance with confidentiality requirements in order to prevent re-traumatisation, stigmatisation or other adverse consequences.

The Lithuanian Prison Service identified 3 possible cases of THB in 2023, 9 in 2024 and 9 in 2025. In addition, the Pre-Trial Investigation Division of the Criminal Intelligence Directorate of the Lithuanian Prison Service initiated one pre-trial investigation in 2026 relating, inter alia, to an offence under Article 146(2) of the Criminal Code. The possible offence was reported by the victim.

The identification framework in immigration detention centres and prisons is supported by interinstitutional cooperation involving the SBGS, the Lithuanian Prison Service, law-enforcement authorities, prosecutors, healthcare professionals, social services and specialised non-governmental organisations. This cooperation facilitates information exchange, coordinated assessments and referrals to specialised assistance and protection mechanisms whenever indicators of THB are identified.

24. What services are available in your country to provide specific assistance to particularly vulnerable victims, such as:

a. persons with disabilities;

Victims of THB with disabilities receive assistance based on an individual assessment of their needs and circumstances. Under the Regulations for the Competition for Projects Providing Social Assistance to Persons Who Have Suffered or May Have Suffered from Human Trafficking, assistance must be tailored to the identified needs of each individual victim.

Available support may include temporary accommodation, social services, psychological support, healthcare services, legal assistance, educational support, assistance during pre-trial investigations and court proceedings, support in obtaining personal documents, assistance in finding employment and other forms of social support.

Children with disabilities who may have been affected by THB have access to specialised child-protection measures. Where specialised assistance is required, support may be provided through the Barnahus (Children's House) model, which offers comprehensive social, psychological and other assistance according to the child's individual needs.

In addition, within the framework of the deinstitutionalisation reform, supported decision-making and case-management services are available to persons with intellectual and psychosocial

disabilities. Such services may contribute to the prevention of exploitation and support victims during recovery, participation in legal proceedings and reintegration.

b. LGBTI+ persons;

Lithuania does not operate a separate assistance scheme specifically for LGBTI+ victims of THB. Assistance is provided on the basis of individual needs and in accordance with the principles of equality and non-discrimination.

Victims have access to the same state-funded specialised assistance services available to all victims of THB, including temporary accommodation, psychological support, healthcare services, legal assistance, social services, educational support, assistance during criminal proceedings and support for social and labour-market reintegration.

For children who may have experienced THB and require specialised assistance, services provided under the Barnahus model are available to all children, including LGBTQ+ children, and are organised according to the individual needs and best interests of the child.

c. victims with children;

Victims of THB who have children receive assistance based on an individual assessment of their own needs and the best interests of the child.

Available support may include temporary accommodation, social services, psychological support, healthcare services, legal assistance, educational support, assistance during pre-trial investigations and court proceedings, and support for recovery and reintegration.

Where a child may have been affected by THB, the SCRPAS organises an assessment of the child's situation and coordinates protection and assistance measures in cooperation with healthcare, education, social-service and law-enforcement institutions.

Where trafficking is linked to possible sexual violence against a child or where specialised assistance is required, multidisciplinary assistance may be provided through the Barnahus model. This includes social and psychological support, child-friendly participation in criminal proceedings, measures aimed at reducing the risk of re-traumatisation and long-term recommendations for overcoming traumatic experiences.

d. victims with severe mental and physical trauma;

Victims with severe mental or physical trauma receive assistance based on an individual assessment of their protection, healthcare and recovery needs.

Support may include temporary accommodation, psychological support, healthcare services, legal assistance, educational support, social services, transportation, assistance during pre-trial investigations and court proceedings, and support for recovery and reintegration.

Particular attention is given to ensuring access to healthcare services, including assistance in obtaining necessary medical treatment and medication where required.

For children who have experienced severe trauma, specialised multidisciplinary assistance may be provided through the Barnahus model, including psychological support, protection measures and long-term recommendations aimed at overcoming traumatic experiences and reducing the risk of re-traumatisation.

e. homeless persons;

Victims of THB who are homeless or at risk of homelessness may receive specialised assistance and social services based on an assessment of their individual needs.

Available measures may include temporary accommodation, overnight accommodation services, accommodation in independent living homes, accommodation in supported housing, intensive crisis intervention, psychosocial support, social counselling, legal assistance, healthcare-related support, provision of food, clothing and hygiene services, assistance with obtaining personal documents and support in accessing employment.

The objective of these measures is to restore the victim's independence, strengthen social ties and facilitate sustainable reintegration into society.

f. other.

Lithuania applies an individual-needs-based approach to assistance for all victims of THB, including particularly vulnerable victims belonging to other at-risk groups.

Under the Regulations for the Competition for Projects Providing Social Assistance to Persons Who Have Suffered or May Have Suffered from Human Trafficking, assistance is provided only after an assessment of the individual's specific needs has been carried out. Available services may include temporary accommodation, information and counselling, mediation and representation, provision of food, clothing and hygiene services, transportation, psychological support, healthcare services, legal assistance, educational support, assistance during criminal proceedings, support in obtaining personal documents, assistance in finding employment and other forms of support adapted to the individual circumstances of the victim.

Social services are provided in accordance with the principles of equality and non-discrimination, without distinction based on race, nationality, ethnic origin, religion, beliefs or other personal characteristics.

25. How do you support the (re)integration of victims of THB? What processes are in place in your country to provide assistance to victims of THB exploited abroad after their return?

Lithuania has a well-developed system of assistance and reintegration for victims of THB. The MSSL coordinates the provision of social assistance, promotes victims' integration into society and the labour market, and ensures the accessibility and coordination of support throughout the country. Each year, the MSSL allocates EUR 300,000 from the state budget to finance specialised assistance projects implemented by non-governmental organisations. Assistance is provided to all persons who have suffered or may have suffered from THB, including men, women and foreign nationals.

A key element of the reintegration process is individual case management. Assistance providers assess victims' needs and develop individual support plans covering housing, healthcare, employment, education, family-related issues, legal matters and social inclusion. The plans are regularly reviewed and adapted to the victim's evolving circumstances in order to ensure continuity of support and sustainable reintegration. Where vulnerability is identified, a social worker develops an individual assistance plan, monitors the person's psychosocial situation and updates the plan when new needs or circumstances are identified.

Victims may receive temporary accommodation, information, counselling, mediation, representation before public authorities, psychological support, healthcare services, legal assistance, educational support, assistance related to personal documentation, transportation, socio-cultural services and support during pre-trial investigations and court proceedings. NGOs also provide or

arrange emotional support during interviews with law-enforcement authorities and, where necessary, transportation to interviews and other procedural activities.

Psychological and psychosocial support constitute an essential component of reintegration assistance. Victims may experience trauma, anxiety, depression, social isolation, loss of trust and other long-term consequences of exploitation. Access to professional counselling and psychosocial services helps victims recover from these experiences and strengthens their resilience and capacity for independent living. Victims may also access healthcare services according to their individual needs, including physical healthcare, mental healthcare, specialist consultations, rehabilitation and addiction-related treatment where necessary. Cooperation between specialised assistance providers and healthcare institutions helps ensure continuity of care throughout the recovery process.

Economic empowerment and labour market integration form an important part of reintegration. Victims may be referred to the Employment Service for career counselling, vocational guidance, employment mediation, vocational training and other active labour market measures. The Employment Service also supports victims in developing job-search skills, preparing CVs and applications, preparing for job interviews and accessing subsidised employment, apprenticeship schemes and other labour-market integration measures. These services aim to strengthen victims' independence and reduce the risk of re-victimisation.

Non-governmental organisations contribute to reintegration through social-skills development activities and by encouraging volunteering and participation in community life. In practice, victims may be supported in finding employment, accessing vocational education and training, engaging in community activities and gaining practical work experience. Such activities help strengthen social and employment skills and facilitate gradual reintegration into society and the labour market.

Municipalities play an important role in reintegration by providing social services, housing-related support, financial assistance where applicable and access to community-based services. Cooperation between specialised assistance providers and municipalities helps ensure that victims can access support measures necessary for their long-term recovery and social inclusion.

Victims of trafficking who were exploited abroad and return to Lithuania are integrated into the national assistance system and may access the same specialised assistance, psychosocial support, legal aid, healthcare services and reintegration measures as other victims of THB. The type and duration of support are tailored to the individual needs, abilities and circumstances of each person.

The identification of victims abroad, the provision of assistance and support for their return to Lithuania are regulated by the Procedure approved by Order No. V-334 of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in its consolidated version in force since 24 January 2026. Lithuanian diplomatic missions and consular posts may identify victims or potential victims of THB abroad, provide assistance and, where necessary, grant material assistance for return to Lithuania.

Cooperation among law-enforcement authorities, specialised assistance providers, municipalities, healthcare institutions, the Employment Service, child-protection authorities and non-governmental organisations ensures continuity of assistance from identification through long-term reintegration.

26. If there is a provision in your country's law that provides for the possibility of issuing a residence permit owing to the victim's personal situation, how is this interpreted in practice? Please provide examples.

Article 40(1)(12) of the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens provides for the possibility of issuing or renewing a temporary residence permit to a foreign national who is or has been a victim of THB or illegal work and who cooperates with pre-trial investigation authorities, the prosecutor's office or the courts in combating THB, related offences or particularly exploitative working conditions.

In practice, the application of this provision is based on an individual assessment of the person's circumstances and protection needs. Such assessments are usually carried out through individual interviews conducted by specialists trained to work with vulnerable persons. The assessment takes into account the person's situation as a victim, the need for protection and the conditions established by law.

Where the legal conditions are met, the residence permit enables victims to remain lawfully in Lithuania while accessing assistance and protection measures and cooperating with the competent authorities.

27. What measures are in place to ensure that the identity, or details allowing the identification, of a child victim of trafficking are not made publicly known?

Lithuania protects the privacy and identity of child victims of THB through child-protection legislation, criminal-procedure safeguards, personal data-protection requirements and confidentiality obligations applicable to all institutions involved in child-protection and criminal proceedings.

The Law on the Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child establishes the child's right to privacy, protection of personal data and respect for dignity. These safeguards apply equally to child victims and presumed victims of THB.

Where a child victim comes to the attention of the SCRPAS, information concerning the child, including their situation, health, harm suffered and other personal circumstances, is processed in accordance with confidentiality and personal data-protection requirements. Information may be shared only with institutions and professionals whose involvement is necessary for the protection of the child, provision of assistance or implementation of legal procedures.

Criminal proceedings involving child victims are subject to additional safeguards. Lithuanian law provides for non-public pre-trial investigations, the possibility of holding closed court hearings, special procedures for interviewing children and the confidential processing of personal data. The identity of a child victim, or any information enabling their identification, may not be publicly disclosed. Courts may also anonymise personal details in criminal proceedings, ensuring that such information is available only to law-enforcement authorities and the court. These measures are intended to protect children from re-traumatisation, stigmatisation and risks to their safety.

The Recommendations on the Identification of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, the Specific Features of Pre-Trial Investigations and Interinstitutional Cooperation require responsible institutions to ensure the secure handling of information concerning victims, including child victims. Information obtained during identification, assessment and assistance procedures is used solely for the purposes of protection, assistance and investigation.

Professionals working with child victims, including child-rights specialists, social workers, psychologists, healthcare professionals, police officers, prosecutors and specialised assistance providers, are bound by professional confidentiality obligations and personal data-protection requirements. Training and guidance provided to these professionals emphasise child-sensitive approaches, confidentiality and the protection of children's rights throughout assistance and legal processes.

Protection of identity is further supported by the principle that public communications concerning individual cases must avoid disclosing names, photographs, addresses, educational institutions attended by the child or any other information that could directly or indirectly enable identification. All decisions concerning the child are guided by the principles of the best interests of the child, protection of privacy and respect for the child's dignity.

28. What measures are in place aimed at encouraging the media to protect the private life and identity of victims?

Lithuania protects the private life and identity of victims of THB through personal data protection requirements, confidentiality safeguards, criminal procedure rules and professional standards applicable to media activities.

Article 14 of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on the Provision of Information to the Public establishes the protection of private life and provides that information about a person's private life may, except in cases provided for by law, be published only with that person's consent.

The Lithuanian Code of Ethics in Providing Information to the Public provides that information about criminal offences must be collected and presented while seeking to avoid causing additional distress and suffering to the victim, and that data concerning a person who has been a victim of a criminal offence may not be published without that person's consent, except in cases provided for in the Code.

In addition, the Media Support Fund does not fund projects, activities or scholarships whose content violates the fundamental principles of the provision of information to the public or the requirements of legislation regulating the provision of information to the public.

Particular safeguards apply to child victims. The Law on the Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child establishes the child's right to privacy and protection from disclosure of information that could harm the child's interests, dignity or development. Public communications concerning child victims of trafficking avoid the publication of names, photographs, educational institutions attended by the child, addresses or other details that could directly or indirectly enable identification.

Information obtained during criminal investigations and court proceedings is protected in accordance with applicable legislation. Public authorities involved in trafficking cases are required to take account of victims' safety, privacy and protection needs when communicating information to the public.

Lithuania encourages responsible reporting through the broader framework of professional journalistic ethics and self-regulation. Media organisations and journalists are expected to respect human dignity, privacy and the rights of vulnerable persons when reporting on criminal cases and social issues. In practice, institutions cooperating with the media generally provide information in an anonymised form and avoid releasing details that could reveal a victim's identity.

The Office of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics contributes to the protection of privacy by monitoring compliance with standards governing the dissemination of information to the public and by examining complaints concerning possible violations of privacy and other rights.

Specialised assistance providers and child-protection authorities also play an important role in promoting victim-sensitive communication. Their cooperation with media representatives reinforces awareness that trafficking victims may experience trauma, fear and social stigma and that disclosure of identifying information can undermine recovery, safety and willingness to cooperate with authorities. Consequently, public communication concerning trafficking cases increasingly focuses on awareness-raising and prevention while avoiding details that could identify individual victims.

29. Have there been cases of diplomatic households (of your country's diplomats abroad and of foreign diplomats in your country) employing domestic staff in conditions which could be forced labour or human trafficking? If yes, how was the issue of diplomatic immunity addressed? How were the victims identified, assisted and protected?

During the reporting period, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Police Department have not identified any cases involving Lithuanian diplomatic households abroad or foreign diplomatic

households in Lithuania employing domestic staff in conditions that could amount to THB or forced labour. Consequently, no cases have arisen in which issues relating to diplomatic immunity had to be addressed in this context.

30. What specific steps are taken in your country to identify victims of THB amongst persons recruited and exploited by terrorist/armed groups?

Lithuania does not have a separate mechanism for identifying victims of THB specifically intended for persons recruited and exploited by terrorist or armed groups. Such persons are covered by the general victim-identification and referral system applicable to all victims and presumed victims of THB.

The identification of victims is carried out in accordance with the Recommendations on the Identification of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, the Specific Features of Pre-trial Investigations and Interinstitutional Cooperation. These Recommendations provide a common framework for assessing indicators of THB and vulnerabilities affecting adults and children.

War, armed conflicts, humanitarian crises and persecution are regarded as circumstances that may increase vulnerability to THB. When assessing a person's situation, competent authorities take into account indicators such as violence, threats, dependency, confiscation of documents, restrictions on freedom of movement and forced involvement in criminal activities. Particular attention is paid to children and unaccompanied foreign minors.

Officers of the SBGS assess persons encountered during border and migration procedures in accordance with established procedures and vulnerability-assessment mechanisms. Where potential indicators of THB are identified, competent authorities are informed, immediate assistance is provided and the person is referred for further assessment and specialised support through the national referral system.

31. Are there requirements in your country's legal framework for the detection and removal of THB-related Internet content, and what are the sanctions for non-compliance? Is there a code of conduct for providers? If a person is detected as a presumed victim of THB in the process, how is this person referred to assistance?

Lithuania applies the framework established by Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 on a Single Market for Digital Services (Digital Services Act, DSA) and relevant national legislation. The DSA does not impose a general obligation on intermediary service providers to monitor information that they transmit or store, nor to actively seek facts or circumstances indicating illegal activity. Accordingly, there is no general obligation to proactively detect THB related online content.

Nevertheless, where THB-related online content constitutes illegal content under applicable national or EU law, several reporting and enforcement mechanisms apply. Members of the public may report illegal or harmful online content through the Internet Hotline "Švarus internetas"²⁶ (Clean Internet). The Communications Regulatory Authority (RRT) examines reports received and cooperates with the police and other competent authorities where the reported material may fall within their competence.

Where the relevant legal conditions are met and the matter falls within its competence, RRT may issue mandatory orders to hosting service providers established in Lithuania requiring the removal of illegal content or the disabling of access to such content.

The DSA requires hosting service providers to establish notice-and-action mechanisms enabling individuals and entities to report allegedly illegal content (Article 16 DSA). Notices submitted by

²⁶ svarusinternetas.lt/en

designated trusted flaggers must be processed without undue delay and with priority (Article 22 DSA). Providers are also required to comply with orders issued by competent judicial or administrative authorities to act against specific items of illegal content or to provide information (Article 9 DSA).

Under Article 18 DSA, a hosting service provider that becomes aware of information giving rise to a suspicion that a criminal offence involving a threat to the life or safety of a person has taken place, is taking place or is likely to take place must promptly inform the competent law-enforcement or judicial authorities and provide the relevant information available to it. Depending on the circumstances, this obligation may also apply to serious trafficking-related offences.

Lithuanian criminal law provides additional safeguards. Where online activities involve recruitment for exploitation, organisation of THB or other trafficking-related conduct, criminal liability may arise under Article 147 of the Criminal Code. Where trafficking victims are exploited for the production and dissemination of pornographic material, criminal liability may also arise under Article 309 of the Criminal Code.

The DSA provides for voluntary EU-level codes of conduct aimed at addressing different categories of illegal content and systemic risks. However, there is currently no specific mandatory code of conduct dedicated exclusively to THB. At national level, the Memorandum on a Clean Internet Environment provides a voluntary framework for cooperation between RRT and participating hosting service providers in addressing prohibited online content, although it is not specific to THB.

Where information obtained through the Internet Hotline, DSA mechanisms or other monitoring activities indicates that a person may be a victim of THB, the information is transmitted to the competent authorities. Police officers act in accordance with the Recommendations on the Identification of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, the Specific Features of Pre-Trial Investigations and Interinstitutional Cooperation. Potential victims are referred through the national referral mechanism and informed of the possibility of receiving assistance from specialised non-governmental organisations and other support providers in accordance with the established victim-assistance framework.

III. INVESTIGATION, PROSECUTION, SANCTIONS AND MEASURES (Articles 4, 18, 19, 23, 24, 27, 28 and 30)

32. Is the abuse of a position of vulnerability part of the human trafficking offence in your country's law? How are the concepts of "vulnerability" and "abuse of a position of vulnerability" defined in law? Have they been subject to judicial interpretation? If yes, please provide relevant case-law.

Article 147(1) of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania explicitly provides that taking advantage of a victim's vulnerability constitutes one of the alternative means by which the offence of THB may be committed. Criminal liability applies where a person is recruited, transported, transferred, acquired, sold, purchased or otherwise controlled through, inter alia, physical violence, threats, deception, exploitation of dependence or vulnerability, for the purpose of exploitation.

The concept of vulnerability is further elaborated in the Recommendations on the Identification of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, Pre-Trial Investigation and Interinstitutional Cooperation, approved by the Prosecutor General, the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Social Security and Labour on 17 December 2015. The Recommendations define vulnerability as a situation in which a person has no real and acceptable alternative but to submit to the conditions imposed by a trafficker. Vulnerability may be indicated by severe financial hardship, being a child or minor, young age, mental health or behavioural disorders, a low level of education, lack of social skills, various forms of dependency (including alcohol or drug addiction), unlawful presence in a country, or other comparable circumstances.

According to the case-law of the Supreme Court of Lithuania, taking advantage of a person's vulnerability means making an exploitative offer to a person who, owing to difficult circumstances, is compelled to accept it. In criminal case No. 2K-34-654/2026, the Supreme Court summarised its case-law and held that taking advantage of a person's vulnerability means making an exploitative offer to a person who, owing to difficult circumstances, is compelled to accept it. Vulnerability exists where a person has no real or acceptable alternative but to accept such an offer or views acceptance as a means of escaping poverty or another difficult economic or social situation.

In criminal case No. 2K-258-788/2022, the Supreme Court referred to paragraph 83 of the Explanatory Report to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and clarified that vulnerability may arise from any situation of hardship in which a person has no real and acceptable alternative but to submit to exploitation. The Court further noted that vulnerability may be physical, psychological, emotional, family-related, social or economic in nature.

The Supreme Court has also emphasised that vulnerability often results from a combination of interrelated circumstances rather than a single factor and that a victim's consent does not exclude criminal liability where such consent has been obtained through the exploitation of vulnerability or dependence.

Relevant case-law includes:

- Supreme Court ruling in criminal case No. 2K-57-788/2022: victims were experiencing severe financial hardship, had no income, did not speak English and travelled to the United Kingdom expecting lawful employment and accommodation. The offender deliberately targeted persons in this situation, paid their travel costs, provided accommodation and created debt obligations. The Court found that the victims had no real alternative but to submit to the offender's control.
- Supreme Court ruling in criminal case No. 2K-7-73-511/2021: victims were not provided with the promised work abroad and accumulated debts for accommodation and subsistence. Because of their lack of language skills, financial resources and the artificially created debts, they became dependent on the offenders and were exploited for forced labour and the commission of criminal offences.
- Supreme Court ruling in criminal case No. 2K-93-628/2019: vulnerability was linked to the victims' young age, residence in a care institution, family difficulties, lack of income, immaturity and difficult social and financial circumstances, which impaired their ability to assess an offer to travel abroad for the purpose of committing thefts.
- Supreme Court ruling in criminal case No. 2K-214-976/2023: vulnerability arose from a combination of physical, emotional, social and economic factors, including narcotic drug dependence and inability to secure accommodation and means of subsistence. The offender knowingly exploited these circumstances, exercised financial control over the victim and used her to commit thefts abroad.

33. Is the special vulnerability of the victim considered as an aggravating factor for the offender's sentence?

Under Lithuanian law, a victim's dependence or vulnerability is not treated as a separate aggravating circumstance in THB cases. In accordance with Article 147 of the Criminal Code, taking advantage of a person's dependence or vulnerability constitutes one of the constituent elements of the offence of THB itself and forms part of the legal assessment of criminal liability.

Lithuanian criminal law is therefore structured in a way that allows vulnerability to be taken into account already at the stage of establishing the offence. The concept encompasses a broad range of circumstances, including age, disability, social and economic vulnerability, dependency and other factors that may increase a person's susceptibility to exploitation.

When determining the sentence, courts take into account all relevant circumstances of the particular case, including the victim's vulnerability and the manner in which it was exploited by the offender. As noted by the National Courts Administration, vulnerability may be reflected in the assessment of the gravity of the offence and in the individualisation of the sentence.

In addition, Article 60(1)(12) of the Criminal Code provides for a separate statutory aggravating circumstance where a criminal offence is committed with the aim of expressing hatred towards a group of persons or a person belonging to it on the grounds of age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, race, skin colour, nationality, language, origin, ethnic origin, social status, faith, religion, beliefs or views. Where the conditions established by law are met, this aggravating circumstance is taken into account when determining the punishment and its severity.

34. According to national case-law, what forms of vulnerability are mostly abused by offenders in human trafficking cases? Please provide specific examples that show how the concept of "abuse of a position of vulnerability" is used in practice. What are the challenges in its application? Is it sufficient to prove the existence of a position of vulnerability of the victim, or must it also be proven that the defendant knew or should have known of the victim's vulnerability, and intentionally manipulated the victim on this basis?

According to the case-law of the Supreme Court of Lithuania, a victim's vulnerability may be physical, psychological, emotional, family-related, social or economic in nature. In practice, the forms of vulnerability most frequently identified in THB cases include severe financial hardship, social exclusion, unemployment, debt, dependence on alcohol or narcotic substances, mental health disorders, young age, lack of language skills and other circumstances that significantly limit a person's ability to make free and informed choices.

The exploitation of a person's vulnerability as an element of the offence of THB is understood as making an exploitative offer to a person who, because of a difficult situation, is compelled to accept it. Abuse of vulnerability may be established where a person accepts such an offer as a means of escaping poverty or another difficult economic or social situation. This interpretation has been consistently applied in the case-law of the Supreme Court, including criminal cases No. 2K-290/2014, 2K-432/2014, 2K-173-693/2018 and 2K-288-648/2018.

The existence of vulnerability alone is not sufficient to establish criminal liability for THB. According to the case-law of the Supreme Court, reliable evidence must establish both the victim's vulnerability and the offender's abuse of that vulnerability. The abuse must be of a sufficiently serious nature and scope to negate the significance of the victim's consent. This principle was emphasised in criminal case No. 2K-258-788/2022.

In cases involving the exploitation of vulnerability, it must be established that the offender was aware of, or foresaw, the victim's difficult situation and deliberately took advantage of it. Whether vulnerability arises from psychological factors, alcohol or drug dependence, financial hardship or other circumstances, those circumstances must significantly limit the victim's ability to make free choices and provide the offender with an opportunity to manipulate the victim. This approach was reiterated in criminal cases No. 2K-7-73-511/2021 and 2K-34-654/2026.

When assessing the exploitation of vulnerability, courts evaluate not only the victim's personal circumstances but also the nature of the exploitation, its consequences and all other factors that led the victim to accept the offender's proposal. The fact that a difficult financial, social or other situation was not the sole reason for accepting the proposal does not in itself exclude the existence of abuse of vulnerability. This approach was confirmed in criminal cases No. 2K-172-788/2021 and 2K-57-788/2022.

Relevant examples from the case-law include:

- Criminal case No. 2K-57-788/2022: the victims were experiencing severe financial hardship, had no income, did not speak English and travelled abroad expecting lawful employment and accommodation. The offender deliberately targeted persons in these circumstances, paid their travel expenses, provided accommodation and created debt obligations. The Supreme Court found that the offender had anticipated that the victims would have no real alternative but to submit to his control.

- Criminal case No. 2K-7-73-511/2021: the victims were not provided with the promised work abroad. Instead, debts accumulated for accommodation and subsistence. Due to the lack of language skills, financial resources and artificially created debts, they became dependent on the offenders and were exploited for forced labour and the commission of criminal offences.

- Criminal case No. 2K-214-976/2023: the victim's vulnerability arose from a combination of physical, emotional, social and economic factors, including narcotic drug dependence and the inability to secure accommodation and means of subsistence. The offender knowingly exploited these circumstances and exercised financial control over the victim.

- Criminal case No. 2K-10-976/2026: the victim's vulnerability was established on the basis of a difficult financial situation, lack of accommodation and employment, outstanding debts, long-term dependence on narcotic and psychotropic substances and repeated treatment for addiction. The Court confirmed that these circumstances constituted vulnerability capable of being exploited within the meaning of Article 147 of the Criminal Code.

35. Is the concept of “abuse of a position of vulnerability” addressed in criminal justice training? Is there any specific guidance on applying this concept? Please provide copies of guidance and/or training materials that shed light on how this concept should be applied in practice.

Yes. The concept of “abuse of a position of vulnerability” is addressed in specialised training on THB provided to prosecutors, pre-trial investigation officers, judges and other criminal justice practitioners.

On 11 June 2026, the Prosecutor General's Office organised specialised training for prosecutors, prosecutor assistants, pre-trial investigation officers and representatives of the SBGS. The training covered the constituent elements of THB offences, investigation and qualification of THB cases, assessment of evidence and relevant case law of the Supreme Court of Lithuania. Although the training materials did not contain a separate section exclusively dedicated to the concept of “abuse of a position of vulnerability”, the concept was addressed as part of the constituent elements of the offence. The training referred to the abuse of a victim's dependence or vulnerability as a means of influencing the victim's will and explained that many victims come from socially vulnerable backgrounds, may have behavioural or health-related difficulties, or lack social skills, while emphasising that vulnerability may affect any person.

In addition, the National Courts Administration regularly organises training for judges dealing with THB cases. Between 2021 and 2026, judges participated in a series of specialised training activities covering THB, constituent elements of trafficking-related offences, interpretation of relevant criminal-law provisions and case law, as well as specific features of communication with victims and witnesses in trafficking cases.

Although there is no separate guidance document devoted exclusively to the concept of “abuse of a position of vulnerability”, the concept is addressed through specialised training materials and case-law analysis relating to the constituent elements of THB offences and the assessment of victims' vulnerability in practice.

36. What procedures and measures exist in your country to take into account the specific needs of vulnerable victims at the different stages of criminal proceedings?

Article 186¹ of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Republic of Lithuania provides for an assessment of the victim's special protection needs, which must be carried out no later than the victim's first interview. The results of this assessment are taken into account when organising criminal proceedings and deciding whether one or more procedural safeguards should be applied. The assessment is conducted in accordance with recommendations approved by the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Lithuania.

Victims of THB recognised as victims in criminal proceedings enjoy all rights afforded to victims under Lithuanian law. The Code of Criminal Procedure also provides additional procedural guarantees, including the possibility for victims to be represented by an authorised representative (Article 55 of the Code of Criminal Procedure) and to be accompanied by a person of their choice during criminal proceedings (Article 56¹ of the Code of Criminal Procedure).

Protection from criminal influence is regulated by the Law on the Protection of Participants in Criminal Proceedings and Criminal Intelligence, Officials of Justice and Law Enforcement Institutions from Criminal Influence. Witness anonymity may also be applied under the conditions established by the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The Recommendations on the Identification of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, the Specific Features of Pre-Trial Investigations and Interinstitutional Cooperation establish criteria for victim identification, regulate cooperation between competent authorities and specify particular features of pre-trial investigations in trafficking cases. They provide a framework for cooperation among law-enforcement authorities, the IOM Lithuania, non-governmental organisations and other relevant institutions in order to ensure timely identification of victims and access to assistance from the moment of identification.

Victims of THB may receive specialised assistance throughout criminal proceedings, including psychological support, social assistance, legal consultations and support during investigative and judicial procedures.

In addition, draft legislative amendments implementing Directive (EU) 2024/1712 have been submitted to the Seimas. The proposed amendments seek to strengthen the non-punishment principle by ensuring that victims of THB who were compelled to commit criminal offences as a consequence of their exploitation are not held criminally liable. A related draft amendment to the Code of Administrative Offences would likewise allow exemption from administrative liability where a person committed an administrative offence as a result of THB and has been recognised as a victim in criminal proceedings.

37. If you have criminalised the use of services of a victim of THB, how is this provision applied in practice? Please provide any relevant case-law.

Article 147²(1) of the Criminal Code criminalises the use of a person's forced labour or services. Criminal liability applies where a person uses another person's labour or services, including prostitution, knowing, or having and being able to know, that the person performs such labour or provides such services because violence, threats, deception or other means specified in Article 147 of the Criminal Code were used against that person for the purpose of exploitation.

Lithuanian courts have clarified that the offence is committed with direct intent. It must be established that the offender knew, or that circumstances demonstrate that the offender could and should have known, that the victim's will had been overborne through trafficking-related means. This interpretation was confirmed by the Supreme Court of Lithuania in criminal case No. 2K-9-689/2019.

The distinction between trafficking offences and the offence of using a person's forced labour or services has also been addressed in judicial practice. In criminal case No. 2K-288-648/2018, the Supreme Court held that persons who recruited victims and compelled them to provide pornographic services were organisers of THB and exploitation rather than third-party users of those services. Their conduct therefore fell within the scope of trafficking offences and was not additionally classified under Article 147²(1). The Court found that the financial benefit received constituted part of the trafficking and exploitation scheme itself.

The provision has also been applied in cases of labour exploitation. In criminal case No. 1-16-586/2025, the Klaipėda Regional Court convicted J. K.-N. and the agricultural company ŽŪB "Aviena ir ėriena" under Article 147²(1) for using the forced labour of a victim who had been brought to the company through deception and exploitation of vulnerability. The court found that the victim was required to perform agricultural work for the benefit of the company without an employment contract and under exploitative conditions, while the company benefited financially from his labour.

However, on 17 June 2026, in criminal case No. 2K-123-697/2026, the Supreme Court disagreed with the conclusions of the lower court and upheld the acquittal. The Court found that the facts established in the case did not demonstrate the essential elements of deception, exploitation of dependency or exploitation of vulnerability and, consequently, did not establish the elements of the offence of benefiting from another person's forced labour or services.

The available case-law indicates that Lithuanian courts apply Article 147²(1) restrictively and require clear evidence not only that the victim was subjected to exploitation, but also that the user of the labour or services knew, or could and should have known, that the labour or services were being provided as a result of trafficking-related coercion, deception, dependence or vulnerability.

38. What technology-based tools and initiatives exist in your country to support investigations and enhance prosecution of THB cases? What training is provided to law enforcement officials, prosecutors and judges on THB facilitated by information and communication technology (ICT)?

Lithuanian law-enforcement authorities use a range of digital tools, data-analysis methods, digital and communication devices, open-source intelligence and social-media monitoring to support investigations of THB. These measures assist in the collection and analysis of evidence and strengthen the investigation of trafficking-related offences, including cases involving digital evidence.

To strengthen victim-identification capacities and investigative effectiveness, 330 police officers improved their competences in 2025 on the timely and appropriate identification of victims of THB, including the consistent use of the victim-identification card across the country and across relevant sectors.

Under the Special Modules Qualification Development Programme *Prevention and Investigation of Trafficking in Human Beings*, police officers receive specialised training on trafficking prevention, investigations and victim-related issues. The module *Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings* was completed by 37 officers in 2024 and 20 officers in 2025. The module *Trafficking Investigation* was completed by 44 officers in 2024 and 6 officers in 2025. The module *Psychological and Psychosocial Aspects of Trafficking in Human Beings* was completed by 37 officers in 2024 and 16 officers in 2025.

The Criminal Intelligence Training Centre of the Lithuanian Criminal Police Bureau provides specialised training on financial and asset investigations. In 2024, seven training sessions on asset investigations in pre-trial investigations were attended by 91 police officers, including 10 officers working in organised crime units. In 2025, five such training sessions were attended by 74 officers. In the same year, four additional training sessions on asset investigations in criminal intelligence cases were attended by 58 officers.

Training on THB is also integrated into initial police education. In 2024, 150 trainees of the Lithuanian Police School attended training on THB under the programme module *The Most Vulnerable Persons and Their Rights through the Lens of Discrimination and Vulnerability*. In 2025, 153 trainees completed training under the Police Officer's Modular Vocational Training Programme, which included the identification of trafficking victims among asylum seekers, migrant workers and irregular migrants, communication with victims and the provision of assistance.

Lithuanian police officers also participate in international specialised training. In 2024, five officers attended CEPOL courses on THB, labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, child sexual exploitation and migrant smuggling. In 2025, one Lithuanian police representative attended CEPOL training on sexual exploitation and two representatives attended training on labour exploitation. In 2026, one police officer participated in specialised training on the identification of child trafficking victims and the provision of assistance.

Although the specialised training on THB organised by the Prosecutor General's Office in 2026 did not include a separate module dedicated specifically to ICT-facilitated trafficking, it included practical examples from the case-law of the Supreme Court of Lithuania demonstrating the use of electronic communications, including SMS messages, as evidence in trafficking and exploitation cases.

Representatives of the Prosecutor General's Office also participated in specialised national and international training on access to electronic evidence, including training on the United States Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) regime and access to electronic evidence, the SIRIUS seminar on electronic evidence, cybercrime investigations, Darknet investigations and cryptocurrency investigations. These activities strengthen prosecutors' capacity to investigate and prosecute cases involving digital evidence, including THB cases where relevant.

The National Courts Administration indicated that, during the reporting period, no specialised training was organised for judges on THB facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICT) or other technology-related aspects of trafficking.

39. In what ways, if any, does your country utilise provisions from the Council of Europe Cybercrime Convention (Budapest Convention) to fight THB? If not, why is that the case?

Lithuania makes use of the cooperation mechanisms established under the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention) in criminal investigations, including THB (THB) cases where international cooperation is required.

The Lithuanian Criminal Police Bureau operates a dedicated 24/7 contact point for requests submitted under the Budapest Convention framework. This unit handles requests for the urgent preservation of information pending the submission of a formal mutual legal assistance request and cooperates with foreign partners in various criminal investigations, including cases related to THB.

According to the Prosecutor General's Office, the Budapest Convention has been applied directly only in isolated cases. Matters relating to its practical implementation are generally handled by police authorities.

Part II – Country-specific follow-up questions

40. Please provide information on measures taken in your country in respect to the following recommendations made in GRETA's previous reports:

- ensure that legal assistance is provided as soon as there are reasonable grounds for believing that a person is a victim of trafficking;

Victims and presumed victims of THB have access to both primary and secondary state-guaranteed legal aid.

Primary legal aid is provided free of charge and is not linked to a person's procedural status in criminal proceedings. It enables individuals to obtain legal information and advice and to make informed decisions regarding their rights, reporting to law-enforcement authorities, compensation claims and other available remedies before the initiation of criminal proceedings and before formal victim status has been granted. This ensures access to legal assistance at an early stage, including where there are reasonable grounds to believe that a person may be a victim of THB.

Victims of THB who have been granted victim status in criminal proceedings are entitled to secondary state-guaranteed legal aid, including the preparation of procedural documents and legal representation during pre-trial investigations and court proceedings, irrespective of their income and assets.

Additional safeguards apply to children. Secondary legal aid may be provided to children who are presumed victims of offences against human liberty upon a request from the State Child Rights Protection Authority even before victim status has been formally granted in criminal proceedings.

Specialised NGOs assisting victims of THB also provide legal information and support at an early stage of identification and referral, complementing the state-guaranteed legal aid system.

According to data from the State Guaranteed Legal Aid Service, secondary legal aid was provided to six victims of THB in 2023, one victim in 2024 and six victims in 2025.

To strengthen the quality of legal representation, a specialised training framework for lawyers providing secondary state-guaranteed legal aid has been in place since 1 January 2024. Assistance to victims of THB is one of the priority training areas. In 2024, specialised training covering, inter alia, representation of victims in THB cases was completed by 39 lawyers within the state-guaranteed legal aid system and by three additional lawyers outside that system. In 2025, the list of priority training areas was expanded to include assistance to vulnerable participants in criminal proceedings.

- make the State compensation scheme effectively accessible to all victims of trafficking, irrespective of their nationality or residence status, and the outcome of the criminal proceedings;

Victims of THB may seek compensation through several legal mechanisms.

Article 109 of the Code of Criminal Procedure provides that a person who has suffered pecuniary or non-pecuniary damage as a result of a criminal offence may bring a civil claim in criminal proceedings against the suspect, the accused or other persons bearing material liability for the offence. The right to bring a civil claim is not conditional upon the formal granting of victim status in criminal proceedings.

In addition, victims of THB may apply for compensation under the Law on Compensation for Damage Caused by Violent Crimes. As THB is classified as a violent crime under Lithuanian law, victims of trafficking are eligible to use the compensation mechanism established by that Law, subject to the conditions laid down therein.

Lithuanian law also provides measures aimed at securing compensation claims. Temporary restriction of property rights and confiscation measures may be applied during criminal proceedings in order to secure civil claims. In practice, confiscated assets or funds recovered from offenders may be used to satisfy victims' claims.

Where compensation has been paid by the State under the Law on Compensation for Damage Caused by Violent Crimes, the State acquires a right of recourse against the person responsible for the damage.

The current compensation framework is based on the principle that the primary obligation to compensate damage remains with the offender. State compensation therefore complements, but does not replace, the offender's civil liability and obligation to compensate the victim.

- ensure that sufficient staff and resources are made available to the State Labour Inspectorate to increase their capacity to detect and identify victims of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, paying particular attention to at-risk sectors;

Since 2020, specialised control and prevention groups on THB for forced labour have been operating within the Vilnius Territorial Division of the SLI, and since 2022 within the Kaunas Territorial Division. The main tasks of these groups are to analyse potential trafficking cases, collect evidence, identify possible victims and refer information to pre-trial investigation authorities. The groups currently consist of four labour inspectors, two in each territorial division.

The competencies of labour inspectors are strengthened through specialised training. In 2025-2026, training was organised for labour inspectors and members of Labour Disputes Commissions on THB, labour exploitation, illegal work and the identification of possible victims. SLI specialists also participate in national and international training activities, conferences and seminars, enabling the exchange of experience and good practices with institutions from other countries.

SLI systematically targets inspections at sectors considered to be at the highest risk of labour exploitation, including construction, road freight transport, agriculture, manufacturing, accommodation and food service activities, as well as companies employing larger numbers of third-country nationals. During inspections, labour inspectors assess not only compliance with labour legislation but also possible indicators of THB and labour exploitation.

According to SLI's assessment, most GRETA recommendations falling within its competence have already been implemented. At the same time, SLI has indicated that additional human resources and funding would further strengthen its capacity by enabling a greater number of targeted inspections and the expansion of specialised prevention and detection activities relating to THB for labour exploitation.

- regulate recruitment and temporary work agencies to strengthen prevention of THB and labour exploitation;

In line with GRETA's recommendations, the SLI has strengthened its supervision of temporary employment agencies. In 2025 and 2026, targeted inspections of temporary employment agencies are being carried out, focusing on the legality of agency activities, compliance with obligations by temporary work users, employment contracts, wage payments, working and rest time records, occupational safety and health requirements, risks of illegal work, and possible indicators of labour exploitation and THB.

Amendments to the relevant legislation are being prepared in order to strengthen the criteria for inclusion in the list of temporary employment agencies, thereby enhancing oversight of their activities and reducing the risks of labour exploitation and THB.

The SLI also actively participates in international cooperation, including joint and coordinated inspections organised by the European Labour Authority (ELA), and regularly contributes to EMPACT activities aimed at combating THB and labour exploitation. These activities facilitate the identification of cross-border recruitment schemes, information exchange with labour inspectorates of other countries and the strengthening of joint prevention measures.

- guarantee the availability of appropriate and safe accommodation and assistance for all victims of THB, including men and foreign victims, irrespective of their residence status or their willingness to co-operate in the investigation or prosecution;

The Regulations for the Competition for Projects Providing Social Assistance to Persons Who Have Suffered or May Have Suffered from Trafficking in Human Beings, approved by the Minister of Social Security and Labour, explicitly provide for temporary accommodation and meals as eligible assistance measures for victims and presumed victims of THB. These services are provided irrespective of a person's gender, nationality or residence status. In addition, vulnerable persons assessed as requiring social services may receive accommodation in independent living homes, shelters, supported housing, temporary overnight accommodation and intensive crisis intervention services.

The MSSL annually finances specialised assistance for victims of THB through non-governmental organisations. The annual allocation amounts to EUR 300,000 and has remained unchanged over the past five years. This funding supports assistance to approximately 230-280 persons annually and includes safe accommodation, psychological and social support, legal counselling, labour-market integration measures and other forms of assistance. Lithuania does not currently operate a dedicated shelter exclusively for victims of THB; therefore, non-governmental organisations arrange safe accommodation according to victims' needs and circumstances. Assistance is available to all victims, including men, foreign nationals, third-country nationals and stateless persons, irrespective of their residence status, formal victim recognition or willingness to cooperate with law-enforcement authorities. The same funding framework also covers prevention activities, project administration and the operation of a helpline.

Despite these challenges, non-governmental organisations provide safe accommodation and comprehensive assistance tailored to the individual needs and circumstances of each victim. Assistance is available to all victims, including men and foreign nationals, regardless of whether they wish to cooperate with law-enforcement authorities.

In 2025, a total of 244 persons (129 men and 115 women) received assistance through the specialised assistance project, including 112 officially recognised victims and 132 presumed victims of THB. Beneficiaries included 48 nationals of non-European Union countries, while 87 persons had been subjected to exploitation outside Lithuania. A total of 18 persons were provided with temporary accommodation and 149 persons cooperated with law-enforcement authorities.

Among the beneficiaries, 87 persons were victims of forced labour, 75 were victims of sexual exploitation, 79 were victims of recruitment for criminal activities (including drug trafficking and theft), and 3 persons were victims of other forms of THB, including exploitation for begging, domestic servitude and involvement in fraudulent activities.

The largest number of beneficiaries received information and counselling services (247 persons), employment mediation and job-placement support (177 persons), legal assistance (133 persons), psychological support (123 persons) and social-skills development and maintenance services (69 persons). During the same year, 182 persons were successfully reintegrated into society and 162 entered the labour market.

- ensure that individualised assessments are undertaken prior to any forced returns in order to detect any victims of THB and refer them to assistance.

Before return decisions are taken, individual assessments are carried out in respect of third-country nationals in order to identify vulnerabilities, including indicators of THB. Decisions on return are taken on an individual basis and are preceded by an assessment of whether the person can be returned to the country of origin.

The SBGS carries out an individual assessment of the need for assistance for each foreign national. Victims of THB are recognised as a vulnerable group under the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens. Where indicators of THB or other protection needs are identified, the non-admission procedure is not applied, the person's legal status is reassessed and referral to appropriate assistance and protection mechanisms is ensured.

On 17 June 2026, the Commander of the SBGS approved the Order on the Assessment of a Foreign National and the Approval of the Model Decision on the Obligation to Return to the Foreign State from Which the Foreign National Came. Under this procedure, before a decision obliging a foreign national to return to the country from which they arrived is issued, an individual assessment of assistance needs must be carried out. Following such assessment, the foreign national must be informed of the reasons for the decision, available appeal procedures and humanitarian assistance.

NGOs and the IOM Lithuania provide assistance to vulnerable persons identified through these procedures, including persons who may be victims of THB.

41. Please provide information on developments in your country since GRETA's third evaluation report concerning:

- emerging trends of trafficking in human beings;

Emerging trends in THB since GRETA's third evaluation report indicate a significant increase in labour exploitation, particularly involving third-country nationals exploited in Lithuania. Exploitation for forced labour or services has become the predominant form of trafficking. In 2025, victims of forced labour accounted for 85% of all identified victims, compared to approximately 78% in 2024, while the number of identified victims increased from 18 to 69. Forced labour accounted for approximately 44% of all trafficking investigations conducted in 2025.

The sectors presenting the highest risks include road transport and logistics, construction, manufacturing and services. Greater attention is also being paid to agriculture and fisheries due to the increasing use of migrant labour, seasonal work, subcontracting arrangements and labour intermediaries. Recent assessments indicate that exploitation for labour and services continues to occur most frequently in the transport and construction sectors, while the risk of exploitation in agriculture and other industrial sectors is also increasing.

A shift has been observed from isolated cases of exploitation towards more organised and complex exploitation schemes. Recent cases increasingly involve third-country nationals who become dependent on employers or recruitment intermediaries, have limited language skills, lack social support networks and depend on employment-related residence arrangements. Exploitation is increasingly characterised by organised structures, the involvement of multiple natural and legal persons, cross-border elements and operations within the legitimate economy.

Recruitment methods have also changed. Victims are increasingly recruited through social media, dating platforms, messaging applications and online job advertisements using deceptive job offers and false personal relationships. Digital technologies are increasingly used to facilitate exploitation, while artificial intelligence tools may be used to create convincing false content and automate communication. Recruitment chains involving intermediaries, temporary work agencies, subcontractors and multiple legal entities make it more difficult to identify responsible persons and detect exploitation.

Migration processes and the consequences of Russia's war against Ukraine have increased vulnerabilities to trafficking. Foreign nationals are particularly exposed due to language barriers, limited knowledge of their rights, economic hardship and dependence on employers or intermediaries. Recent Overviews indicate that many victims are reluctant to seek assistance or report exploitation because

of concerns that the loss of employment could also result in the loss of their legal right to remain in Lithuania. Victims often perceive their situation as a labour-law dispute rather than exploitation and may refrain from contacting authorities for fear of losing employment or residence rights.

While labour exploitation has become the dominant form of trafficking, investigations conducted in 2024 and 2025 also identified exploitation for sexual services, exploitation for the commission of criminal offences, misappropriation of social benefits, exploitation for gathering forest products and exploitation in transport, construction and other labour-intensive sectors. Vulnerable groups identified in recent cases include minors, persons with disabilities or addictions, socially excluded persons and women subjected to sexual exploitation.

Recent assessments further indicate that THB increasingly relies on legal labour-migration channels, including recruitment agencies, subcontracting arrangements and worker-posting schemes. Foreign nationals subjected to labour exploitation often face difficulties in being formally recognised as victims of trafficking in human beings, as cases are sometimes treated primarily as labour-law violations. As a result, the actual scope of trafficking for labour exploitation may be larger than the number of formally identified victims suggests.

Overall, recent developments indicate a shift from isolated situations of social vulnerability towards more systematic exploitation models based on migratory and economic vulnerability, where dependence on employers, recruiters, residence arrangements or organisers becomes the principal mechanism of control. Cases increasingly involve larger numbers of victims and suspects, broader geographical scope, cross-border links and organised criminal structures, making detection and investigation more complex. At the same time, trafficking-related offences remain largely latent in nature, and some municipalities consider that future increases in identified cases may reflect improvements in victim identification and recognition rather than a corresponding increase in the actual prevalence of trafficking.

➤ the legislation and regulations relevant to action against THB;

Significant legislative and regulatory developments have been adopted since GRETA's previous evaluation. The Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for 2024-2026 was approved on 29 July 2024. In November 2024, following amendments to the Law on the Seimas Ombudspersons, the function of the National Rapporteur was transferred to the Seimas Ombudspersons. In April 2025, the institutional status of the Commission for the Coordination of the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings was strengthened through a Government Resolution revising its composition and placing it under the chairmanship of the Minister of the Interior.

In May 2026, amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens established at legislative level the recovery and reflection period for foreign victims of THB, their right to remain in Lithuania, receive assistance, work or engage in self-employment, as well as the grounds for terminating that period.

On 1 August 2026, the Recommendations on the Identification of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, the Specific Features of Pre-trial Investigations and Interinstitutional Cooperation were substantially revised and recast. The revised Recommendations establish guidance on victim identification, define the specific features of trafficking-related pre-trial investigations and regulate cooperation and information exchange between competent authorities, institutions, organisations and non-governmental organisations.

Draft legislative amendments implementing Directive (EU) 2024/1712, which amends Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, have been submitted to the Seimas. The proposed amendments to the Criminal Code would extend trafficking-related offences to include exploitation for surrogacy and the use of information and communication technologies in trafficking-related conduct. They would also strengthen the non-

punishment principle for victims compelled to commit offences as a result of their exploitation. Related amendments to the Code of Administrative Offences would provide for exemption from administrative liability in such cases.

Additional draft instruments under preparation include a Government Resolution establishing the procedure for granting and terminating a recovery and reflection period for foreign victims of THB, an Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for 2027-2029, and Methodological Recommendations for Pre-trial Investigation Officers and Prosecutors on the Investigation of Trafficking in Human Beings Offences.

- the institutional and policy framework for action against THB (co-ordinating bodies, specialised entities, national rapporteur or equivalent mechanism, involvement of civil society, public-private partnerships);

Since 1 January 2025, the functions of the National Rapporteur on trafficking in human beings have been carried out by the Office. This change followed amendments to the Law on the Seimas Ombudspersons adopted in 2024, which were intended to separate the functions of formulating, implementing and coordinating anti-trafficking policy from the independent monitoring of trafficking in human beings. Under the Law, the Office analyses and evaluates trafficking trends and anti-trafficking measures, collects and assesses statistical and other relevant information, prepares an annual review of the situation regarding THB in Lithuania, provides information to national and international stakeholders, and participates in the network of EU National Rapporteurs or Equivalent Mechanisms. Additional funding was allocated to support the implementation of this function.

The Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania continues to serve as the national coordinator for combating THB and is responsible for the development of state policy in this field.

In 2025, the Commission for the Coordination of the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings was reconstituted. The Commission is chaired by the Minister of the Interior and serves as the main interinstitutional coordination mechanism for anti-trafficking policy and measures. It coordinates the activities of state and municipal institutions, sets priorities for anti-trafficking action, contributes to the preparation and implementation of the Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and evaluates implementation results.

Lithuania has further strengthened the institutional framework for monitoring THB through amendments approved by Order No. 2V-6 of the Minister of the Interior of 13 January 2025. Under these amendments, the Information Technology and Communications Department under the Ministry of the Interior continues to collect and compile statistical information on offences under Articles 147, 147¹, 147² and 157 of the Criminal Code on the basis of the Departmental Register of Criminal Acts. The information is submitted annually to the Office in its capacity as National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, thereby supporting evidence-based policy making, monitoring and evaluation.

At local level, commissions for coordinating the fight against THB operate in a number of municipalities, supporting interinstitutional cooperation and implementation of anti-trafficking measures. However, the Overview noted that municipal coordination arrangements remain uneven. Commissions for coordinating anti-trafficking activities have been established in fewer than one third of municipalities, and only a limited number publicly report on their activities. In many municipalities, responsibility for trafficking-related issues is assigned to a single official who is also responsible for several other policy areas, including violence prevention, social assistance, equal opportunities and interinstitutional cooperation. The Overview concluded that this may limit the attention devoted to trafficking-related issues and suggests that the involvement of municipalities in addressing trafficking in human beings could be further strengthened.

- the current national strategy and/or action plan for combating trafficking in human beings (objectives, main activities, budget, bodies responsible for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of results);

The Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for 2024-2026 was approved by Order of the Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania on 29 July 2024. Its objective is to develop an effective response to THB in Lithuania. The Action Plan is structured around four priorities: strengthening the fight against trafficking through interinstitutional and international cooperation; enhancing the capacity of law-enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges to identify and investigate trafficking offences; improving the capacity of professionals to identify victims and refer them for assistance; and raising public awareness and strengthening prevention measures.

The Action Plan is implemented through 60 measures and actions. A total of 19 state institutions, bodies and organisations, as well as municipalities, participate in its implementation, which is coordinated by the Ministry of the Interior.

According to the interim evaluation carried out in the first quarter of 2026, implementation rates for the period 2024-2025 reached 65% for interinstitutional and international cooperation measures, 33% for capacity-building of law-enforcement authorities, prosecutors and judges, 81% for victim identification and referral measures, and 77% for prevention and awareness-raising activities. The final evaluation of the Action Plan is scheduled for the first quarter of 2027.

A new Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for 2027-2029 is currently under preparation.

- recent case-law concerning THB for different forms of exploitation.

Recent case-law demonstrates the continued application of THB provisions to different forms of exploitation, including labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, exploitation for criminal activities and child trafficking.

According to the Overview, courts examined 11 criminal cases concerning THB, exploitation for forced labour or services, and the purchase or sale of a child in 2025. Following these proceedings, 12 persons were convicted, including 11 natural persons (2 women and 9 men) and one legal entity. Convictions concerned sexual exploitation, exploitation for forced labour or services, and exploitation for the commission of criminal offences.

In criminal case No. 1-54-879/2025, the Panevėžys Regional Court examined a case involving an organised criminal group operating in Germany. The group recruited Lithuanian nationals through deceptive offers of lawful and well-paid employment and exploited them in the distribution of narcotic substances. The same group also controlled women involved in prostitution, organised their transportation, collected their earnings and managed their daily living arrangements. The court established that the offenders had exploited the victims' financial hardship, addictions and broader social vulnerability. The defendants were convicted of THB, exploitation for forced labour and profiting from the prostitution of another person.

In criminal case No. 1-207-876/2025, the Kaunas Regional Court convicted two persons of THB for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The offenders took advantage of the victim's disability, difficult financial situation and lack of social skills, systematically transporting her to rented premises where she provided sexual services while the offenders appropriated the proceeds.

Recent case-law has also addressed offences involving children. In criminal case No. 1-50-397/2025, the Kaunas Regional Court initially acquitted two defendants charged with purchasing a child for the purpose of unlawful adoption. Following an appeal by the prosecutor, the Lithuanian Court of Appeal overturned the acquittal and found the defendants guilty, concluding that the criminal

offence was completed when the agreement concerning the transfer of the child was concluded and payment was made.

The Supreme Court has continued to develop jurisprudence concerning labour exploitation. In criminal case No. 2K-165-976/2022, the Court found exploitation for forced labour where the victim was placed in a position of indebtedness, subjected to violence, locked in a basement and pressured to work off the debt and travel abroad for work. The Court concluded that these circumstances overbore the victim's will and constituted exploitation for forced labour.

The Supreme Court has also addressed trafficking for the purpose of criminal exploitation. In criminal case No. 2K-214-976/2023, a woman who was dependent on narcotic substances and was financially and socially vulnerable was controlled through the provision of accommodation, means of subsistence and narcotic substances and was exploited to commit thefts abroad. The Court held that the victim's lack of active resistance did not negate the constituent elements of THB.

Recent jurisprudence has also clarified the limits of the trafficking offence. In criminal case No. 2K-57-1073/2024, the Supreme Court held that social vulnerability, transportation abroad and an intention to appropriate part of a person's earnings were not, in themselves, sufficient to establish THB where no exploitation involving a sufficiently serious violation of human rights and human dignity had been proven.

The Overview notes that the relatively limited body of case-law concerning different forms of THB, particularly cases involving exploitation for forced labour and services, means that not all criteria for establishing THB and exploitation offences have been clearly and consistently developed. This may complicate the identification of THB and its differentiation from other criminal offences or labour-law violations. The Overview therefore highlights the importance of strengthening the expertise and specialisation of investigators, prosecutors and judges dealing with THB cases.

The Overview further notes that, under court decisions adopted in 2025, compensation for non-pecuniary damage awarded to victims ranged from EUR 500 to EUR 12,000, with most awards remaining at the lower end of this range. According to the Overview, low levels of compensation may discourage victims from reporting offences, cooperating with law-enforcement authorities and seeking justice.

Part III - Statistics on THB

42. Please provide the following statistics, per year starting with 2020, where available disaggregated as indicated below:

General note, data submitted by different institutions were not always fully consistent due to differences in data collection and interpretation practices, creating a risk of discrepancies in official statistics.

- Number of presumed victims and identified victims of THB in the sense of having been recognised by a state institution or mandated NGO as bearers of rights to services provided for by the Convention (with breakdown by sex, age, nationality, form of exploitation, internal or transnational trafficking, and body which identified them).

In 2024 police authorities identified and officially recognized 22 victims of human trafficking (20 men and 2 women) in pre-trial investigations (based on Article 147, 147¹ and 157 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania). Most victims, namely 19 men, were exploited for forced labour or services. One woman was exploited for forced labour and begging, one woman was sexually exploited, and one man was exploited for the commission of criminal offences. Twenty-one persons were exploited in Lithuania, while one Lithuanian national was exploited in Germany.

4 Lithuanian citizens (2 men (M), 2 women (F)), of whom:

- 1 (M) exploited for committing crimes - thefts, belongs to the age group 21-30;
- 1 (M) used for farm support work in the age group 41-50;
- 1 (F) in the provision of sexual services, in the age group 21-30;
- 1 (F) used for begging and harvesting forest goods in the age group 60+.

6 Uzbek nationals (men) exploited in the transport (logistics) sector, of whom:

- 1 in the age group 21-30;
- 3 in the age group 31-40 years;
- 1 in the age group 51-60;
- 1 – age n/a.

3 Ukrainian citizens (men) exploited in the transport (logistics) sector, of whom:

- 1 in the age group 21-30 years;

- 1 in the age group 31-40 years;
- 1 – age n/a.
- 2 Russian citizens (men) exploited in the transport (logistics) sector, classified in the age group 31-40 years.
- 3 Kyrgyz nationals (men) exploited in the transport (logistics) sector, of whom:
 - 1 in the age group 21-30
 - 1 in the age group 31-40
 - 1 in the age group 41-50
- 2 Tajik national (men) used in transport (logistics)
 - 1 in the age group 31-40
 - 1 in the age group 41-50
- 1 Belarusian (male) in the age group 51-60 years.
- 1 no citizenship (male) in the age group 31-40.

In 2025, police authorities identified and officially recognized 59 victims of human trafficking (12 women and 47 men) in pre-trial investigations:

- 6 Lithuanian citizens (5 men, 1 woman):
 - 1 man in the age group 21-30 years;
 - 1 woman for age group 31-40, (for soc allowances, forest goods);
 - 1 man – age group 60 and over – exploited for misappropriation of social benefits, collection of forest goods,
 - 1 man exploited for other work purposes, classified in the age group 51-60;
 - 2 minors for the removal of narcotic, psychotropic substances from the post office, classified in the age group 0-17 years.
- 13 Sri Lankan nationals (6 men, 7 women):
 - 6 men were exploited for work in the construction sector, of whom:
 - 2 belongs to the age group 41-50 years;

2 belongs to the age group 51-60 years;

1 belongs to the age group 21-30 years;

1 belongs to the age group 31-40 years;

7 women were exploited for work in companies, of whom:

2 belong to the age group 41-50 years;

3 belongs to the age group 31-40 years;

2 belongs to the age group 21-30 years.

7 Kyrgyz nationals (men):

1 in the construction sector, belonging to the age group 41-50 years;

1 in the transport sector: between 21 and 30 years of age;

4 in the transport sector, belonging to the age group 31-40 years;

1 in the transport sector, belonging to the age group 41-50 years.

2 Venezuelan nationals (women) in the age group 31-40 for the provision of sexual services.

3 Ukrainian citizens (men): used in the transport (logistics) sector, of whom:

1 belongs to the age group 21-30,

2 belongs to the age group 41-50.

7 Filipino nationals (6 Men, 1 woman):

6 men used for work in enterprises, of whom: 4 men belong to the age group 21-30 years; 2 men belong to the age group 31 to 40 years;

1 woman used for work in enterprises, classified in the age group 31-40 years.

3 Kazakhstan citizens (men):

2 age group 41-50 (1 for transport/logistics, 1 for construction);

1 belonging to the age group 31-40, used for work in the construction sector.

11 Uzbek citizens (10 men, 1 woman):

3 men in the transport/logistics sector, belong to the age group 31-40 years,

- 1 woman in the transport/logistics sector to the age group 41-50 years,
- 1 man in the transport/logistics sector to the age group 51-60 years;
- 2 men for work in enterprises, classified in the age group 41-50 years;
- 3 men in the construction sector, of whom belong to the age group 21-30,
- 1 man in the construction sector, belongs to the age group 31-40.

4 Tajik nationals (men):

- 1 man in the transport (logistics) sector belongs to the age group 21-30,
- 2 men in the transport (logistics) sector belong to age group 31-40
- 1 in the construction sector belonging to the age group 31-40.

2 Belarusian citizens (men): used in the transport (logistics) sector, of which 1 belongs to the age group 21-30, 1 belongs to the age group 41-50.

1 Mongolian national (male): used in the transport (logistics) sector, belonging to the age group 41-50 years.

Until 30 of June of 2026, police authorities identified and officially recognized 65 (22 women and 43 men) victims of human trafficking in pre-trial investigations:

4 Lithuanian citizens (men), of whom:

- 3 persons were used for farm work, of whom: 2 belong to the age group 41-50 years and 1 belongs 60+ age group;
- 1 person exploited for begging and belongs 51-60 age group.

1 Uzbek citizen (man) exploited in the transport sector, belonging to the age group 51-60.

57 Filipino nationals used for other jobs in companies, of whom:

20 women, of whom:

- 2 in age group 21-30 years;
- 10 belonging to the age group 31-40 years;
- 6 belonging to the age group 41-50 years;
- 2 belonging to the age group 51-60 years;

37 men of whom:

4 belonging to the age group 21-30 years;

16 belonging to the age group 31-40 years;

17 belonging to the age group 41-50 years.

2 Venezuelan women age group 21-30 years.

1 no citizenship male belongs 60+ age group.

- Number of victims of THB identified as part of the asylum procedure (disaggregated by sex, age, nationality, form of exploitation).

No victims of THB identified as part of the asylum procedure.

- Number of victims of THB who received assistance (disaggregated by sex, age, nationality, form of exploitation, internal or transnational trafficking).

Data	2020-2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 first half
Sex:						
Female	172	116	122	106	115	46
Male	211	122	158	133	129	39
Age:						
Up to 18 years	13	8	13	9	8	3
18-20 years	29	15	17	23	22	1
21-30 years	128	77	90	68	82	18
31-40 years	112	73	90	77	70	28
41-50 years	67	38	45	39	43	21
51-60 years	22	15	18	14	9	4

60 and above	12	9	7	9	10	10
Nationality:						
Lithuanian	370	189	218	200	187	71
Other:	43 (2 EU nationals; 41 non-EU nationals)	46 (44 non-EU nationals, 2 EU nationals)	62 (59 non-EU nationals; 3 EU nationals)	39 (4 EU nationals; 27 non-EU nationals; 1 person without nationality; 7 Ukrainian war refugees)	57 (3 EU nationals; 48 non-EU nationals; 6 Ukrainian war refugees)	14 (1 EU national; 13 non-EU nationals)
Form:						
Exploitation for begging	2	1		1	1	
Exploitation for domestic work	7	6	11	5	2	
Forced labour	167	103	101	88	87	28
Exploitation for criminal activities	104	73	81	79	79	28
Sexual exploitation	93	43	81	64	75	26
Other	10 (fictional marriage)	3 (fictional marriage)	6 (1 Organ removal; 5 fictional marriage)	2 (fictional marriage)		3 (Forced marriage)

Domestic / Cross-border trafficking						
Domestic	224	124	145	124	157	61
Cross-border	159	111	135	115	87	24
Persons receiving legal assistance	173	145	184	184	133	42

➤ Number of child victims of THB who were appointed legal guardians.

Year	Number of children in respect of whom possible indicators of human trafficking were identified and who, at that time, had an appointed guardian (carer)	Notes
2020*	1	
2021*	0	
2022*	64	Children whose guardianship (care) was established in Ukraine and who arrived in the Republic of Lithuania due to the war in Ukraine
2023	1	
2024	0	
2025	2	
2026	0	as of 20 July 2026

*Updated information. Following an additional review of the data provided in previous years and the harmonisation of data selection criteria, updated information is provided. Currently, statistics are presented based on a uniform criterion – counting children in respect of whom possible indicators of human trafficking were identified and who, at that time, had an appointed guardian (carer).

Note. The SCRPAS does not establish the official status of a child as a victim of human trafficking, as this falls within the competence of law enforcement and judicial authorities. Therefore, the SCRPAS does not collect statistical data on children officially recognised as victims of human trafficking. Taking this into account, the data provided in this response concern children for whom possible indicators of human trafficking were identified in accordance with the Recommendations and who, at that time, had an appointed guardian (carer).

- Number of victims of THB granted a recovery and reflection period (disaggregated by sex, age, nationality, form of exploitation).

No victims of THB were granted recovery and reflection period.

- Number of victims of THB granted a residence permit, with an indication of the type of the permit (for the purpose of co-operation in the investigation/proceedings, on personal grounds, other) and its duration (disaggregated by sex, age, nationality, form of exploitation).

Year	Type of residence permit	Total number of permits	Men	Women	Nationality breakdown
2024	Temporary residence permit issued to victims of THB cooperating with pre-trial investigation authorities or courts	5	n/a	n/a	Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan
2025	Temporary residence permit issued to victims of THB cooperating with pre-trial investigation authorities or courts	24	17	7	Kazakhstan (2), Tajikistan (4), Kyrgyzstan (2), Uzbekistan (3), Sri Lanka (10), Mongolia (1), Ukraine (1), Russian Federation (1)

Note: The Migration Department's available statistics relate to temporary residence permits issued to victims of THB who cooperated with pre-trial investigation authorities or courts. No statistical data are available concerning age, form of exploitation, duration of permits or residence permits issued on personal grounds.

- Number of persons given refugee status or subsidiary/complementary protection on the grounds of being victims of THB (disaggregated by sex, age, nationality, form of exploitation).

No statistical data

- Number of victims of THB who claimed compensation, who were granted compensation and who effectively received compensation (disaggregated by sex, age, nationality, form of exploitation, with an indication of whether the compensation was provided by the perpetrator or the State, and the amount awarded).

The State Guaranteed Legal Aid Service has acted as the administrator of the Fund for Victims of Crime since 1 January 2026. Therefore, the data provided below relate only to the period from that date onwards.

In 2026, the State Guaranteed Legal Aid Service did not receive any applications for State compensation from victims of THB. Accordingly, no State compensation was paid.

- Number of victims of THB who received another form of financial support from the State, with the indication of the amount received.

No statistical data

- Number of victims of THB who received free legal aid.

State-guaranteed free legal aid (State Guaranteed Legal Aid Service)

Year	Number of victims of THB who received state-guaranteed legal aid
2020	5
2021	13
2022	12
2023	6
2024	1
2025	6
2026	0

Legal assistance provided under the MSSL-funded project for victims of trafficking in human beings

Year	Number of persons who received legal assistance
2020-2021	173
2022	145
2023	184

2024	184
2025	133
First half of 2026	42

Additional information

In 2024, the IOM Lithuania provided legal consultations on integration, employment and other legal matters to 87 refugees from Ukraine considered to be at increased risk of THB due to their age or family circumstances. In 2025, similar consultations were provided to 295 refugees from Ukraine. These figures relate to persons at increased risk of THB and not to identified victims of THB.

- Number of victims of THB who were returned or repatriated to/from your country (disaggregated by sex, age, country of destination, form of exploitation).

The identification of victims of THB abroad, the provision of assistance to them, and the use of funds for victims returning to Lithuania and for trafficking prevention measures are regulated by the current consolidated version, valid from 24 January 2026, of the Description of the Procedure approved by Order No. V-334 of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania. In accordance with this procedure, Lithuanian diplomatic missions and consular posts identify victims of THB abroad, provide assistance to them and, where necessary, may grant free material assistance to victims returning to Lithuania.

Consular officers of the Republic of Lithuania identified and provided assistance to persons abroad who were victims or potential victims of trafficking in human beings:	Years					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total number of persons:	11	8	7	5	1	0
By sex:						
male	10	7	6	4	1	-
female	1	1	1	1	-	-
By age:						
Under 17 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
18–20 years	3	-	-	-	1	-

21–30 years	3	1	2	4	-	-
31–40 years	3	3	2	1	-	-
41–50 years	1	1	2	-	-	-
51–60 years	-	3	1	-	-	-
60 years and older	1	-	-	-	-	-
By form of exploitation:						
Labour exploitation / forced labour or services	10	5	5	5	1	-
Forced criminality / exploitation for criminal activities	1	3	2	-	-	-
Returned to Lithuania from	Not available	UK, ES, DE	UK, DK, DE	ES, UK, DE, SE	UK	-

Based on the provisions of the Law, a foreigner shall not be expelled from the Republic of Lithuania or returned to a foreign state if he/she has been granted a period of recovery and self-determination in accordance with the procedure specified this Law. Where the foreigner is allowed to remain in the Republic of Lithuania because he/she is or was a victim of human trafficking or illegal work and cooperates with the authorities of pre-trial investigation, the prosecutor's office and the court in combating human trafficking or crimes related to human trafficking or illegal work, when working in particularly exploitative working conditions or when working as a minor, he/she shall be issued a temporary residence permit based on the Article 40(1)(12) of the Law.

The statistical data of the residence permits issued to the foreigners on the basis of the Article 40(1)(12) are as follows:

		Number of documents				
		Temporary residence permits in the Republic of Lithuania				
Basis	Nationality	2021	2022	2024	2025	2026
Article 40(1)(12) of the Law	Belarus					1
	Philippines					7
	Kazakhstan				2	
	Kyrgyzstan				2	1

	Mongolia				1	
	Russia		1	2	1	1
	Tajikistan	1		1	4	1
	Ukraine				1	
	Uzbekistan			2	3	1
	Sri Lanka				10	4
Grand Total		1	1	5	24	16

- Number of investigations into THB cases (disaggregated by type of exploitation, with an indication of the number of victims concerned).

Criminal cases were initiated in 2024, 2025, and the first half of 2026 under Articles 147, 147¹, and 157 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania

Year	Total pre-trial investigations conducted	New investigations initiated	Forced labour / exploitation for labour or services	Sexual exploitation	Exploitation for criminal activities	Purchase or sale of a child	Use of a person's forced labour or services	Mixed forms of exploitation
2024	26	17	8	3	3	2	-	1
2025	37	13	18	-	-	5	1	-
2026 first half	4	4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Notes:

- In 2024, a total of 26 pre-trial investigations concerning THB-related offences were conducted. Of these, 17 investigations were initiated in 2024, including 8 concerning exploitation for forced labour or services, 3 concerning exploitations for criminal activities, 3 concerning sexual exploitation, 2 concerning the purchase or sale of a child and 1 concerning combined forms of exploitation (forced labour/services and begging).

- In 2025, a total of 37 pre-trial investigations concerning potential THB-related offences were conducted. Of these, 13 investigations were initiated in 2025. The investigations conducted included 24 cases concerning THB, 18 concerning exploitations for forced labour or services, 5 concerning the purchase or sale of a child and 1 concerning the use of a person's forced labour or services.

- The Office did not have data on the total number of victims concerned in these investigations.

➤ Number of prosecutions in THB cases (disaggregated by type of exploitation, with an indication of the number of victims and defendants concerned).

Criminal Offenses under Articles 147, 147 ¹ , and 157 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania	Criminal Offenses referred to Court	Sold Person	Bought person	Transferred person	Acquired person	Forced labour	Unlawfully forced person to perform a specific job	Cases referred to Court pre-trial investigation
2024								
2025	33	6	2	10	11	3	1	5
2026 first half	5	3		1		1		4

According to the information available to the Office, in 2024, no cases concerning THB were referred to the courts; consequently, there were no new prosecutions.

In 2025, 5 cases were referred to the courts, involving 38 defendants – 32 men and 6 women. One man was charged with sexual exploitation and exploitation for the commission of criminal offences; 1 man and 1 woman were charged with sexual exploitation; 2 men were charged with exploitation for forced labour; and 28 men and 5 women were charged with exploitation for the commission of criminal offences.

The exact number of victims involved in these cases is not known to the Office.

Number of individuals registered as suspects or charged with criminal offenses during 2024, 2025, and the first half of 2026, under the Articles 147, 147¹, and 157 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania

2025	Suspects or charged with criminal offenses	Men	Women	18- 30 years	31-40 years	41-50 years	51-60 years	61 year and older

Nationality:	28	26	2	14	8	5		1
Lithuanian	27	25	2	14	8	4		1
Belarusian	1	1				1		

2026 first half	Suspects or charged with criminal offenses	Men	Women	18- 30 years	31-40 years	41-50 years	51-60 years	61 year and older
Nationality:	5	4	1			2	3	
Lithuanian	4	3	1			2	2	
Russian	1	1					1	

Note. In 2024, there were no criminal offenses that were handed over to the court.

➤ Number of convicted perpetrators of THB (disaggregated by sex, age, nationality, form of exploitation).

	Persons	Nationality	Gender	Form of exploitation
2020	4	Lithuanian	4 Men	Forced labour; Recruitment and arranged transportation abroad for forced labour; Drug distribution, general maintenance, guarding work
2021	12	8 Lithuanian 4 not specified	2 Women 10 Men	Forced labour; Management of prostitution; Sham marriage; Criminal activities of children involving robberies; Drug distribution
2022	6	Lithuanian	3 Women 3 Men	Sham marriages; Criminal activities (thefts abroad); Narcotics transportation from 3 rd countries; Prostitution
2023	13	Lithuanian	1 Woman 12 Men	Criminal activities (thefts abroad); Recruitment and holding with intent to transport the person abroad and exploit that person for the unlawful appropriation of

				property; Narcotics transportation; Prostitution; falsely assuming criminal responsibility in exchange for remuneration and serving a sentence of imprisonment on behalf of another person
2024	16	9 Lithuanians 2 Ukrainians 5 not specified	4 Women 12 Men	Prostitution; Slavery; Criminal activities (thefts abroad); Recruitment of minors for prostitution or criminal activities
2025	11	Lithuanian	2 Women 9 Men	Prostitution; Forced labour involving distribution of narcotics; Criminal activities (thefts abroad); purchase or sale of a child
2026	1	Russian	1 Man	Forced labour

➤ Number of convictions for THB, with an indication of the form of exploitation, whether the victim was adult or child, the type and duration of the penalties, and whether they were effectively enforced or suspended.

Year	Convictions in total	Convictions by gender		Convictions by nationality				Convictions by age					Imposed sentences				Terms of fixed-term imprisonment			
		Men	Women	LT	UZ	UA	CZ	20-30 years	31-40 years	41-50 years	51-60 years	61 years and older	fixed-term imprisonment	fine	confiscation of property	restriction of liberty	up to 3 years	3 to 5 years	5 to 10 years	10 to 15 years
2020	14	14	0	14	0	0	0	3	7	3	1	0	11	4	0	0	0	4	6	1
2021	12	10	2	11	1	0	0	3	7	1	0	1	12	1	2	0	4	6	1	1
2022	6	3	3	6	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	0	3	2	1	2	1	0	1	1
2023	13	12	1	13	0	0	0	2	4	5	1	1	13	0	2	0	2	4	7	0
2024	17	14	3	12	0	2	3	2	4	10	1	0	15	0	3	2	3	8	4	0
2025	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0

➤ Number of judgments in THB cases resulting in the confiscation of assets.

Year	Number of seizures	Legal basis	Confiscated assets
2020	2	Case No 1: Article 72(2) CC ²⁷ Case No 2: Article 72(2) CC	Case No 1: Mobile phones, SIM cards and SIM card case Case No 2: EUR 72.90 in cash
2021	6	Case No 1: Art. 72(1) and (2) CC Case No 2: Art. 72 (2) and (5) CC Case No 3: Article 72 CC Case No 4: Article 72 CC Case No 5: Article 72(2) CC Case No 6: Art. 72(1)-3 CC	Case No 1: Confiscated as criminal assets: microwave oven, vacuum cleaner, two carpets, carpet, weight trainers and soft corner Case No 2: Confiscated from a criminal offence received EUR 3 788.46; EUR 52 945 of income from prostitution was recovered Case No 3: Samsung mobile phone with SIM card seized Case No 4: Three mobile phones seized as instrumentalities of criminal offences Case No 5: EUR 1 210 from one defendant and EUR 26 from another defendant were confiscated as funds derived from criminal offences Case No 6: The value of the property to be confiscated of EUR 30 has been recovered
2022	1	Case No 1: Article 72(2) CC	Case No 1: Nokia and iPhone X mobile phones seized as instrumentalities and a hard metal telescopic stick as a result of a criminal offence (for the other offences at issue in the case)
2023	1	Case No 1: Article 72(2) CC	Case No 1: EUR 4 000, EUR 3 000 and EUR 22 600 confiscated

²⁷ Criminal Code

Year	Number of seizures	Legal basis	Confiscated assets
2024	3	Case No 1: Article 72(2) CC Case No 2: Art. 67, 72 CC Case No 3: Article 94(1) and (2) of the CCP	Case No 1: Confiscation of EUR 4 150, EUR 6 055 and EUR 7 830 Case No 2: Confiscation of 50 euros Case No 3: Seizures of objects seized during a search (computer and communication equipment, bicycles, tools, vehicle parts, etc.) identified as instruments, means or results of criminal offences; false and falsified documents and metal table seized and destroyed
2025	1	Case No 1: Art. 72 (2) and (5) CC; Article 94 of the CCP ²⁸	Case No 1: the amount of money corresponding to the value of the property to be confiscated of EUR 700; confiscated prohibited psychotropic substances in circulation
2026	–	–	–

➤ Number of convictions of legal entities for THB.

In 2024, no legal entities were convicted of THB.

In 2025, 1 legal entity was convicted of exploitation for forced labour or services in the agricultural sector.

²⁸ Code of Criminal Procedure