FIFTH REPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
ON THE NON-ACCEPTED PROVISIONS OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER
(REVISED)

Reference period: 2021.01.01 – 2025.12.31

Vilnius
2026

Article 12, Paragraph 2

12.2 With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right to social security, the Parties undertake to maintain the social security system at a satisfactory level at least equal to that necessary for the ratification of the European Code of Social Security.

An updated analysis carried out in 2026 regarding compliance of Lithuanian legislation with the requirements of the European Code of Social Security (hereinafter – the Code), revealed that **Lithuania could comply with the requirements of the following parts of the Code:**

Part II – Medical care;

Lithuania's compulsory health insurance system provides a broad package of primary, outpatient, inpatient and emergency care, as well as reimbursements for pharmaceuticals. The system's universal coverage model and regulated patient fees indicate high structural compatibility with Part II requirements.

Part III – Sickness benefit;

Lithuania's sickness benefit scheme, administered through the State Social Insurance Fund Board under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, grants benefits from the first day of certified incapacity to work, with defined replacement rates and transparent qualification rules. The system ensures income security during temporary illness, meeting the Code's core conditions on duration, certification, and adequacy.

Minimum sickness benefit (2025 Q4 → valid until recalculation in 2026 Q1):

€276.45 per month; daily minimum €13.16.

Maximum sickness benefit (2025 Q4):

€2,947.85 per month for personal illness;

€3,132.15 per month when caring for a family member.

Sickness benefit amounts for 2026 Q1 will be recalculated based on an average monthly wage of €2,415.70.

Part VI – Employment injury benefit;

Lithuania maintains a dedicated employment injury insurance scheme that provides medical care, temporary incapacity benefits, lump-sum or periodic compensation for permanent loss of capacity, and survivor benefits. This structure aligns closely with Code standards for both benefit scope and coverage of insured persons.

Part VII – Family benefit;

Lithuania's universal child benefit, supplemented by targeted additional payments for low-income families or children with disabilities, matches the Code's requirement for broad, stable family benefits. The emphasis on universality and predictable periodic payments demonstrates clear compliance.

Universal Child Benefit, 2026

€129.50 per month per child.

Additional €76.20 per month for: large families (3+ children), low-income families, a child with a disability.

One-time birth grant, 2026

€814 one-time payment.

Part VIII – Maternity benefit;

Lithuania provides paid maternity leave with earnings-related maternity benefit, alongside guaranteed antenatal, perinatal, and postnatal healthcare through the national health system. The combination of cash and medical benefits corresponds closely to Code standards.

Maternity benefit level

77,58% of the claimant's compensated salary (earnings-related).

Minimum maternity benefit (2025 Q4 → until new recalculation)
€560 per month (minimum limit = 8 BSI).
Maximum maternity-related benefits
Specific maximum maternity benefit ceilings for 2026 are not listed.
Maximum childcare benefit (if chosen until the child reaches 18 months):
€2,850 per month (2025 Q4 value).
Maximum childcare benefit (if chosen until the child reaches 24 months):
€2,137.50 per month until the child reaches 12 months.
€1,425 per month until the child reaches 24 months.
Maximum benefit for two non-transferable months in the shared-leave model:
€3,705 per month.

However, **Lithuania still lacks compliance with the requirements of the following parts of the Code**:

Part IV – Unemployment benefit
Lithuania's unemployment insurance system provides meaningful support, however it does not fully meet the Code's minimum requirements in several areas:
1. The Code requires benefits to reach a minimum percentage of the standard wage. In Lithuania, the benefit consists of a fixed part plus a variable part, and for many low-wage workers does not fall below the Code's prescribed minima.
2. The Code requires benefits to last longer for insured persons meeting established qualifying conditions. Lithuania's fixed 9-month maximum duration is generally shorter than the standard required by the Code.
3. Not all categories of unemployed persons meeting the Code's definition are covered; some groups fall into gaps due to contribution or requirements of statutory regulations.
Unemployment benefit must replace at least 45% of the reference wage for a standard worker.
Lithuania (2025):
Fixed part: €241.54 per month (23.27% of MMW 2025)
Example total benefit:
For a worker with €1,038 (MMW brutto) insured income (€777.39 netto) → € 644.18 (netto)/ month for the first 3 months. This equals 83% replacement rate initially, after 6 months: benefit drops to €563.63 / month → 73%, last 3 months: replacement becomes lower €483.08 / month → 62%.
The duration of unemployment social insurance benefits is 9 months, while the Code requires longer support. For unemployed individuals who, on the last day of their unemployment insurance benefit period, have no more than 5 (five) years left until the statutory retirement age, the benefit payment is extended by an additional 2 (two) months.
In accordance with the best practices used in other EU countries, it is decided from 1 July 2026 to extend this entitlement period for unemployment social insurance benefit by additional 4 months for the pre-retirement age individuals.
Lithuania is close, however, not fully compliant with the Code's standards on adequacy, duration, and coverage.

Part V – Old-age benefit
Lithuania does not meet the Code for several reasons:
1. The minimum old-age pension remains below the income-replacement thresholds defined in the Code.
2. Although Lithuania indexes pensions annually, the Code demands indexation mechanisms that fully protect real purchasing power, which is not always the case under current rules.

3. Since 2022, the rule that a full basic pension is paid only to persons who have acquired the full required qualifying period has been abolished. From that year onward, the full basic pension amount is granted to all individuals who have acquired the minimum qualifying period. For those whose qualifying period exceeds the minimum threshold, the basic pension amount is proportionally increased.
Code requirement: a full old-age pension must equal at least 40% of the reference wage of a standard worker.
Lithuania (2026):
Average monthly wage used for calculations: €2,415.70
Required Code minimum pension:
40% × €2,415.70 = €966.28
Lithuania's actual 2026 pension figures (baseline values are lower, depending on contribution history):
Minimum old-age pension (data from prior 2025 indexing) remains well below €966.
Although exact 2026 minimum values are not in the search tool data, current maxima for related benefits indicate the gap.
Pension amounts and statutory conditions fall short of the Code's minimum standards.
Part IX – Invalidity benefit
Lithuania's system does not fully comply because:
1. Invalidity pensions, especially for individuals with low contribution histories, are below the replacement-rate standards set by the Code.
2. Lithuania uses a capacity-for-work percentage model, which remains only partially aligned with the Code's definition of invalidity. Even after the 2024 disability assessment reform, Lithuania continues to apply a functioning-based and percentage-based assessment rather than evaluating substantial loss of earning capacity, which is the central criterion under the Code.
3. Some persons with partial incapacity receive very low or no benefit, which is inconsistent with the Code's minimum-protection approach.
Code requirement: invalidity benefits must match at least 50% of the reference wage for a standard worker.
Lithuania (2026):
Using average monthly wage €2,415.70:
Required Code minimum:
50% × €2,415.70 = €1,207.85
Actual invalidity payments in Lithuania vary, but many fall far below €1,200, especially for persons with incomplete insurance records or partial capacity.
A concrete comparable data point:
Minimum sickness benefit (a relevant proxy for temporary incapacity): €276.45 per month – only 11% of average monthly wage.
Maximum sickness benefit: €2,947.85, but this applies only to high-income earners.
Invalidity benefits therefore do not reach the Code's minimum 50% wage replacement requirement.
Lithuania does not meet the Code's minimum adequacy and coverage conditions for invalidity protection.
Part X – Survivors' benefit
Lithuania falls short because:
1. Survivor benefits, especially for widows/widowers with no or low contribution rights of their own, are below Code adequacy thresholds.
2. The Code requires broad coverage of dependants. Lithuania's eligibility rules for surviving spouses and children are more restrictive than the Code's model coverage.
3. Survivor benefits often do not reach the required percentage of the deceased worker's reference earnings.
Code requirement: survivors' benefits must equal at least 40% of the deceased worker's reference wage.
Lithuania (2026):

With average monthly wage = €2,415.70, required Code minimum is:
40% × €2,415.70 = €966.28
Actual survivors' pensions in Lithuania are far below this figure due to:

- low minimum pension amounts,
- strict contribution-based calculations,
- partial benefits for spouses and children.

Article 13, Paragraph 4

13.4 With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right to social and medical assistance, the Parties undertake to apply the provisions referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this article on an equal footing with their nationals to nationals of other Contracting Parties lawfully within their territories, in accordance with their obligations under the European Convention on Social and Medical Assistance, signed at Paris on 11th December 1953.

Cash Social Assistance for Low-Income Residents

The Law on Cash Social Assistance for Poor Residents[1] provides support to families and single individuals who lack sufficient means for living and whose income and property fall below legally established thresholds. Eligibility for assistance extends to foreign nationals holding a European Union long-term resident's residence permit issued by the Republic of Lithuania, as well as to citizens of European Union Member States or Member States of the European Free Trade Association belonging to the European Economic Area, and their family members, provided they have been issued documents confirming their right to reside in the Republic of Lithuania and have lived in Lithuania for at least three months. The three-month residence requirement does not apply to workers, including self-employed persons, and their family members from these states. Assistance is also available to foreign nationals who have been granted asylum or temporary protection in the Republic of Lithuania, as well as to citizens of Australia, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea, and their family members, who hold temporary residence permits in Lithuania and have been residing in the country for at least three months. For workers and self-employed persons from these states, and their family members, the three-month residence requirement likewise does not apply.

Cash social assistance includes two main forms of support: social assistance allowance, and compensation for housing heating, drinking water, and hot water costs[2]. Social Assistance Allowance is granted when a person's monthly income falls below the threshold defined in law. It is calculated based on the gap between an income norm (State supported income (SSI) -based) and the household's actual income. A person may receive social assistance if their monthly income does not exceed €256.3 (1.1 SSI) from 1 January 2026.

<u>For a single person</u>
When benefit is paid up to 6 months:
1.4 SSI = €326.2 minus monthly income.
When benefit is paid 6–12 months:
1.2 SSI = €279.6 minus monthly income.
When benefit is paid after 12 months:
1.1 SSI = €256.3 minus monthly income.

<u>For a family (per member)</u>
First family member:
Difference between 1.1 SSI = €256.3 and average income per member.

[1] https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.3EEE59417F13/asr?csrt=1824262885965993180
[2] https://socmin.lrv.lt/lt/veiklos-sritys/seima-ir-vaikai/socialine-parama-seimoms-ir-vaikams/pinigine-socialine-parama-nepasiturintiems-gyventojams-socialine-pasalpa-busto-sildymo-geriamojo-ir-karsto-vandens-islaidu-kompensacijos/

Second family member:
90% of the difference → €230.67.
Third and each next family member:
70% of the difference → €179.41.

Eligible low-income foreign nationals can receive compensation for heating expenses, drinking water expenses, and hot water expenses. These compensations are granted when the household's income does not exceed the income threshold and after evaluating the household's property. The compensation equals the difference between actual household utility expenses and the state-defined norms.

Importantly, people who do not qualify for state-funded support under national law such as some categories of temporary residents may apply to municipalities. They retain the authority to provide cash social assistance from local budgets to legally residing foreign nationals.

Family and Child Benefits

The Law on Benefits for Children[3] applies to foreigners who have a European Union long-term resident's residence permit issued by the Republic of Lithuania; foreigners who have been appointed as guardians (custodians) of a child who is a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania or of a foreign child whose guardianship (custody) has been established in the Republic of Lithuania or whose guardianship (custody) arrangements have been taken over by a competent institution of the Republic of Lithuania, and to foreign children whose guardianship (custody) has been established in the Republic of Lithuania or whose guardianship (custody) arrangements have been taken over by a competent institution of the Republic of Lithuania; foreigners who have been issued a temporary residence permit in the Republic of Lithuania for the purpose of taking up employment in the Republic of Lithuania requiring high professional qualifications; foreigners who have been issued a temporary residence permit and have been permitted to work in the Republic of Lithuania and who are working in the Republic of Lithuania or have worked for a period of no less than six months and are registered with the Employment Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania as unemployed, except for foreigners who have been admitted to Lithuania for the purpose of studies; persons to whom this Law must be applied pursuant to the European Union regulations on the coordination of social security systems; citizens of a European Union Member State or a Member State of the European Free Trade Association belonging to the European Economic Area and their family members, who have been issued documents confirming the right to reside in the Republic of Lithuania, and who have been residing in the Republic of Lithuania for at least three months, with the requirement of at least three months' residence not applying to workers (including self-employed persons) and their family members; foreigners who have been issued a temporary residence permit as intra-corporate transferees for a period of not less than nine months; foreigners who have been granted asylum or temporary protection in the Republic of Lithuania; and citizens of Australia, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea, and their family members, who have been issued temporary residence permits in the Republic of Lithuania and who have been residing in the Republic of Lithuania for at least three months, with the requirement of at least three months' residence not applying to workers (including self-employed persons) and their family members.

[3] https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.1DEDD43B92AE/asr?csrt=18326630639538524435

Foreign nationals who meet any of the listed residence or protection criteria may receive all benefits defined in the law, including universal and monthly benefits (child benefit, supplemented child benefit for large families, low-income families, or children with disabilities, benefit for multiple births, benefit for a child of a conscript or professional soldier); one-time benefits (childbirth benefit, benefit for a pregnant woman, settlement benefit for guardianship or adoption); guardian/custodian-related benefits (guardianship (custody) benefit, targeted supplement to the guardianship benefit, temporary guardianship benefit, one-time settling-in benefit after establishing guardianship or adoption); childcare-related benefits (benefit for the care of a child of a student or pupil, childcare compensatory benefit)[4].

The system of child benefits is linked to the amount of the Basic Social Benefit (BSB), which is indexed annually by the Government. As of 1 January 2026, the BSB has increased to EUR 74, which results in an automatic increase in all benefits paid under the Law on Benefits for Children.
The universal child benefit will amount to EUR 129.5 per month for each child in 2026. Large families, low-income families, and families raising a child with a disability receive an increased benefit – together with the additional part, the total benefit reaches EUR 205.7 per month.
The one-off benefit at the birth of a child is also increased. As of 1 January 2026, it amounts to EUR 814, and from 1 June 2026 it will rise to EUR 1036, reflecting the state's commitment to provide stronger support to families upon childbirth.

Other child-related benefits set out in the law are also increased. The one-off benefit for a pregnant woman amounts to EUR 475.85, and the benefit for the birth of twins (or more children at once) amounts to EUR 296. The child maintenance benefit (when parents do not pay child support) is EUR 133.20 from 1 January 2026 and will increase to EUR 185 from 1 July 2026.

Special benefits are also increased. The benefit for the child of a compulsory military service conscript is EUR 111 per month, while the benefit for the care of the child of a student or pupil is EUR 444 per month. The benefit upon adoption amounts to EUR 592. Guardianship (custody) benefits in 2026 will range from EUR 384.8 to 481 per month depending on the child's age, and the guardianship supplement will amount to EUR 296.

In addition, the one-off benefit for settling-in for guardians or adoptive parents has significantly increased to EUR 5550 in 2026.

These changes reflect the state's continuous efforts to improve the financial situation of families, strengthen the social protection system, and ensure support for all children, regardless of their parents' citizenship or origin.

EU social security coordination rules (Regulations 883/2004, 987/2009, and 1231/2010) apply in Lithuania, ensuring that EU/EEA/Swiss citizens and eligible third-country nationals legally residing in the EU retain access to cross-border social security rights, including healthcare reimbursement through the Compulsory Health Insurance Fund.

[4] https://socmin.lrv.lt/lt/veiklos-sritys/seima-ir-vaikai/socialine-parama-seimoms-ir-vaikams/

Social Assistance for Schoolchildren

The Law on Social Assistance for Pupils[5] governs support for schoolchildren. When family income is below 1.5 SSI, children are entitled to free lunch, free breakfast in exceptional cases, and financial assistance for school supplies amounting to 2 BSB. In addition, Lithuania maintains the universal provision introduced in 2020–2021: all children attending pre-primary education and grades 1–2 receive free lunch regardless of family income.

Funeral Grant

According to *the Law on Assistance in the Case of Death*[6], foreign nationals may receive assistance in the Republic of Lithuania when they fall within the categories defined in national legislation. Eligibility includes foreigners who were residing in Lithuania and held a European Union long-term residence permit issued by the Republic of Lithuania, as well as those granted a temporary residence permit for highly qualified employment in Lithuania. Assistance is also available to foreigners who had been granted asylum or temporary protection in Lithuania, in line with national and EU-level obligations.
Support is further extended to individuals to whom Lithuanian law must apply in accordance with European Union social security coordination regulations, ensuring equal treatment for mobile persons covered by EU norms. Foreigners residing in Lithuania with a temporary residence permit and permission to work, who at the time of death were employed in Lithuania or had previously worked for at least six months and were registered with the Employment Service as unemployed, are also included.
Eligibility covers citizens of EU Member States and EEA EFTA States, as well as their family members, who possessed documents confirming or granting the right to reside in Lithuania. In addition, assistance extends to foreigners residing in Lithuania who had been issued permits for seasonal work, for intra-corporate transfers, or who were citizens of Australia, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, New Zealand or South Korea, along with their family members, provided they held a temporary residence permit. The funeral benefit amounts to 8 basic social benefit units. The amount of the funeral benefit is calculated on the basis of the basic social benefit valid in the month in which the right to the funeral benefit arose. In 2026, the funeral benefit in Lithuania amounts to €592.

Medical assistance

According to Article 49 of *the Health System Law*[7], all residents of Lithuania regardless of their place of residence, citizenship, or compulsory health insurance status as well as asylum seekers and irregular migrants, have the right to receive emergency medical assistance and necessary medical care services. Foreign nationals who live and work in the Republic of Lithuania and their family members are entitled to participate in the compulsory health insurance (hereinafter – CHI) system under the same conditions as citizens of the Republic of Lithuania. For example, the State covers CHI contributions for their underage family members using the State budget. Foreigners residing in the Republic of Lithuania on the basis of a visa may receive healthcare services according to their private insurance policy.

[5] https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.915C6D6EB2A5/asr?csrt=18326630639538524435
[6] https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/it/legalAct/TAR.12977CB93B03/asr?csrt=858602587435415855
[7] https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.E2B2957B9182

Article 18, Paragraph 2

Article 18 The right to engage in a gainful occupation in the territory of other Parties
The nationals of any one of the Parties have the right to engage in any gainful occupation in the territory of any one of the others on a footing of equality with the nationals of the latter, subject to restrictions based on cogent economic or social reasons
18.2 With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right to engage in a gainful occupation in the territory of any other Party, the Parties undertake to simplify existing formalities and to reduce or abolish chancery dues and other charges payable by foreign workers or their employers.

In recent years, Lithuania has seen a rapid increase in the number of job-seekers arriving from third countries. While employment for EU/EEA citizens remains simple and largely unrestricted, the rules for non-EU nationals have become significantly stricter due to amendments to the *Law on the Legal Status of Aliens*[8] and the *Law on Employment*[9]. These amendments, adopted in June 2024, came into effect on 1 July 2024, with additional quota rules entering into force on 1 January 2025, and remain fully applicable in 2026.

Since July 2024, foreign nationals may no longer work in Lithuania on the basis of visa-free regime, a Schengen visa, a national visa, or a residence permit issued by another EU Member State. They are permitted to work in Lithuania only if they hold a temporary residence permit issued for the purpose of employment. A general quota applies to third-country nationals who intend to work in Lithuania under an employment contract.

Requirements for Obtaining the Right to Work

Under Article 57 of the *Law on the Legal Status of Aliens*, a work permit is required only for foreign employees posted to Lithuania by companies established outside the EU or EFTA and seasonal workers.
As of 1 January 2025, Lithuania has introduced a strict quota mechanism for non-highly qualified foreign workers, limiting their total annual number to 1.4% of the country's permanent residents – approximately 40,000 people per year. This quota applies to third-country nationals intending to work under an employment contract, including those planning to work under a temporary employment contract.
For 2025, the quota was set at 24,830. For 2026, the quota is 24,706. For both 2025 and 2026, the quota corresponds to 0.9% of the number of Lithuania's permanent residents, as published mid-year by the State Data Agency. Once the quota has been exhausted, a temporary residence permit for employment may still be issued if the foreign national will be paid at least 1.2 times the average gross salary (EUR 2,667.60), or, in the case of employment in high value-added professions, at least the average gross salary (EUR 2,223).

From 2026, new amendments will come into force, which aim to promote the conclusion of collective agreements. After the quota has expired, the parties to the branch's collective agreement may submit a proposal to establish an additional quota, the size of which may not exceed 20 percent of the employees covered by the branch's collective agreement. Such additional quota will apply only to the members of the employers' organization who have signed the collective agreement before submitting the proposal to set the additional quota.

[8] https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/fr/legalAct/TAR.42837E5A79DD
[9] https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/it/legalAct/422c8b5042b811e6a8ae9e1795984391/FPZfQLzSXB

Depending on the situation, third-country nationals may work in Lithuania on the basis of several different documents:
• Work permit (generally valid for up to one year) – for foreign nationals temporarily posted to Lithuania by an employer established outside the EU or EFTA.
• Seasonal work permit (valid for 6 months within any 12-month period) – for third-country nationals employed in seasonal work.
• Temporary residence permit for employment (Single Permit) – subject to the national quota.
• EU Blue Card – for highly qualified professionals.
• Temporary residence permit for intra-corporate transferees.
• Temporary residence permit for researchers and lecturers.
• Temporary residence permit for students.

Foreign nationals who come to Lithuania on other grounds – for example, persons of Lithuanian origin, family reunification cases, citizens of Australia, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, New Zealand and South Korea, persons intending to engage in lawful activities, or refugees – may also work in Lithuania once they have been issued a temporary residence permit.

Stricter Requirements for Employers

Lithuania's 2024–2025 reforms significantly increased employer responsibilities. Employers wishing to hire a third-country national must:

- Have operated lawfully for at least six months before inviting the foreign employee.
- Hold all required licences and permits relevant to their economic activities.
- Have no outstanding tax liabilities or unpaid administrative penalties.
- Ensure that the foreign employee has appropriate qualifications and at least one year of relevant work experience within the previous three years, unless the employer offers a salary not lower than the average gross wage of the preceding calendar year.
- Employ the foreign national full-time and guarantee employment for at least six months.

Failure to comply may result in significant sanctions. Since 2025, penalties for illegal employment have increased substantially: companies may face fines ranging from €2,772 to €11,088, along with potential bans on hiring foreign workers and personal liability for company directors.

Processing Times for Temporary Residence Permits (TRP)

Article 33 of the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens establishes deadlines for examining applications for residence permits in Lithuania. In most cases, an application for a temporary residence permit must be examined, and the permit issued or refused, within **three months** from the date of submission, unless the law provides a shorter period. Certain categories are processed faster: in specific cases involving intra-corporate transferees, researchers, persons who have completed studies or vocational training in Lithuania, and their family members, the decision must be taken within **two months**. The law also sets an even shorter deadline of **one month** for applications from highly qualified workers (such as EU Blue Card applicants), certain intra-corporate transferees, researchers, lecturers, other categories enumerated in Article 40, and their family members, as well as specific family reunification cases. Applications for a permanent residence permit must be decided within three months, the same as standard temporary residence permits.

When a foreign national applies to renew a temporary residence permit, the decision must be made within two months, unless the case falls into one of the one-month categories mentioned above.

State fees

The amounts of the applicable state fees are established by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania in its Resolution No. 1458 of 15 December 2000, On the Approval of the List of Specific State Fees and the Rules for Payment and Refund of State Fees.

Article 2.6 regulates the state fee for processing an **application for a TRP**. The fee covers acceptance of the application, examination of documents, decision-making, and issuance or refusal to issue the permit. The standard fee is €160. If the applicant chooses the expedited procedure, the fee is doubled.

Articles 2.23.1–2.23.6 specify the fees for different categories of **work permits** issued to foreign nationals:
2.23.1 Work permit for one year
A fee of €121 applies for issuing a standard one-year work permit.
2.23.2 Extension of a work permit
A reduced fee of €52 is charged for extending an existing work permit.
2.23.3 Work permit for up to two years
A higher fee of €150 applies when a permit is issued for up to two years.
2.23.4 Seasonal work permit
A lower fee of €34 reflects the short-term nature of seasonal employment (up to 6 months within 12 months).
2.23.5 Duplicate work permit
If a permit is lost or damaged, a duplicate can be issued for €8.60.
2.23.6 Youth exchange programmes and students
A special fee of €34 applies for: youth exchange participants under bilateral agreements, and
foreign students working in Lithuania.

Article 2.24 applies when the employer must obtain a **formal decision confirming that the foreigner's job meets the needs of the Lithuanian labour market**. The fee for this assessment is €28.
Article 18, Paragraph 3

18.3 With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right to engage in a gainful occupation in the territory of any other Party, the Parties undertake to liberalise, individually or collectively, regulations governing the employment of foreign workers

Lithuania continues to strengthen the conditions under which foreign nationals may take up employment, guided by the principle that access to a gainful occupation should be effective, non-discriminatory, and responsive to labour-market needs. The country's migration framework has evolved significantly in recent years, with a clear shift toward openness, simplification, and the removal of unnecessary regulatory barriers.

The latest data from the Migration Department show that employment remains the primary pathway through which foreigners enter and reside in Lithuania. As of 1 January 2025, there were 217,290 foreigners living in the country, and 106,400 of them held temporary residence permits on the basis of work, demonstrating that Lithuania has created practical and accessible routes for foreign workers to participate in the labour market. These workers come from a wide geographical range, with Belarus (41,400 workers), Ukraine

(23,300), Uzbekistan (8,900), Tajikistan (6,500), and Kyrgyzstan (5,200) among the main countries of origin, reflecting the openness and diversity of Lithuania's employment migration channels.

The regulatory environment governing the employment of foreign nationals has been progressively liberalised. A substantial share of foreigners receive residence permits specifically for employment: in 2024, 47 percent of all temporary residence permits issued in Lithuania were based on work, according to the European Migration Network's overview of national statistics. In 2024, 57 percent of foreigners who arrived for work were employed as international freight transport drivers, with large numbers also entering construction and technical trades such as welding, concrete work, plastering, and electrical installation.

Recent policy changes have made labour migration even more accessible. Although Lithuania temporarily adjusted its migration controls in 2024–2025, these measures were accompanied by reforms that made it easier for high-skilled workers to access the Lithuanian labour market. The IMF reports that legislative amendments enabled easier migration channels for high-skilled professionals, and that foreign workers have been successfully absorbed into Lithuania's labour market in recent years. This balance between labour-market integrity and openness allows the country to attract the skills it needs while maintaining transparent and predictable procedures.

Administrative barriers have also been reduced through digitalisation. The national platform Migracija.lt enables employers and applicants to complete nearly all procedures electronically, including submission of mediation letters, tracking application progress, and accessing personal migration documents online. Digitalisation significantly accelerates processing times, reduces administrative costs, and ensures that foreign nationals can obtain or extend employment-based residence permits without delays commonly associated with paper-based systems.

The practical effects of these liberalisation efforts are visible in national migration trends. For six consecutive years, Lithuania has experienced positive net migration, driven in large part by people arriving for work. In 2024, approximately 52,000 people immigrated to Lithuania, while almost 29,000 emigrated, confirming the country's position as an attractive labour-migration destination within the region. The Migration Department notes that labour migration has remained one of the most topical issues in Lithuania, as employers increasingly rely on foreign workers to fill gaps that cannot be met domestically.

Taken together, these measures demonstrate Lithuania's sustained commitment to liberalising employment regulations for foreign workers. By simplifying procedures, expanding digital services, facilitating access for skilled and shortage-sector workers, and maintaining high levels of labour-market openness, Lithuania ensures that foreign nationals can effectively exercise the right to engage in a gainful occupation, in line with its obligations and broader economic needs.

Article 19, Paragraph 2

Article 19 The right of migrant workers and their families to protection and assistance
Migrant workers who are nationals of a Party and their families have the right to protection and assistance in the territory of any other Party
19.2 With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right of migrant workers and their families to protection and assistance in the territory of any other Party, the Parties undertake to adopt appropriate measures within their own jurisdiction to facilitate the departure, journey and reception of such workers

and their families, and to provide, within their own jurisdiction, appropriate services for health, medical attention and good hygienic conditions during the journey

Lithuania operationalises this commitment through a mix of digital access, service standards and health safeguards across the whole migration pathway: before departure, applications for national visas and temporary residence permits are filed and tracked through the Lithuanian Migration Information System (MIGRIS)[10] and, where relevant, lodged via an external service-provider network abroad. The *Labour Code* [11] provisions enforced by the National Labour Inspectorate [12] set minimum conditions for posted/temporarily assigned workers, including rules on working/rest time, non-discrimination, etc.

Health protection starts pre-entry: visa applicants must hold private health insurance that covers necessary care and repatriation with an insured sum of €30,000, a requirement reflected in EU Immigration Portal guidance for seasonal workers and business visitors to Lithuania. After arrival, legally residing and working third-country nationals and their family members are brought into Lithuania's compulsory health-insurance system (PSD), with recent updates easing coverage for family members until they take up employment ensuring access to publicly financed services on the same terms as residents. To make care accessible in practice, the Ministry of Health has instructed providers to publish foreign-language information, list staff able to serve patients in English/other languages and prepare consent forms in foreign languages, strengthening informed care and hygiene protocols for non-Lithuanian speakers. Travel assistance and consular help are available through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Consular Department.

Pursuant to subparagraphs 3 and 4 of Article 40(1) of *the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens* (LLSA), a temporary residence permit (TRP) may be issued or replaced to an alien if the alien intends to work in the Republic of Lithuania or it is a case of family reunification. Point 3 of Paragraph 1 of Article 40 of the LLSA stipulates that a TRP may be issued or replaced to an alien if it is a case of family reunification. According to Paragraph 27 of Article 2 of the LLSA, family reunification means the entry into and residence in the Republic of Lithuania by family members of an alien who is not a citizen of the EU but lawfully resides in the Republic of Lithuania in order to preserve the family unit, irrespective of whether the family relationship arose before or after the alien's entry. According to Paragraph 26 of the same Article, family members mean the spouse or the person with whom a registered partnership has been contracted, minor children/adopted children (hereinafter: 'children'), including the minor children of the spouse or the person with whom a registered partnership has been contracted, on condition that they are not married and are dependent, as well as direct relatives in the ascending line who have been dependent for at least one year and are unable to use the support of other family members residing in a foreign state.

According to Article 43 of the LLSA, a TRP may be issued to an alien in the event of family reunification if the alien's spouse or the person with whom a registered partnership has been contracted resides in the Republic of Lithuania and who is in possession of a residence permit (both of the alien spouses or aliens who have contracted a registered partnership may not be younger than 21 years), also if the parents of the minor alien or one of them or the spouse of one of them in whose guardianship the minor alien is, is in possession of a residence permit and resides in the Republic of Lithuania. Such an alien (family member) may be issued or replaced a TRP if he meets the conditions laid down in Points 2 to 4 in Paragraph 1 of

[10] https://www.migracija.lt/en/app/auth/login
[11] https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalActEditions/f6d686707e7011e6b969d7ae07280e89?faces-redirect=true
[12] https://vdi.lrv.lt/lt/komandiruojami-darbuotojai/informacija-apie-komandiruojamiems-darbuotojams-taikytinas-darbo-salygas/?lang=en

Article 26 of the LLSA or the person whom he is joining for family reunification ensures that his family member meets the said conditions in accordance with the procedure laid down by laws.
These paragraphs of the LLSA stipulate that a residence permit may be issued or renewed to an alien if the alien (family member):

- has a valid document evidencing health insurance coverage when, in the cases established by the laws of the Republic of Lithuania, he is not covered by compulsory health insurance, or, in the cases and in accordance with the procedure established by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, he has a confirmed commitment of a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania or an alien residing in the Republic of Lithuania to cover the costs of the health care services provided to him during the period of his residence in the Republic of Lithuania;
- has adequate means of subsistence and/or receives regular income which is sufficient for his stay in the Republic of Lithuania;
- submits a written engagement to declare his place of residence, provided that the residential area per each adult person who has declared the place of residence at it would not be less than seven square metres.

The following aliens shall not have the right to family reunification:

1) the aliens who have submitted applications for asylum in the Republic of Lithuania – until a final decision to grant asylum is taken;

2) aliens who have been granted temporary protection in the Republic of Lithuania;

3) aliens who have been granted asylum in the Republic of Lithuania, if their family members would not be granted asylum in the Republic of Lithuania pursuant to Points 3 to 5 of Paragraph 2 of Article 88 of the Law or Paragraph 3 of Article 88 of the Law.

Paragraph 6 of Article 43 of the LLSA lays down that the alien specified in Points 2, 5 or 6 of Paragraph 1 of this Article whose family members enter for family reunification must have resided in the Republic of Lithuania for the last two years, hold a TRP valid for at least one year and have reasonable prospects of obtaining the right to permanently reside in the Republic of Lithuania regulated in accordance with the procedure provided for in Paragraph 3 of Article 51 of the LLSA. This provision shall not apply when the family members join the alien:

1) who has been granted asylum in the Republic of Lithuania;

2) who holds a TRP issued on the grounds established in Points 4^1, 4^2, 5^1, 13 or 16 of Paragraph 1 of Article 40 of the Law;

3) who holds a TRP issued on the grounds established in Point 14 of Paragraph 1 of Article 40 of the Law. The alien may exercise this right if the family has already been concluded in the EU Member State in which the alien has acquired the long-term resident status;

4) who has arrived to participate in a traineeship at higher education and research institutions of the Republic of Lithuania under international treaties of the Republic of Lithuania or under the European Union academic exchange programmes with third countries;

5) who, being directly involved in projects of importance to the State, has invested in the Republic of Lithuania any property owned, borrowed or managed and used by the right of trust;

6) who holds a TRP issued on the grounds set out in Points 1 to 2^2 of Paragraph 1of Article 45 of the LLSA.

In the case of family reunification, an alien shall be issued a TRP for the same period as for the alien whom he is joining, and if an alien's TRP is withdrawn, TRPs of the alien's family members living together with

him shall also be withdrawn, except in cases where they are entitled to reside in the Republic of Lithuania on other grounds set by the LLSA (Paragraph 3 of Article 50 of the LLSA).
Articles 136 to 140 establish that an appeal against a decision taken under the LLSA may be filed with a relevant administrative court in accordance with the procedure and under the conditions established by the Law on Administrative Proceedings, except in cases provided for by this Law.decisions made in accordance with the Law may be appealed against in accordance with the procedure established by the Law and the Law on Administrative Proceedings. An appeal may be filed with the appropriate administrative court within 14 days from the day of service of the decision. A decision taken by relevant administrative court may be appealed against to the Supreme Administrative Court of Lithuania within 14 days from the publication of the decision.

Paragraph 1 of Article 139 of the LLSA establishes that the implementation of the decision appealed against shall be suspended when:

1) an alien's residence permit is withdrawn, with the exception of the cases when residence permit is withdrawn according to Point 14 of Paragraph 1 of Article 50 or Points 2 and 2^1 of Paragraph 1 of Article 54;

2) the application for asylum of entered the Republic of Lithuania from safe third country is not examined and he or she is returned or expelled from the Republic of Lithuania to a safe third country;

3) an alien is refused asylum, with the exception of the case where a decision is taken after the application for asylum has been examined under the urgency procedure as to the substance, the examination of his/her application for asylum is terminated or the granted asylum is withdrawn and he is expelled from the Republic of Lithuania or returned to a foreign state.

According to Paragraph 2 of Article 139, in the cases not specified in Paragraph 1 of this Article, the enforcement of a decision taken may be suspended following the order of a relevant administrative court concerning the requirement security measures.

All aliens who reside and are legally employed in the Republic of Lithuania, obligatory participate in the Compulsory health insurance system. It means, that they have to pay social insurance contributions and are covered by compulsory social health insurance. They are entitled to free healthcare under the same conditions as permanent residents of the Republic of Lithuania. Their minor children are covered by compulsory health insurance as well.

According to the provisions of the LLSA, those aliens who in the Republic of Lithuania with the national visa, must have a private health insurance valid for the entire period of validity of the visa. The LLSA stipulates that such health insurance must guarantee the coverage of the cost of necessary healthcare, as it defined in the Law on the Health System of the Republic of Lithuania, and expenses that may arise due to the alien's repatriation to his country of origin. In addition to other requirements for private health insurance, it must be valid in all Schengen States and the amount of insurance must be at least EUR 30,000. Taking into account that the possession of private health insurance is a necessary condition for obtaining a visa, we would like to emphasize that foreigners working in the Republic of Lithuania on the basis of national visas have full access to health care services to the extent specified in the private health insurance contract.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) contributes significantly through its Migration Information Centre "MICenter[13]." This centre provides free legal consultations, psychological support,

[13] https://micenter.lt/

language training, career counselling, and a variety of informational and educational activities aimed at facilitating smooth integration into social and economic life in Lithuania. These services are available both in person and remotely.

Non-governmental organisations also play an essential role, particularly in supporting vulnerable groups such as asylum seekers, beneficiaries of temporary protection and third-country nationals facing social risks. Caritas operates integration centres in Vilnius and Pabradė, where foreigners receive social, legal and psychological consultations, Lithuanian language courses, assistance with housing and employment, and opportunities to participate in community-building activities. These centres also provide humanitarian assistance to Ukrainians and other displaced persons.

Article 19, Paragraph 4

19.4 With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right of migrant workers and their families to protection and assistance in the territory of any other Party, the Parties undertake to secure for such workers lawfully within their territories, insofar as such matters are regulated by law or regulations or are subject to the control of administrative authorities, treatment not less favourable than that of their own nationals in respect of the following matters:
a. remuneration and other employment and working conditions
b. membership of trade unions and enjoyment of the benefits of collective bargaining
c. accommodation

a) Remuneration and other employment and working conditions

Article 2 of the Labour Code provides that employment relations are regulated in accordance with, inter alia, the principles of legal certainty, protection of legitimate expectations and comprehensive defence of labour rights; the provision of safe and healthy working conditions; stability of employment relations; freedom to choose employment; fair remuneration; and the equality of the subjects of labour law irrespective of their gender, sexual orientation, race, nationality, language, origin, citizenship and social status, religion, marital and family status, age, beliefs or views, membership in political parties and associations, disability, ethnic affiliation, health status, intention to have a child, or other circumstances unrelated to the employee's professional qualities. It also enshrines freedom of association, free collective bargaining and the right to take collective action.

The provisions of the Labour Code apply equally to Lithuanian citizens, EU citizens, and third-country nationals. According to Article 8 of the Labour Code, Lithuanian labour law applies to employment relationships and to all relations related to the exercise and protection of labour rights when those relationships arise, change, end, or are carried out within the territory of Lithuania, except where different rules are established by the Labour Code, other laws, EU legal acts, or international treaties. Third-country nationals must obtain the necessary permits or documents allowing them to live and work in Lithuania, and these requirements are regulated by the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners, which establishes certain additional conditions, such as minimum remuneration thresholds. Once a person is legally employed, the provisions of the Labour Code apply equally to everyone, regardless of nationality.

Article 26 of the Labour Code of the establishes that employers must implement the principles of gender equality and non-discrimination on other grounds. In any aspect of employer-employee relations, direct and

indirect discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment and instructions to discriminate are prohibited on grounds including gender, race, nationality, language, origin, social status, age, sexual orientation, disability, ethnic affiliation, religion/faith/beliefs, citizenship, health status, marital and family status, membership in political parties/trade unions/associations, intention to have a child, as well as due to circumstances unrelated to the employee's professional qualities (with the narrowly framed religious-ethos exception for religious organisations).
The employer must:

1) apply equal selection criteria and conditions in recruitment;
2) ensure equal working conditions and equal opportunities to improve qualifications, pursue professional development, retrain and acquire practical experience, and provide equal benefits;
3) use equal work-evaluation and dismissal criteria;
4) pay the same remuneration for the same work or for work of the same value;
5) take measures to ensure employees do not experience harassment/sexual harassment or instructions to discriminate and are protected against victimisation (hostile treatment or adverse consequences) when they complain of discrimination or participate in related proceedings;
6) take appropriate measures (including reasonable accommodation of premises) to enable persons with disabilities to obtain employment, work, develop careers or learn, where such measures do not impose a disproportionate burden.

In settling cases on gender equality and non-discrimination on other grounds related to labour relations, it shall be the duty of the employer to prove that there was no discrimination if the employee specifies circumstances from which it may be presumed that the employee experienced discrimination.
An employer who has an average number of employees of more than 50 must adopt and publish, in the ways that are accustomed at the workplace, the measures for implementation of the principles for the supervision of the implementation and enforcement of the equal opportunities policies.

Pursuant to Article 1 of the Law on Employment, the labour market services and employment support measures established by this Law shall be applied to: […]
3) persons holding a residence permit in the Republic of Lithuania who are not citizens of the European Union as established in Article 20 (1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and are not persons exercising freedom of movement in accordance with European Union legislation (third country nationals), who, according to the legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania, are exempted from the obligation to obtain a work permit in the Republic of Lithuania for persons who have been granted the status of a transferee.

b) Membership of trade unions and enjoyment of the benefits of collective bargaining

Article 165 of the Labour Code regulates the employee representation system. It is stipulated that representation of employees shall mean the protection of employees' rights and interests and their representation in the relations with other parties to social partnership, bodies hearing labour disputes and social partnership institutions, the creation of and amendments to the their rights and responsibilities or another participation, with the setting of the employees' labour, social and economic rights and responsibilities according to procedures prescribed by the labour law provisions. The employees' representatives shall include a trade union, a work council and an employees' trustee.

Trade unions shall collectively represent in a collective employment relationship, in the cases established in the Labour Code and other laws, its members – employees and persons working on the grounds of legal relationships treated as an employment relationship. Trade unions may also represent third-party nationals in judicial or administrative proceedings according to a procedure prescribed by law. Trade unions shall also defend their members on an individual basis and represent them in individual employment relationships. Collective bargaining, entering into collective agreements and initiating collective labour disputes over interests shall be an exclusive right of trade unions.

A work council and an employees' trustee shall be independent bodies representing, in the cases and according to a procedure prescribed by the Labour Code, all employees on the employer's level or, if prescribed by the Labour Code or stipulated in social partners' agreements, also on the level of a place of employment, in information, consultation and other participatory procedures whereby employees and employees' representatives are included in the employer's decision-adoption process. Unless labour law provisions or social partners' agreements state otherwise, the employees' representatives on an employer's level shall be deemed to be the employees' representatives on the level of a place of employment.
Activities of the employees' representatives shall be organised and implemented through cooperation and in a way that ensures the most effective protection of common interests and rights of the employees. A work council shall not perform employees' representation functions that are deemed to be exclusive rights of trade unions under the Labour Code.

Article 166 of the Labour Code establishes the guarantees of independence of employees' representatives. Employees' representatives shall act freely and independently from other parties to social partnership. Employers or other social partners shall be prohibited from influencing decisions of employees' representatives or otherwise interfering into activities of employees' representatives. Employers and their legal representatives as well as persons authorised by employers shall be prohibited from determining a person's hiring for work or offering to maintain an employee's job on condition that the employee will not join a trade union or will withdraw from it. Employers and their legal representatives as well as persons authorised by employers shall be prohibited from setting up and financing organisations aiming at hindering, terminating or controlling trade union activities. State and municipal institutions shall refrain from interfering with the activities of employees' representatives except for cases where this done according to the law due to commission of an offence.

In accordance with *the Law on Trade Unions*[14], all natural persons (both Lithuanian citizens and foreigners) who have the legal capacity and legal capacity to work have the right to freely establish and join trade unions at the state, branch or territorial level and to participate in their activities. Only employees of that enterprise or its structural unit may be members of trade unions organised at the level of that enterprise or its structural unit.

In this regard, in accordance with point 19.4(b), migrants legally working in the territory of the state must be granted the same rights as citizens – to freely join trade unions, to participate in collective bargaining and to enjoy all the guarantees provided for in collective agreements, without any discrimination on the basis of citizenship or migration status.

[14] https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.ABF3AEE57087

In accordance with Article 17 of the Law on Trade Unions, trade unions shall have the right to exercise control over the employer's compliance with and implementation of the provisions of labour, economic and social laws, collective agreements and other agreements related to the rights and interests of their members. For this purpose, trade unions may have inspectorates, legal assistance services and other institutions. Trade unions, their inspectorates shall forward information on the failure to comply with regulatory provisions of labour laws, other regulatory legal acts and collective agreements to the territorial office of the State Labour Inspectorate no later than within 3 working days from committing a violation or learning about committed violation.

c) Accommodation

Under *the Law on Support for the Acquisition or Rental of Housing*[15], housing support is provided in accordance with the principle of equality. This Law applies, among others, to family members of citizens of the Republic of Lithuania and EU Member States, as well as to aliens holding a long-term resident's permit in the EU, and to aliens who have been granted asylum or temporary protection in the Republic of Lithuania.

The persons and families referred to above, provided they meet the requirements established in the Law, are entitled to the following forms of housing support:
a) subsidies for the repayment of housing loans;
b) compensation for part of housing leasing costs;
c) the rental of social housing;
d) compensation for part of the rent in the private market.

Aliens who are temporarily residing in Lithuania for the purposes of work are not prohibited from securing housing on their own.

[15] https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalActEditions/e944ee00600111e4bad5c03f56793630?faces-redirect=true

Article 19, Paragraph 6

19.6 With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right of migrant workers and their families to protection and assistance in the territory of any other Party, the Parties undertake to facilitate as far as possible the reunion of the family of a foreign worker permitted to establish himself in the territory

The right of foreigners to family reunification is regulated in Article 43 of the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens (LLSA). Foreigners acquire the right to family reunification when they have lived in the Republic of Lithuania for the previous two years, hold a temporary residence permit valid for at least one more year, and have a reasonable prospect of acquiring the right to permanent residence in Lithuania. Exceptions are established in Article 43(6) and 43(61) of the Law. These requirements do not apply to foreigners who acquire the right to family reunification immediately:

- foreigners who have been granted asylum in the Republic of Lithuania;
- foreigners who apply for or hold a temporary residence permit issued on the basis of the right to reinstate Lithuanian citizenship under the Law on Citizenship, or as a person of Lithuanian origin, or as a foreigner intending to work in a highly-skilled job in Lithuania, or as an intra-corporate transferee, or as a founder of a start-up, or as a lecturer or researcher, or as a citizen of Australia, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, New Zealand or South Korea;
- foreigners who apply for or hold a temporary residence permit issued as an EU long-term resident of another Member State. This right may be exercised if the family was formed in that EU Member State in which the foreigner acquired long-term resident status;
- foreigners arriving for traineeships in research and higher education institutions under international treaties of the Republic of Lithuania or EU academic exchange programmes with third countries;
- foreigners who, by directly participating in projects of national importance, have invested in Lithuania property owned, borrowed or held under trust;
- foreigners who apply for or hold a temporary residence permit issued to a company's participant or its manager.

In addition, foreigners acquire the right to family reunification immediately:

- when family members arrive for the purpose of family reunification with a foreigner who is applying for or holds a temporary residence permit issued for studies and is studying in a master's or doctoral programme, as well as when the foreigner applies for a temporary residence permit for the purpose of job-seeking after completing master's or doctoral studies or research and experimental development in Lithuania;
- when a minor foreigner applies for a temporary residence permit and both parents, one parent who is the foreigner's legal guardian, or the sole parent (adoptive parent) or guardian (custodian) is applying for or holds a temporary residence permit.

It should be considered that national legislation partially complies with Article 19(6) of the European Social Charter. However, at present there are no plans to fundamentally amend the family reunification framework or to remove the existing restrictions.
In 2025, 5,813 foreigners made use of the right to family reunification (1,949 foreigners were issued new temporary residence permits, and 3,864 temporary residence permits were renewed).

Article 19, Paragraph 8

19.8 With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right of migrant workers and their families to protection and assistance in the territory of any other Party, the Parties undertake to secure that such workers lawfully residing within their territories are not expelled unless they endanger national security or offend against public interest or morality;

The grounds for expelling a foreigner from the Republic of Lithuania are established in Article 126 of the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens. A person who is legally present in Lithuania may be expelled if his or her presence in the Republic of Lithuania poses a threat to national security or public order. Furthermore, Article 128(1) of the Law provides that, when making a decision on expulsion from Lithuania, account must be taken of the duration of the person's stay in Lithuania; family ties with persons residing in Lithuania; existing social, economic and other links with Lithuania; whether the person has minor children who are studying in Lithuania under a formal education programme; and the nature and extent of the danger posed by the offence committed. In view of this, we consider that national legislation complies with the requirements of Article 19(8) of the European Social Charter.

Article 19, Paragraph 12

19.12 With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right of migrant workers and their families to protection and assistance in the territory of any other Party, the Parties undertake to promote and facilitate, as far as practicable, the teaching of the migrant worker's mother tongue to the children of the migrant worker.

The Law on the Legal Status of Aliens does not use the term "*migrant*"; instead, the term "*foreigner*" is used. For this reason, in the text we will use the term "*foreigner*" as the equivalent of the term "migrant."

Students arriving from abroad are encouraged to learn their mother tongue at two levels: through formal education and through non-formal education activities. When a group of students wishing to learn their mother tongue is formed and a teacher is available, students may participate in non-formal children's education programmes. In general education schools, non-formal education is financed from the state budget, making it possible to teach the mother tongue, culture, and similar subjects for an average of two hours per week. The non-formal education programme is approved by the head of the educational institution. The number of students at the national level is not regulated, but according to established good practice, a group usually consists of 10–12 students. In non-formal children's education, opportunities to learn one's mother tongue are not limited by the student's country of origin.

Article 3(1) of *the Law on Education*[16], which defines the principles of education, provides that every person should be ensured the ability to learn the state language, foreign languages, and their mother tongue. Students who have arrived in Lithuania may learn their mother tongue or study in their mother tongue within the formal education process. There are several possible options. At the level of educational institutions, there are schools in Lithuania that implement education programmes of foreign states and international organisations. In Lithuanian schools that have the minister's authorisation to implement foreign or international education programmes (except for higher education programmes), foreigners whose

[16] https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.9A3AD08EA5D0/XiBMGTceye

mother tongue is Ukrainian, English or French have the opportunity to study in their mother tongue following the national programmes of their respective countries or international organisations.

Article 28(7) of the Law on Education establishes that in areas where a national minority traditionally resides in large numbers, if the community requests it, the municipality ensures education in the national minority language or the teaching of the national minority language. In this way, Lithuania provides opportunities for students to learn and be taught in Polish, Russian, Belarusian, German or Yiddish. There are no formal restrictions for a student arriving from abroad. If he or she speaks one of these national minority mother tongues, the student may begin studying in schools where education is organised in that minority language, provided that the school's mother-tongue language matches the student's own.

In schools where education is carried out in Lithuanian, students arriving from abroad have the opportunity to learn both the first and second foreign language. If the first or second foreign language offered by the school matches the student's mother tongue, the student, after assessment of his or her language competence, may be exempted from learning that foreign language and, if desired, be given additional hours/lessons to learn Lithuanian. According to the currently approved general curricula set out in Order No. V-1269 of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania of 24 August 2022, "On the Approval of the General Curriculum Framework for Pre-primary, Primary, Lower Secondary and Upper Secondary Education," students may choose English, French or German as their first foreign language, and may select English, Spanish, Polish, French, Russian, Ukrainian or German as their second foreign language.

Article 23

Article 23 The rights of elderly persons to social protection

Every elderly person has the right to social protection
With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right of elderly persons to social protection, the Parties undertake to adopt or encourage, either directly or in co-operation with public or private organisations, appropriate measures designed in particular: – to enable elderly persons to remain full members of society for as long as possible, by means of:
a) adequate resources enabling them to lead a decent life and play an active part in public, social and cultural life;
b) provision of information about services and facilities available for elderly persons and their opportunities to make use of them;
–to enable elderly persons to choose their life-style freely and to lead independent lives in their familiar surroundings for as long as they wish and are able, by means of:
a) provision of housing suited to their needs and their state of health or of adequate support for adapting their housing;
b) the health care and the services necessitated by their state; – to guarantee elderly persons living in institutions appropriate support, while respecting their privacy, and participation in decisions concerning living conditions in the institution.

In Lithuania, legislation prohibits age discrimination. Lithuania guarantees the social protection of older persons primarily through its Constitution, state social insurance system, and a broad system of social services and social assistance. Lithuania provides universal state social insurance old-age pensions, regulated by *the Law on State Social Insurance Pensions*[17], administered through the national social insurance system. Lithuania has reached the unified pension age of 65 years for both men and women in 2026. The updated statistics on average annual number of recipients of State social insurance pensions and other related data are available on *the Official Statistics Portal*[18].

In recent years, Lithuania has taken meaningful steps to strengthen the well-being, dignity, and participation of older persons through several important policy developments. The most substantial step is the new Draft Law on the Framework of Older People's Policy, which introduces a comprehensive national approach to ageing by defining clear objectives, tasks, and principles aimed at ensuring dignified, active, and healthy ageing, enhancing social inclusion, and promoting meaningful participation of older persons in decision-making processes; the draft law also integrates ageing considerations across key areas such as lifelong learning, health, social security, employment, environmental adaptation, culture, and transport. At the same time, Lithuania is working to improve the coordination of long-term care by moving toward a more integrated system that bridges health care and social services for older people as highlighted in recent OECD assessments as essential for a rapidly ageing society.

Enabling elderly persons to remain full members of society for as long as possible, by means of:

a) adequate resources enabling them to lead a decent life and play an active part in public, social and cultural life

A new version of the Law on Social Insurance Pensions came into force on 1 January 2018. The pension system was reformed by changing the pension structure, introducing pension points and setting the indexation rules. A social insurance pension consists of the general and individual parts.
The general part of pension is replacing the basic part of pension and the bonus for the length of record. The individual part of pension is replacing the supplementary part of pension.
Starting from 2018, the obligatory pension social insurance record requirement is increasing. In 2018 the mandatory record is 30 years and 6 months and it will increase in every subsequent year until it reaches 35 years in 2027.

A system of pension points for the determination of the individual part of pension was introduced on 1 January 2018. Each insured person receive a certain number of pension points for the amount of pension social insurance contributions paid during the year. If the amount of pension social insurance contributions deducted from the person‘s pay during the year for the individual part of pension is equal to the amount of the annual pension contribution determined on the basis of the average pay during the year, the person will acquire one pension point. A larger or a smaller amount paid will result, accordingly, in a larger or smaller number of pension points, however, the total number of pension points acquired during one year may not exceed 5. The pension points acquired are summed up and multiplied by the pension point value. In this way the individual part of pension will be determined.

The old-age pension is equal to the sum of the general and the individual parts of pension.
The general part of pension is calculated according to the formula $\beta \times B$, where:

- β is the ratio between the person's insurance record and the obligatory insurance record applicable

[17] https://e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.A7F77DF94F5D
[18] https://vda.lrv.lt/en/

in the year they become entitled to a pension. As of 2022, if a person's insurance record is lower than the obligatory insurance record required for an old-age pension, the multiplier β is set to one.
- B is the basic pension (in euros).

The individual part of pension is calculated according to the formula V × p, where:
- V is the number of pension points accumulated by the person;
- p is the pension point value (in euros).

The social insurance widow's/widower's pension is provided at the basic amount of widows/widowers pensions which are granted to a person who has reached pension age (irrespective of the widow's/widower's age at the moment of the spouse's death) provided that the diseased person had acquired the minimum social pension insurance record required for the granting of the relevant pension.

Year	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Base pension (yearly amount)	198.29 €	215.09 € (January-May) 225.84 € (June-December)	246.21 €	269.77 €	298.45 €
Average old age pension	413.36 €	473.51€	539.07 €	596.7 €	669.72 €
Average old age pension with mandatory years of contribution	440.64 €	501.58 €	573.82 €	638.23 €	719.83 €
Value of the pension point	4.17 €	4.7 € (January-May) 4.94 € (June-December)	5.7 €	6.38 €	7.16 €
Indexing coefficient*	1.0958	1.0847 Additional indexation from mid-year due to inflation – 1.058, and the additional index for the individual part** – 1.0424	1.0902 Additional index for the individual part – 1.058	1.0957 Additional index for the individual part – 1.02	1.1063 Additional index for the individual part – 1.014
The basic amount of widows/widowers pensions	28.63 €	32.00 €	34.89 €	38.23 €	42.29 €

* Since 2020, the amount of the basic pension may be increased by more than the indexing coefficient calculated by Paragraph 2 of Article 8 of the Law on Social Insurance Pensions. The indexing coefficient for amount of the basic pension depends on financial capacity of the state budget and the budget of the State Social Insurance Fund. Indexing coefficient for the pension points is determined by Paragraph 2 of

Article 8 of the Law on Social Insurance Pensions.
**Since 2022, the individual part of the pension has been additionally indexed.

Starting from 1 January 2018 every year, the values of the basic pension and the value of pension point as well as the basic amount of widows/widowers pensions, used for the granting and determining social insurance pensions, is indexed based on the average 7-year wage fund growth rate.
The indexing coefficient (IC) is calculated on the basis of the change in the wage fund during the past three years, the year for which the IC is being calculated, and three prospective years. The IC is applied provided that, upon its application, the pension social insurance costs in the year of indexation do not exceed social insurance revenues and provided that the projected pension social insurance costs for the next year do not start exceeding the social insurance revenues projected. If, without indexation, the pension social insurance revenues in the year of indexation exceed the pension social insurance costs, the IC is calculated in such a way that the pension social insurance expenses for pension indexing would not exceed 75 % of the pension social insurance contribution surplus planned for the year of indexation in case if no indexation is performed.

Since 2022, the following provision has been added:
The value of the pension point used for calculating the individual part of the social insurance pension is subject to additional indexation if the at-risk-of-poverty rate for persons aged 65 and over, as published by the State Data Agency, exceeds 25% and/or if the projected average old-age pension is less than 50% of the average net earnings. The supplementary index must be calculated in such a way that the additional funds required to index the individual part of social insurance pensions do not exceed 75% of the planned State Social Insurance Fund budget.

Additional indexation of the individual part of the pension is not applied if the State Social Insurance Fund budget is forecast to be in deficit, or if the calculated supplementary index is less than 1.01.
Indexation will not be performed if the determined IC is smaller than 1.01 and/or if the change in the gross domestic product at comparative prices and/or in the wage funds, expressed in percentage terms, is negative in the year for which the IC is being calculated and/or for next calendar year. If no indexation is performed, the values of December of previous year are applied.

Upon indexation of the basic pension amount and the pension point value, old-age and the basic amount of widows/widowers pensions are calculated on the basis of the new values.

Social assistance pension

The *Law on State Social Assistance Pensions*[19], whose latest consolidated version entered into force on 1 January 2025, establishes the minimum income guarantees provided by the State to older persons who, for various reasons, do not have the right to receive a social insurance old-age pension or whose income is lower than the minimum social threshold set by the State. The provisions of the Law define which elderly persons are entitled to a social assistance old-age pension, the amount of this benefit, and the conditions under which it is granted, paid, or discontinued. According to Article 6, the right to receive a social assistance old-age pension is granted to all persons who have reached the statutory old-age retirement age and do not meet the social insurance contribution requirements. This right is also granted to those who, for

[19] https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.2CE6CFE9E2EE/rwNqEEppEE

at least 15 years, cared at home for persons with an established need for individual assistance or who raised five or more children.

An important feature of the Law is that the right to a social assistance pension is also available to persons who are employed. The legislation does not prohibit working-age or employed individuals from receiving a social assistance pension, provided they meet the eligibility criteria and their income from social insurance pensions does not exceed the threshold defined in the Law. This provision broadens access to minimum income guarantees and recognizes that some individuals, despite working, may still face social vulnerability or lack entitlement to a social insurance pension.

The amounts of social assistance old-age pensions are determined under Article 8, where benefits are differentiated based on the circumstances of an elderly person’s life and their contribution to caregiving or family duties. The pension amounts to one social assistance pension base for all persons who have reached old-age retirement age, while those who long-term cared at home for persons requiring significant assistance or raised five or more children receive a pension equal to 1.5 times the social assistance pension base.

The procedure for granting and paying the social assistance old-age pension is detailed in Article 7. The pension is granted only if the elderly person does not receive other periodic pension-type benefits whose total amount is equal to or greater than the social assistance old-age pension. At the same time, the Law provides important exceptions: the social assistance old-age pension may be paid together with survivors’ pensions, orphan’s pensions, the single-person benefit, and certain survivors’ benefits paid by foreign states. Of particular importance is the provision that persons who were receiving a social assistance disability pension prior to reaching old-age retirement age have their benefit automatically converted to a social assistance old-age pension upon reaching the statutory age – no separate application is required. This is especially significant for elderly people with disabilities, as it reduces administrative burden and ensures uninterrupted income.

The Law also lays down clear rules on the suspension, termination, or renewal of these benefits. For example, under Article 15, payments are suspended if the person does not declare their place of residence in Lithuania, is detained, is serving a custodial sentence, or is subject to compulsory medical measures. When the elderly person re-registers their residence or the circumstances leading to suspension cease to exist, payments are resumed. Furthermore, if benefits were discontinued due to procedural reasons and the elderly person submits a delayed request, payments may be reinstated for a period of up to three years retroactively, provided that the right to the benefit continued to exist. This provision is particularly important for older individuals who, due to health conditions or lack of information, may submit administrative documents late.

A pension supplement is granted to those elderly persons whose social insurance pension is lower than the Minimum Consumption Needs Level (MCNL). Under the Law, this supplement is awarded automatically, without any application by the individual, and is calculated so that the person’s total monthly income reaches the MCNL. If the elderly person does not have the required contribution period and therefore receives a smaller social insurance pension, the supplement is calculated proportionally to the amount of service accumulated, thus preserving fairness. This compensatory mechanism helps ensure that elderly persons access a minimum income level and reduces the risk of poverty among seniors.

Social pensions, which in some cases apply as an alternative benefit, are also relevant to older persons. Under Article 21, social pensions are paid until the person becomes entitled to a social assistance old-age pension or another pension-type payment of an equal or greater amount. Social pensions are indexed according to changes in the social assistance pension base, ensuring that their value increases alongside general growth in the assistance system.

The base of social assistance pension:

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
143 €	150 € (since 1 January) 173 € (since 1 June)	184 €	197 €	248 €

Pension supplement

Since 2019, recipients of statutory old-age pensions whose pensions are less than 95% of the amount of the MCNB (EUR 251 per month for 2019) were eligible to receive a pension supplement from the state budget.
In 2020 Supplements for small social insurance pensions – top up to the ceiling (100% of MCNB) depends on service years (full amount with obligatory service years requirement; minimum amount with 15 years minimum requirement).
Since 2020 Pension supplement for small social insurance pensions – top up to the ceiling of max 257 eur in 2020 (**100%** of MCNB);
The right to the supplement is determined by the sum of all social insurance pensions, compensations for special working conditions, state pensions, and foreign pensions paid in the month for which the supplement is calculated.
The pension supplement is granted and paid to the pension recipients who have declared their place of residence in Lithuania or are listed as persons who have not declared their place of residence.
If a person has acquired the necessary length of service, the full difference between 100% of MCNB and pension (sum of pensions) received is paid. If a person has acquired the minimum length of service but has not acquired the necessary length of service, the proportion of the pension supplement is reduced proportionately.

Calculation of the pensions supplement

- For those recipients whose pension is calculated by the acquired necessary length of service, the pension supplement is calculated attaining accuracy of the euro cent according to the formula PS = 1 × MCNB – P where:

PS – amount of the pension supplement;
MCNB – the minimum consumption needs basket in force in the month for which the pensions supplement is paid;
P – Sum of all pensions paid to a person.

- For those recipients whose pension is calculated under the precondition that the necessary length of service is not acquired, the pension supplement is calculated attaining accuracy of the euro cent according to the formula PS = (1 × MCNB – P) × (L/NL) where:

PS – amount of the pension supplement;
MCNB – the minimum consumption needs basket in force in the month for which the pensions supplement is paid;
L – Length of the pension social insurance acquired by the person by which the social insurance old age pension is calculated;
NL – necessary length of the pension social insurance required for the person to be eligible for the social insurance old age pension
P – Sum of all pensions paid to a person.
The pension supplement is not granted and paid to persons receiving an early retirement pension.

To decrease social exclusion and pursuant to the Law on Cash Social Assistance for Poor Residents, elderly people as well as poor families and single residents, whose working, social insurance and other revenues are insufficient due to objective reasons, are entitled to social benefits, compensations for heating of a dwelling, hot and drinking water expenses which facilitate the burden of dwelling maintenance. Single residents are reimbursed for a larger share of heating costs in the home – the majority of compensation recipients are persons of retirement age.

One of the measures contributing to the improvement of the mobility of persons with disabilities or older people is the provision of technical assistance to persons with disabilities. Technical assistance measures are considered as any special or standard product, tool, equipment or technical system used by the person with disability or older person to help prevent, compensate for, reduce or eliminate the impact of impaired functions on the state of health, independence of the person also on education and work activities.
The provision of technical assistance measures to the residents of Lithuania with mobility, visual, hearing or communication disorders is organized by the Technical Assistance Centre for the People with Disabilities under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour which has 10 territorial divisions throughout the Republic of Lithuania. To provide technical assistance to persons with disabilities as close as possible to their place of residence, the provision and issuance of technical assistance for persons with mobility impairments is carried out by the local municipalities.

Technical assistance measures are provided for persons with disabilities as well as for persons of retirement age and persons after serious injuries or illnesses when the disability level has not yet been established.
The mechanism of providing technical assistance equipment in Lithuania is various: certain equipment is provided to persons free of charge or it is possible to receive compensation for the costs of acquiring this equipment. Only a small proportion are measures for which a person is required to pay a small contribution.

To intensify the process of renovation (modernization) of multi-dwelling buildings and ensure the participation of poor residents and their interest in saving as well as in possibilities for decreasing heat consumption, a family or a single resident has the right to the reimbursement for a credit, taken out for the renovation (modernization) of a multi-dwelling building, and interest during the heating and non-heating seasons, provided that the owners of a multi-dwelling building participate in the project of the renovation (modernization) of a multi-dwelling building and the family of the owner of a multi-dwelling building or the owner of a multi-dwelling building (a single resident) are entitled to the compensation for heating expenses.

Support for Projects Implemented by Non-Governmental Organizations Representing Older Persons

To encourage the expansion of older persons' participation in the activities of non-governmental organisations, strengthen cooperation, and promote cultural, national, patriotic, educational, and social engagement among older people, projects implemented by NGOs representing older persons are funded annually through a competitive process.
Supported project activities include:

- promoting a positive image of older persons and ageing;
- encouraging the participation of representatives of older persons in advisory councils operating under state and municipal institutions;
- promoting active and healthy lifestyles among older persons;
- providing information, counselling, and legal or social guidance for older persons;
- fostering intergenerational solidarity, volunteering, and lifelong learning that supports the engagement of older persons;
- strengthening partnerships, cooperation, communication, and public visibility among NGOs representing older persons;
- enhancing the involvement of older persons in active social life through cultural activities, social interaction, and mutual support.

Joint projects implemented by youth and older persons' NGOs are also funded, with a focus on developing older persons' digital skills and strengthening intergenerational solidarity. Support is provided for activities such as:

- organizing joint activities for young and older people to develop digital competencies and skills;
- preparing and training young people to teach and support older persons in digital literacy;
- developing training materials and acquiring necessary tools for learning.

Emotional, Psychological and Informational Support by Telephone

To ensure high-quality emotional and psychological support for older persons, a non-governmental organization is selected through a competition each year to implement a project providing telephone-based emotional, psychological, and informational assistance for older people.
Supported activities include:

- providing emotional support related to challenges commonly faced by older people and referring them to psychological services where needed;
- offering psychological assistance during crises, including suicide risk situations and mental health difficulties, and providing information on mental health diagnosis and treatment;
- providing information on other available assistance (social, medical, legal, specialised complex support, employment-related services, etc.) based on individual needs, and referring individuals to appropriate institutions;
- organising and coordinating "friendship calls" to strengthen social connections and emotional well-being among older persons.

The Social Prescribing Initiative

The social prescribing initiative, implemented by coordinators working in municipal public health bureaus, is aimed at individuals of retirement age to strengthen their psychological well-being and mental health by involving them in long-term, free cultural, wellness, non-formal education, or other community-based activities available in their municipality.
Through participation in these activities, older persons build social connections that help reduce social isolation, anxiety, support chronic disease management, improve psychological well-being, reduce stigma related to mental health and disability, and strengthen a sense of belonging.
Family doctors or members of primary mental health care teams may refer older persons (those experiencing social risk, bereavement, loneliness, etc.) to community activities such as leisure, cultural, educational, sports, or volunteering opportunities available within their municipality.
The social prescribing initiative helps older persons integrate into the community by encouraging participation in diverse social, cultural, and physical activities. These opportunities reduce loneliness, promote social engagement, and support independence by enabling individuals to choose the activities that best suit their needs.

Council for the Affairs of Older Persons

The Council for the Affairs of Older Persons, operating under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour and composed on a parity basis of representatives from state and municipal institutions and NGOs representing older persons, plays an important role in strengthening social inclusion.
The Council examines issues related to the quality of life of older people and submits proposals to the Government, ministries, and other institutions regarding measures to improve quality of life, enhance social inclusion policies, and prepare or amend legislation related to older persons.
Acting as an intermediary between the community and decision-makers, the Council ensures that the needs of older persons are reflected in policy-making. It also initiates discussions, research, and recommendations that help reduce social exclusion and promote active participation in society. By involving older persons directly in decision-making processes, the Council strengthens their voice and increases opportunities for engagement in public life.

Digital Literacy Development Projects for Older Persons

Several national initiatives support the development of digital skills among older persons. One of the most effective is the project “Connected Lithuania: Improving Digital Skills”, which has reached a wide audience, especially in regions facing significant digital exclusion. The project offers not only training in libraries but also interactive initiatives such as “Senior Days Online”, promoting active participation and practical learning. Training takes place in safe and accessible locations, such as local libraries, and covers practical topics including online banking, digital health services, and online communication.
Community involvement through local staff and volunteers contributes to the project’s success by providing both technical instruction and emotional support.
Another important initiative is the Communications Regulatory Authority’s project “No One Left Behind”, aimed at ensuring that every person, regardless of age or location, can use digital services safely and confidently. Activities include training, community engagement, volunteer involvement, creation of “digital ambassadors”, and providing support through local libraries. The project focuses not only on

technical skills but also on building confidence, sharing experiences, and celebrating success stories. It also includes information campaigns on safe online behaviour, helping to reduce fear and distrust of digital technologies.

Role of Public Health Bureaus

Municipal public health bureaus contribute significantly to strengthening the social inclusion of older persons by reducing loneliness, improving emotional well-being, and encouraging community engagement. They organize physical activity sessions, mental health strengthening programmes, lectures, and self-help groups, helping older people improve their health and build new social connections.

Specialists also provide individual consultations, help identify suitable activities, and in some municipalities accompany older persons to their first sessions – reducing social isolation and motivating engagement. These initiatives create a safe and supportive environment where older persons can feel valued and actively involved in community life.

The Role of Libraries

Libraries play an important role in promoting social inclusion among older persons by serving as safe, open, and accessible community spaces. Older persons can access information resources and participate in cultural, educational, and social activities that reduce loneliness and encourage active engagement. Libraries organize training in digital, financial, and cultural literacy, host meetings, lectures, creative workshops, book clubs, and self-help groups, creating opportunities for intellectual stimulation and new social connections.

Through cooperation with NGOs, social workers, and municipalities, libraries help expand access to support services and strengthen the participation of older persons in community initiatives.

The Role of Cultural Institutions

Cultural institutions such as museums, theatres, and galleries also support the social inclusion of older persons by providing opportunities for cultural and social participation. Many institutions organize special programmes such as the National Week for Older Persons, offering free excursions, educational activities, performances, and thematic sessions tailored to older audiences. Such activities reduce social isolation, promote communication, and support active ageing. Cultural institutions also offer discounted tickets and collaborate with municipalities and social partners to ensure accessibility. Participation in cultural life strengthens emotional well-being, reduces loneliness, and helps older persons maintain an active and meaningful presence in the community.

b) provision of information about services and facilities available for elderly persons and their opportunities to make use of them;

To ensure the effective implementation of older persons' right to social protection, Lithuania is consistently increasing social insurance pensions, taking into account economic growth, the rising wage fund, and the individual's accrued insurance record. Projects funded through the European Union (EU) structural assistance aim to increase the employment of older persons, expand services for the elderly by improving their quality and accessibility, and support the activities of non-governmental organizations representing older persons, which promote active and healthy ageing and strengthen intergenerational solidarity.

Cooperation among state and municipal institutions and NGOs representing older persons is being further developed in shaping and implementing social inclusion policies for the elderly. Opportunities for older persons to integrate into social, political, and cultural life are being expanded, and efforts are being made to promote a positive image of older persons in society.

The Law on Social Services[20] and the *Law on Local Self-Government* [21] obliges municipalities to plan and organize social services and to inform residents about the social services available in their territory. Ensuring the provision of social services—through planning, organizing, overseeing the quality of general social services and social care, as well as establishing and maintaining social service institutions—is an autonomous municipal function. The Ministry of Social Security and Labour analyses and evaluates the state of social services in the country and conducts assessments of the development of social services based on the Social Services Development Standards, approved by Order No. A1-23 of the Minister of Social Security and Labour of 20 January 2014. The Ministry evaluates data on social services provided by municipalities, their adequacy in meeting residents' needs, and their compliance with established development standards.

To enable as many individuals as possible to receive the social services they need, the range of service providers is also being expanded. As of 1 July 2024, the Law on Social Services has been supplemented to provide that social services may be delivered not only by legal entities but also by natural persons (providing social services to an individual to whom they are not related by close family ties). Natural persons providing social services operate independently (as self-employed service providers) and must meet the requirements established in the Law for individual care workers. They may provide accredited home-help services and temporary respite services.

Municipal administrations are encouraged to make publicly available information about social service providers and the number of individuals waiting for services in each institution, thereby improving the accessibility of social services for municipal residents.

Social services for individuals (including older persons) are provided in accordance with their individual interests and needs, helping the person address their social problems and/or prevent them in the future. Continuous assessments are carried out to determine whether the provided services effectively develop or compensate the person's (or family's) ability to manage their personal life and participate in society. When determining the need for social services, health issues influencing social life are also assessed.

The principles and characteristics of providing social care to older persons are regulated in Annex 4 of the Description of Social Care Standards, approved by Order No. A1-46 of the Minister of Social Security and Labour of 20 February 2007. The requirements set out for assigning and planning services, ensuring the person's well-being and needs, empowerment, environment, staff, management, and administration are mandatory for all social care institutions. Compliance with social care standards is evaluated by the Social Services Supervision Department under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour (SPPD). SPPD provides its assessment conclusions and methodological recommendations in writing to the social care institution, which must make these available to all interested parties by publishing them on its website.

[20] https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.91609F53E29E/asr
[21] https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.D0CD0966D67F/asr

Social care standards are applied in accordance with the following principles:

- Ensuring human rights. When organizing and providing social care, it is prohibited to unjustifiably or unlawfully restrict a person's rights. All issues affecting an individual must be addressed with respect, understanding, and sensitivity, ensuring and acknowledging the person's right to privacy. In exercising their rights, a person must not restrict the rights of others.
- Participation and cooperation. To ensure the best interests of the person and the well-being of the family, all issues related to the organization and provision of social care are addressed with the participation of the individual, their guardian (caretaker) or, in the case of a minor, their parents, and, when necessary, other family members or close relatives and representatives of competent institutions. A child's social care is aligned with support for the family.
- Choice and appropriateness of social care. Social care is organized and provided on the basis of a comprehensive assessment of the person's need for care and the institution's capacity to provide such services, recognizing the individual's right to choose assistance that aligns with their justified expectations and lawful interests. The person's opinion is taken into account, provided it does not contradict their legitimate interests, and provided that it does not infringe on the choice of others.
- Fostering personal autonomy and social integration. Social care must create opportunities for self-expression and skills development, encourage individuals to manage their daily life as independently as possible, and provide dignified assistance that maintains or compensates for lost independence and develops the ability to live in society, exercise rights, fulfil obligations, and maintain social ties. For children, care must ensure a safe and healthy developmental environment and support early formation of independent living skills through close relationships with family and relatives.
- Non-discrimination. Social care is organized and provided on the basis of assessed needs, regardless of sex, disability, race, nationality, citizenship, origin, social status, religion, age, beliefs, sexual orientation, or any other circumstances unrelated to social care.

Compliance with social care standards, including implementation of these principles, is assessed by SPPD. In accordance with the Law on the Health System and the Law on Health Insurance, every person is guaranteed the best possible healthcare, ensuring equal accessibility, acceptability, suitability, and equal rights to the highest attainable standard of health, irrespective of sex, race, nationality, citizenship, social status, profession, or age. The state establishes equal treatment without prioritizing any group.

To create conditions for improving and enhancing the quality of social services for all social service providers (both social service institutions and natural persons), on 4 December 2024 the Minister of Social Security and Labour adopted Order No. A1-833 "On the Approval of the Description of Social Services Quality Requirements", by which the Social Services Quality Requirements were approved. These requirements will become mandatory for all social service providers from 2029.
A pilot project is currently underway, inviting social service providers to begin applying the new quality requirements. During the pilot phase, which will run until 31 December 2027, it is planned that 320 social service providers will participate.

Despite the development of relevant policies, legal frameworks, and increasing investment in pensions and social protection in recent years, the share of GDP allocated to social protection remains below the EU average. Employers' attitudes toward older workers are still not sufficiently developed, and older individuals often lack confidence in their ability to remain active in the labour market. Infrastructure for services for older persons, especially appropriate housing or support for housing adaptation, remains insufficient. Opportunities for older people's employment, participation in political, social, and cultural life, and involvement in volunteer work are underused, and societal tolerance and respect for older persons need improvement.

The increasing number of people losing independence and having complex long-term care and social service needs has led to the establishment of an interinstitutional working group to create a Long-Term Care Services Model for Lithuania. The working group's task is to create a model ensuring coordinated or integrated provision of nursing and social services, increasing access to continuous, complex assistance and care at home, in day centres, and in residential facilities. The aim is to enable individuals to live independently in the community for as long as possible, preserve autonomy, and prevent deterioration in health, taking into account the needs of individuals and their families, as well as available resources. A draft law regulating long-term care services is currently being finalized, and discussions are ongoing regarding possible funding sources and mechanisms.

To develop and modernise the infrastructure of residential long-term care services required for older persons, regional projects are being implemented that encourage the provision of long-term care services. These projects include plans to create or upgrade additional places in social care institutions and to modernise the infrastructure of state social care facilities.

Social services for elderly

Article 18(5) of the Law on Social Services establishes that social services are provided to an elderly person by enabling him or her to live as long as possible in his or her home, family, self-management and assistance combined with employment, personal health care and special assistance measures to maintain social ties with family, relatives and society. A person's (family's) financial ability to pay for social services does not affect a person's (family's) ability to receive social services. According to these provisions, social services are provided and organized for the elderly (i.e. persons of retirement age who, due to age, have partially or completely lost the ability to take care of personal (family) life and participate in society), taking into account the individual needs of the individual (his / her family) interests and needs, providing for their effectiveness in compensating for the individual's capabilities and abilities.

Pursuant to the Law on Social Services, citizens of the Republic of Lithuania, foreigners, including stateless persons with a permanent or temporary residence permit in the Republic of Lithuania, and other persons in the cases provided for in international agreements of the Republic of Lithuania have the right to receive social services.

According to the Catalogue of Social Services, the range of services available to the elderly in Lithuania is wide: general social services (e.g. transport organization, socio-cultural services), services provided at home (assistance or day social care), employment or day care in a day center, psychosocial assistance, accommodation in a home for independent living, short-term or long-term social care in an institution, a temporary respite service for family members (relatives) caring for an elderly person.

The municipality is responsible for ensuring the provision of social services to the residents of its territory, which plans and organizes social services, controls the quality of general social services and social care.

The municipality organizes social services for individuals (families): determines the need for social services, assesses a person's (family's) financial capacity to pay for social services, buys and finances social services for the residents of its territory, establishes, reorganizes and liquidates social services institutions and ensures their functioning.

In 2019, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the concept of long-term care services (comprehensive social and health care services in a person's home or institution) was prepared and submitted to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. On the basis of this concept, the development of a model for the provision of long-term care services has begun, it is planned to prepare legal acts regulating the implementation of this model, an action plan for the adaptation and modernization of infrastructure for long-term care services and start implementing it. This will ensure person-oriented health and social services that do not compete with each other and do not duplicate each other. Such services are particularly relevant for older people in order to enable them to remain independent and participate in society for as long as possible.

Enabling elderly persons to choose their lifestyle freely and to lead independent lives in their familiar surroundings for as long as they wish and are able, by means of:

a) provision of housing suited to their needs and their state of health or of adequate support for adapting their housing;

There are two housing adaptation programs for people with disabilities which can also be adapted for the older people: adaptation of housing for people with disabilities and adaptation of housing and living environment for families raising children with severe disabilities. The programs aim to adapt individual housing to their physical needs. The programs are governed by legislation acts which include requirements for applying for housing adaptation, evaluation and financing procedures, adaptation procedures and supervision, and acceptance of housing adaptation works.
Adaptation of a dwelling means the redevelopment of the dwelling and the living environment using special elements, the replacement of spaces not adapted for the persons with disabilities and simple repairs through construction work directly related to the dwelling.

b) the health care and the services necessitated by their State;

Lithuania’s Compulsory Health Insurance (PSD) system ensures universal health-care coverage for all residents. Persons covered by PSD, their rights and obligations in the implementation of PSD, the principles for reimbursing health-care service costs, and the reimbursement of expenses for medicines and medical devices are established in the Law on Health Insurance of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter – the SDĮ). Under this law, all persons permanently residing in Lithuania are considered participants in the PSD system. Article 6(4) of the SDĮ lists the groups of persons insured with state funds, including persons receiving any type of pension or social assistance compensation under Lithuanian law. This means that PSD contributions for older persons are paid by the state, ensuring their right to free health-care and long-term care services appropriate to their health status, as well as reimbursed medicines.

Older persons and other socially vulnerable groups are entitled to dental prosthesis services reimbursed from the Compulsory Health Insurance Fund (PSDF) in order to restore proper chewing function, as well as reimbursed medicines. Since July 2020, the state budget covers the co-payment portion of medicines and medical devices prescribed for persons aged 75 years and older. Co-payments for reimbursed medicines and medical devices are also covered for pensioners and persons with disabilities whose pensions, social assistance payments, compensatory payments, or annuities are lower than 100 percent of the minimum consumption needs of the previous year (Government Resolution No. 647 of 17 June 2020 "On covering the patient co-payment for reimbursable medicinal products and medical devices"). In addition, pursuant to Article 10(7) of the SDĮ, as of 1 July 2023, a reimbursable medicines co-payment "basket" has been introduced. This basket accumulates during the calendar year when purchasing reimbursable medicines with the lowest co-payment. In 2026, once a person has accumulated EUR 70.02 (i.e., paid out-of-pocket), any further co-payments for these medicines are covered by the state.

Persons aged 75 and older who are entitled to co-payment reimbursement due to insufficient income are provided with transport services from their home to a personal health-care institution and back.
Furthermore, older persons have access to preventive health programmes: the breast cancer screening programme (provided to women aged 45–74 every two years), the colorectal cancer screening programme (provided to persons aged 50–74 every two years), and the prostate cancer screening programme (provided to men aged 50–69, and to men aged from 45 whose fathers or brothers have had prostate cancer, every two or five years).

Under Lithuania's National Immunoprophylaxis Programme, all persons aged 65 are vaccinated free of charge against influenza and pneumococcal infection, and persons aged 50–60 are vaccinated against tick-borne encephalitis.
Finally, it is ensured that older persons living in institutions receive appropriate care, with full respect for their privacy and participation in decisions concerning their living conditions in those institutions.

Article 30

Article 30 The right to protection against poverty and social exclusion

Everyone has the right to protection against poverty and social exclusion

With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right to protection against poverty and social exclusion, the Parties undertake:

a) to take measures within the framework of an overall and coordinated approach to promote the effective access of persons who live or risk living in a situation of social exclusion or poverty, as well as their families, to, in particular, employment, housing, training, education, culture and social and medical assistance;
b) to review these measures with a view to their adaptation if necessary.

Poverty remains one of the most complex social policy challenges in Lithuania, despite consistent efforts to strengthen the social protection system and increase residents' income. The at-risk-of-poverty rate in 2024 reached 21.5 percent and, compared to 2023, increased by 0.9 percentage points. The poverty threshold grew faster than the basic amounts of social benefits, meaning that a larger share of the population fell below the relative poverty line. This trend was also influenced by the fact that income growth was not evenly distributed – the basic social benefit amounts increased by up to 7 percent, while the poverty threshold rose by 9 percent, reducing the effectiveness of social support.

Poverty most severely affects specific groups whose situations remain highly vulnerable. In 2024, the poverty risk for older persons (aged 65 and over) reached 36.9 percent, which is 15.4 percentage points higher than the national average. This situation is largely determined by relatively small pensions, which in 2023 accounted for only 87.5 percent of the poverty threshold. Unemployed persons also face an extremely high level of poverty – 59.6 percent live below the poverty line, while among persons with disabilities this figure reached 38.2 percent, one of the highest rates in the European Union. Single adults and single parents also face a poverty risk exceeding 30 percent, indicating that both social circumstances and family structure are key determinants of poverty.

Poverty is further deepened by high income inequality. In 2024, Lithuania's income quintile share ratio (S80/S20) reached 6.6, the second highest in the EU, surpassed only by Bulgaria; the EU average is 4.66 . The Gini coefficient stood at 35.3 percent – one of the highest in Europe. These indicators confirm that income inequality in Lithuania is structurally entrenched, and the impact of social benefits on reducing inequalities and poverty risk remains insufficient. In 2024, social benefits in Lithuania reduced poverty by 7.5 percentage points, compared to an EU average reduction of 8.4 percentage points, indicating a weaker effect of the benefit system than in many other EU countries.

Although the state continues to increase various social benefits and reform support systems, these measures are not yet enough to produce structural improvements. In 2025, the basic amounts for social benefits were significantly increased: the state-supported income level rose to EUR 221, the social assistance pension base to EUR 248, the basic social benefit to EUR 70, and the targeted compensation base to EUR 208 – most of these increases exceeded 25 percent. However, these improvements will affect poverty statistics only with a delay, as poverty indicators are measured on the basis of the previous year's income. At the same time, services for vulnerable groups are being expanded, housing support is strengthened, and integrated assistance and social care services are increasing. Yet substantial income gaps, uneven regional opportunities, and limited employment prospects continue to be long-term drivers of poverty.

Material deprivation remains a significant issue in Lithuania. The ESF+-funded project "Reducing Material Deprivation in Lithuania" shows that the need for assistance remains high – over 113 000 social cards were distributed to low-income households in 2025, and nearly 121 000 people received food donations. This indicates that a considerable number of residents still lack even basic consumer goods.

Poverty in Lithuania is a complex, multidimensional problem requiring a long-term and systemic approach. The state is taking active steps by increasing social benefits, expanding access to services, investing in active labour market measures, increasing pensions, and strengthening the financial situation of families. However, poverty risks are not declining as rapidly as desired. To achieve sustainable progress, the social protection system must continue to be strengthened by ensuring adequate income growth, more effective support for vulnerable groups, and more equal economic opportunities for all residents.

Employment

To increase the sustainable integration of persons living in poverty or social exclusion (or those at risk of falling into such a situation) into the labour market, amendments to the Law on Employment of the

Republic of Lithuania were adopted, entering into force on 1 July 2022. These amendments introduced a new status for individuals registering with the Employment Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour – the status of “person preparing for the labour market” (hereinafter – PPLM). This status is granted to an unemployed person whose employability is limited by at least one of the following circumstances: lack of social skills or work motivation; caring for or nursing a family member or a cohabiting person; restricted access to financial resources due to existing debts; lack of transport or the ability to reach the workplace from their place of residence; existing addictions to alcohol, narcotic, psychotropic or other psychoactive substances; or gambling addiction. The purpose of granting the PPLM status is to help address the individual’s employment-related barriers before offering them a job or referring them to active labour market policy (ALMP) measures, as employment without addressing these underlying issues would not be sustainable, and participation in ALMP measures would be less effective.

To achieve this, one of the employment support measures is used – Employment Promotion Programmes (EPPs). Since 1 January 2023, municipalities have been implementing EPPs by incorporating a case-management model and providing services aimed at removing barriers to employment (e.g., psychological counselling, addiction counselling, legal assistance, debt-management advice) for EPP participants. The implementation of EPPs is based on inter-institutional cooperation between local municipalities, the Employment Service, non-governmental organisations, and other state institutions. To measure the effectiveness of EPP implementation, a specific indicator has been established –14 percent of EPP participants should be employed or engaged in self-employment six months after completing participation. In 2024, this target was exceeded, reaching 18 percent.

As of 1 January 2026, 24.2 thousand people were registered with the status of “person preparing for the labour market.” They accounted for 12 percent of all clients of the Employment Service. Compared with 1 January 2025, the number of such persons decreased by 1.2 thousand, or 4.8 percent. In 2025, the Employment Service provided individual consultations to 906 persons preparing for the labour market:

- 707 people received individual consultations with a psychologist regarding motivation to work and/or strengthening social skills,
- 199 people received individual legal assistance from a debt-management consultant.

To increase the opportunities for unemployed persons, individuals with limited employability, the unskilled, the long-term unemployed, older persons, migrants, and young people who are neither in employment nor education or training (NEETs) to return to the labour market, the project “Next Stop – Employment” was implemented using resources from the 2021–2027 European Union Funds Investment Programme. In 2025, 2.7 thousand persons began participating in active labour market policy (ALMP) measures under this project. Of these, the largest share (1.7 thousand persons) took part in vocational training, and 0.7 thousand persons were employed through subsidised employment.

Housing

In accordance with the Law on State Support for Housing Acquisition or Rent, the fundamental conditions have been created to provide housing support to all low-income individuals (families). Support is provided, among other things, on the basis of the principle of equal treatment, ensuring equality between individuals and families, and the principle of social justice, which means that support for acquiring or renting housing

is granted after assessing a person's or family's assets, income and other factors related to their social situation.
Lithuania is taking measures and expanding effective opportunities to ensure that housing is accessible to the persons referred to in this article. The social housing stock, intended for residents with the lowest incomes, is continuously being expanded in Lithuania; however, the demand for such housing remains high each year. On the other hand, the compensation of part of the rent payment provides an alternative option for individuals to secure housing independently while still receiving state support.

Education and training

Educational policy measures in Lithuania are aimed at ensuring that every individual has access to quality education and lifelong learning opportunities, regardless of their social, economic or cultural background. The Ministry of Education, Science and Sports implements and supports various initiatives aimed at expanding access to education for socially vulnerable groups:

- free education is guaranteed in state educational institutions from pre-primary to higher education levels;
- social and incentive scholarships are provided to students in higher education, especially to those facing social or economic difficulties;
- educational support measures for children and young people at social risk are being strengthened;
- inclusive education practices are being expanded;
- programmes promoting early childhood education are being implemented;
- the system of career guidance and lifelong learning is being strengthened, creating opportunities for labour market participants to improve their qualifications, along with other initiatives contributing to accessible and high-quality education for all.

The Ministry is currently implementing measures aimed at reducing social exclusion. To provide suitable conditions for pupils living in rural areas and small towns, as well as for pupils with special educational needs (SEN), to reach schools, the Programme for the Provision of Schools with Yellow Buses was updated by Order No. V-724 of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of 2 July 2024. According to point 14 of the Description of the Procedure for Financing and Administering Non-Formal Education Programmes for Children, approved by Order No. V-46 of 10 January 2022, *"a pupil with SEN who participates in an non-formal education for children programme delivered in person is allocated two vouchers, if the SEN are indicated in the Pupil Register"*. Furthermore, point 11 establishes that *"priority access to such funding is granted to pupils with moderate, severe or very severe SEN who receive or are entitled to receive social support"*.

Children growing up in families at social risk, from birth until the start of compulsory pre-primary education (at age 5–6), who do not attend early childhood education institutions, are assigned compulsory pre-school education. Additional funds are allocated to municipalities to ensure the timely assignment and provision of compulsory early childhood education, pursuant to Order No. V-46 of 17 January 2025 "On the Allocation of Additional Funds in 2025 for the Education, Catering and Transport of Children Assigned Compulsory Pre-School Education".

According to Article 77(1) of the Law on Science and Studies, starting from 2024, a separate admissions queue is formed for applicants from socially vulnerable groups – orphans, children in guardianship, persons with disabilities, and recipients of social benefits – allowing them to enter higher education under reduced competitive pressure. This measure helps ensure equal opportunities and contributes to reducing social exclusion in higher education.

Students in higher education who face social or economic difficulties are eligible for social scholarships. These scholarships help ensure access to studies and financial stability for socially vulnerable students.
To ensure inclusive education, activities are carried out under the 2021–2030 Development Programme measure "Implement Inclusive Education", overseen by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport. The goal of this measure is to ensure that by 2030, every municipality in Lithuania provides conditions for all pupils to receive effective educational support and to increase the share of SEN pupils learning in mainstream schools and receiving high-quality educational support services, regardless of their family's place of residence or financial circumstances. The total budget of the measure is EUR 228,098,000.
Direct-impact activities implemented under this measure include:

- Increasing the availability of coordinated educational support, social and health care services for pre-primary and pre-school children and their parents, as well as for pupils in general education and vocational schools, including through non-governmental service providers in the Capital Region and the Central and Western Lithuania Regions. Municipalities were invited to submit project implementation plans (PĮP) to ensure coordinated service provision in schools delivering early childhood and general education programmes. Thirty-six projects are funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) (EUR 11.4 million in 2024; EUR 8.11 million in 2025).
- Developing and introducing a package of measures for inclusive education and educational support in pre-primary, pre-school and general education schools, ensuring greater educational accessibility, all-day school services, and provision of necessary special education tools for pupils with SEN. Municipalities, schools and vocational training institutions were invited to submit PĮP to ensure the delivery of all-day school services (including educational support). Twenty-one projects are funded by the ESF (EUR 29.96 million in 2025).
- Modernising regional special education centres to enable them to provide stationary and mobile methodological and counselling support in the Capital Region and the Central and Western Lithuania Regions. Through state planning, regional special education centres were invited to submit PĮP for modernisation, including equipment, furniture, specialised tools, transport and other assets. Nine projects are funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) with EUR 5.14 million allocated for 2024–2025.

In vocational education, attention is likewise given to preventing social exclusion. Since 2024, the ESF+ and national co-financing Project "Vocational Training – Accessible to All" has been implemented by the European Social Fund Agency, targeting vocational training students with SEN, those from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, and teachers and educational support specialists. The project aims to provide these students with necessary tools, equipment, training and other specialised services to enhance participation, support programme completion, qualification acquisition and integration into the labour market. Key activities include improving access to vocational training for SEN students and those from disadvantaged families in both the Capital Region and Central/Western Lithuania, as well as strengthening teacher and specialist competences. Throughout the project implementation period, support for improved vocational training accessibility will be provided to an estimated 790 students from disadvantaged groups.

The project is implemented from 18 October 2024 to 31 August 2029, with a total funding amount exceeding EUR 5 million.

From 1 September 2024, all schools delivering early childhood, pre-primary, primary, basic, upper secondary and initial vocational training programmes must implement preventive programmes assessed according to the established criteria and compliance procedure. These criteria require preventive programmes to be evidence-based, mutually coherent, clearly defining objectives, measures and impact assessment, targeted at the entire school community, aligned with education policy principles and strategic goals—including the Lithuania 2050 vision—and delivered by qualified consultants supporting implementation. To date, 15 preventive programmes submitted by various providers have been evaluated. It should be noted that since 1 September 2023, alongside the updated curriculum, the compulsory Life Skills General Programme has been implemented. It is based on social and emotional education and covers themes such as bullying and violence prevention, social and emotional learning, strengthening psychological well-being and fostering respectful relationships. The introduction of scientifically based, coherent and high-quality preventive programmes in educational institutions creates conditions for the long-term reduction of social exclusion and poverty by strengthening children's social and emotional competences and ensuring equal educational opportunities for all pupils.

Culture

The Ministry of Culture implements a set of measures consistent with the provisions of Article 30 of the European Social Charter, aimed at promoting access to culture, participation, and social inclusion for various population groups, including older persons. To ensure broader access to cultural life, discounts are applied to tickets for national and state theatres and concert institutions whose ownership rights and obligations are exercised by the Ministry of Culture. This system is regulated by the Order of the Minister of Culture of 23 August 2022 No. ĮV-695 "On the Approval of Recommendations on Discounts and Free Events Organised by National and State Theatres and Concert Institutions under the Ministry of Culture".

The legal act includes recommendations designed to ensure wider application of **discounts for persons with disabilities**. For personal assistants accompanying a person with a disability to cultural institutions (museums, galleries, etc.), tourist attractions, or cultural and entertainment events, a 100 percent ticket discount is applied. This measure is implemented pursuant to Article 27(3) of the Law on the Social Integration of Persons with Disabilities. It is important to note that in the national and state theatres and concert institutions managed by the Ministry of Culture, the person with a disability may obtain a complimentary ticket for an accompanying person, who does not necessarily need to be a personal assistant—any helper may act in this capacity. Thus, these national cultural institutions apply a more flexible and disability-friendly approach than that established in the Law on Social Integration of Persons with Disabilities. These rules directly benefit older persons with disabilities, many of whom rely on personal assistance or informal caregivers when attending cultural and social events.

In terms of museum access, under the Order of the Minister of Culture of 31 August 2015 No. ĮV-556 "On Establishing Museum Visit Discounts", persons with disabilities and their personal assistants, as well as other accompanying persons (one companion per person with a disability), may visit permanent exhibitions and galleries of national and state museums under the Ministry of Culture free of charge. Discounts are granted upon presentation of a disability certificate or a document confirming the status of personal assistant, while no additional documentation is required for accompanying persons. Other state museums

– under the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of National Defence, and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport – along with municipal and other museums, are encouraged to follow these provisions.
For older persons, especially those with limited income, this ensures barrier-free access to cultural heritage and museum services.

Since 1 January 2019, all visitors may access permanent exhibitions of national and state museums **free of charge on the last Sunday of every month**. This policy aims to increase museum accessibility, encourage public participation in cultural life, and ensure that socially vulnerable groups, including the elderly, have opportunities to engage with national cultural heritage and artistic values at no cost.

Library services are also made universally accessible. Free access to information resources and library services is guaranteed to all individuals regardless of gender, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, disability, race, ethnicity, religion, or beliefs. This follows the Order of the Minister of Culture of 26 November 2024 No. ĮV-935, which abolished reader card fees in state and municipal libraries. The objective is to ensure equal opportunities for all citizens to benefit from library services and enhance access to cultural and information services throughout Lithuania. Older persons, particularly those with limited income or digital skills, benefit substantially from free access to information, reading materials, and cultural activities in libraries.

Specific measures were introduced to increase the accessibility of public **library services for individuals with autism spectrum disorder and other communication, language, or behavioural difficulties**. Under the strategic action plan measure "Providing libraries with equipment and tools for socially and informationally excluded groups", during 2020–2021, all public libraries and the Lithuanian Audiosensory Library were supplied with special visual information sets (social stories and posters) to help visitors prepare for visits. Libraries were also equipped with sensory tools ("sensory extinguishers") designed to help users manage anxiety and remain calm and focused. These tools help create an inclusive library environment for visitors with diverse needs, including older persons with cognitive or sensory impairments.

In 2021, the Ministry of Culture organised the national conference "Libraries for All", during which the Library Accessibility Manifesto was prepared and signed. Library professionals agreed on a shared vision, core values, and concrete actions needed to improve accessibility for users with special needs and to promote social inclusion through cultural participation. An accessibility ambassador network now operates in all public libraries, ensuring that services are accessible to various social groups, including older adults with mobility, sensory, or learning challenges.

The Ministry also promotes **museum accessibility**. In 2021, a comprehensive study "Museums for Human Well-being" was carried out, which led to the development of recommendations for increasing museum accessibility. Based on these recommendations, three pilot projects were implemented in 2023 at the M. K. Čiurlionis National Art Museum, the Lithuanian Ethnographic Museum, and the Lithuanian Sea Museum to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities. In 2024, seven additional projects were implemented across national, state, and municipal museums to adapt physical and informational infrastructure for persons with disabilities. These measures are funded under the 2021–2030 Culture and Creativity Development Programme measure No. 08-001-04-01-01 "Increasing Access to High-quality, Diverse and Inclusive Cultural Content".

Additional efforts target persons unable to read printed text. In 2021, the Ministry conducted a study on the information needs and library service accessibility for such persons. Since 2022, the project “Culture Without Barriers – Talking Books” has been implemented, including a training programme “Experience Management Standard”, designed for persons with reading difficulties. The programme features components for specialists, target audiences, and practical training in listening to audiobooks. Mobile training sessions were launched in rural areas starting February 2023. These activities are supported by €400,000 under the 2021–2030 Culture and Creativity Development Programme.

The Lithuanian Audiosensory Library—Lithuania’s main producer of accessible-format publications—annually issues about 500 titles in audio, Braille, and adapted digital formats. Its modernised ELVIS digital library provides access to these materials and cooperates with the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC) to expand the availability of accessible publications in foreign languages. Additionally, Order No. ĮV-358 of 25 March 2021 established the procedure for exchanging accessible-format works for blind and print-disabled persons, aligning Lithuania with the Marrakesh Treaty framework.

Further, the Central Project Management Agency in 2023 approved the project “ELVIS – an Accessible Media Platform”, under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (NextGenerationEU), with €3.66 million in funding, to develop an inclusive publishing system and streamline the production of accessible materials. Since 2023, the Lithuanian Film Centre has provided additional funding to adapt films for audiences with visual or hearing impairments.

To ensure the effectiveness and relevance of these measures and their alignment with national strategic priorities, the Ministry of Culture applies a strategic expenditure review mechanism, integrated into strategic planning processes. Additionally, the Ministry conducts a triennial survey “Population Participation in Culture and Satisfaction with Cultural Services” to assess cultural service accessibility and identify trends and future policy directions.

Social assistance

Social assistance in Lithuania is an essential component of the social protection system, aimed at ensuring income security for individuals and families facing financial hardship, as well as addressing housing needs, child-rearing expenses, and material deprivation. In 2025, expenditure on cash social assistance increased significantly, reflecting both policy changes and adjustments in key social benefit amounts. Total spending on cash social assistance rose by 21.4 percent compared with 2024, reaching €1.25 billion. The average monthly number of recipients of the social assistance benefit was 61.2 thousand people, representing 2.1 percent of the population, while the total unique number of recipients throughout the year amounted to 106.8 thousand individuals. Although the number of beneficiaries slightly decreased, expenditure grew due to an increase in the State-Supported Income (SSI) to €221 per month and a rise in the average benefit amount per family member to €182.1, an increase of approximately 23 percent from the previous year.
Important legislative changes adopted on 23 December 2025 expanded the accessibility and adequacy of cash social assistance, simplifying conditions for working beneficiaries, single parents, and families raising children with disabilities. These amendments also revised asset evaluation criteria and strengthened incentives for labour market integration. Furthermore, a new financing model for municipalities responsible for administering this assistance will take effect in 2027 to ensure more sustainable funding arrangements.

Support for housing expenses remains a crucial part of Lithuania's social assistance architecture. The state continues to provide compensations for heating, hot and cold water costs to low-income households. In 2025, the average monthly number of beneficiaries receiving such compensations reached 137.6 thousand people, or 4.8 percent of the population, although total expenditure decreased by 15.5 percent to €59 million due to stabilising energy prices and a milder heating season. In addition, housing rental subsidies expanded significantly: in 2025, 3,362 households received partial reimbursement of rental costs—an increase of 146.4 percent compared with 2024. Municipal social housing supply also grew, yet demand continues to exceed availability, with more than 10,000 households waiting for social housing at the end of 2025. Over the year, 995 households were newly accommodated in social housing using newly purchased, renovated or vacated units. Overall, 17,185 households benefited from housing-related support measures in 2025, more than doubling the figure from the previous year.

Financial incentives for home acquisition were another important dimension of support, particularly for young families and low-income households. In 2025, a total of 1,039 beneficiaries received subsidies for housing purchase, and the state allocated €18.56 million for this purpose. Of these, 515 were young families receiving dedicated regional incentives, while 556 beneficiaries obtained subsidies to cover part of their state-subsidised housing loan. More than half of all subsidies (55 percent) were granted to the most vulnerable groups, including single parents, large families, and persons with disabilities. The average subsidy awarded in 2025 amounted to €19,304.

Child-related benefits also increased substantially as part of efforts to improve the financial well-being of families with children. The increase of the Basic Social Benefit (BSI) from €55 to €70 in 2025 resulted in higher benefits across all child-related payment categories. The universal child benefit rose from €96.25 to €122.5 per month, while large families, low-income households, and families raising a child with a disability received increased combined benefits—from €152.9 to €194.6 per month. A new childcare compensation benefit of €364 per month was introduced from January 2025 for working parents who use paid childcare services, with an average of 799 recipients per month. From June 2026, both the one-off birth allowance and eligibility rules for childcare allowances will be expanded further.

Material assistance for the poorest households was provided through the ESF+ funded programme aimed at reducing material deprivation. In 2025, more than 113,000 social cards were distributed to low-income persons, benefiting nearly 197,000 individuals. Cardholders could purchase essential food and goods (excluding alcohol, tobacco and lottery products). An additional 1,911 tonnes of donated food were distributed, reaching almost 121,000 individuals across 46 municipalities. Total funding allocated to social cards amounted to €18.05 million.

Social assistance also encompasses services that support individuals facing multiple disadvantages. State-funded long-term care for persons with severe disabilities continued to expand, with €158.27 million allocated in 2025 and services provided to 17,162 people. The availability of respite care increased as well—723 caregivers received state-funded respite services, supported by dedicated grants totalling €628,750. Integrated home-based assistance, including day care and nursing services delivered by multidisciplinary teams, was provided in 51 municipalities, benefiting 3,587 individuals since the start of the programme.

Social assistance measures also extended to refugees and persons fleeing war, particularly those from Ukraine. Municipalities were reimbursed €3.55 million for providing housing support to Ukrainian families renting accommodation on the private market. In addition, humanitarian packages, essential goods, and social support services were delivered by the newly established Reception and Integration Agency and partner NGOs, including the distribution of 3,800 humanitarian packages in 2025. Families with children also benefited from temporary reimbursements for early childhood education costs during their integration period.

Finally, social assistance for school-age children included increased support for school supplies and free meals. In 2025, support for school supplies amounted to €140 per child, set to rise to €148 in 2026. The meal reimbursement rate also increased, with the cost of school lunches rising from €2.88 in 2025 to €3.28 in 2026. These measures aim to reduce financial burdens on low-income families and ensure children's equal access to basic educational needs.

Medical assistance

Under the Law on the Health System and the Law on Health Insurance, in Lithuania every person is guaranteed the best possible health care, with equal access to services, equal acceptability and equal adequacy. The health system is based on the principle of equal treatment – the State does not establish priority groups but ensures that health services are accessible to everyone.
The compulsory health insurance (CHI) system in Lithuania ensures universal coverage of health care. It is based on the principles of universality, fairness and solidarity. All individuals insured under CHI are entitled to free health care according to the established basic package of services, regardless of age, social status, contribution amount, or other individual characteristics.
Socially vulnerable groups – pensioners, persons with disabilities, registered unemployed persons, children, school pupils and students – are insured under CHI with funds from the State budget. In this way, it is ensured that these groups receive comprehensive health care without financial barriers.
In addition, the State compensates certain co-payments for reimbursable medicines for patients with chronic diseases, as well as for persons aged 75 and older whose income is low. The scope of services provided at patients' homes is also being expanded to ensure the necessary assistance for older persons, persons with disabilities and those experiencing social exclusion.

Article 31, Paragraph 3

31.3 With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right to housing, the Parties undertake to take measures designed to make the price of housing accessible to those without adequate resources.

Under the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Support for the Acquisition or Rental of Housing there are these forms of housing support for persons and families who meet the criteria established in this Law:
<u>to acquire:</u>

- subsidised housing loan provided by paying subsidy (form15% to 30%), which can be used for payment of a part of the mortgage loan or as a down payment;
- housing lease or Rent2Buy, which is provided by paying reimbursement of part of lease;

<u>to rent:</u>

- social housing;
- reimbursement of part of housing rental.

Under the provisions of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Support for the Acquisition or Rental of Housing, adopted on 7th May 2020, municipalities must ensure that the waiting period for social housing shall not exceed 5 years from 1st January 2024, 3 years from 1st January 2026. For persons and families who are not granted social housing within the set period of time, municipalities will have to ensure from their budget funds a compensation for the part of actual rent of a dwelling rented from natural or legal persons (except municipalities).
In addition to these amendments, more changes to the legal regulation were presented on 21st December 2021. These amendments shall include, inter alia:

- an obligation for municipal administrations to plan and organize complex support and social services for persons and families waiting for social housing (also renting social housing) in order to help them, within their possibilities, to participate in the labour market, engage in other activities generating income or increase the income received;
- renting social housing for single parents out of sequence;
- increasing subsidies from 15% to 30% (instead of 10% and 20%) for the payment of a part of the mortgage loan or as a down payment.

In the plan of measures for the implementation of the 20th Government of the Republic of Lithuania (took office in the end of 2025) programme, a measure is planned to improve conditions for housing support and to refine the provision of support. For this purpose, amendments to the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Support for the Acquisition or Rental of Housing are prepared. The new regulation proposes updating income and asset thresholds for housing support eligibility, eliminating the need for asset and income declarations, and using register data for assessments. It also aims to establish social housing quality requirements, protect pensioners' and people with disabilities housing rights with indefinite rental contracts, increase housing credit amounts for subsidies, and review subsidy amounts for initial housing credit contributions. The entry in to force of the law is foreseen from 1st July 2027.

Moreover, it is planned to expand the supply of social housing form the EU structural funds for the period 2021-2027 for persons with disabilities and families raising three or more children, because suitable housing for the aforementioned groups is hardly available in the market. This measure shall be implemented on a regional basis. It is planned that the newly acquired social housing (project completion is expected by 2029) will accommodate 2.747 individuals (the number of individuals may vary during project implementation).