

COUNTRY UPDATE: Lithuania

1. Figures and facts about asylum

Principle countries of origin of asylum-seekers year 2005

Place	Country	Number of asylum applicants
1	Russian Federation	86
2	Nigeria	10
3	Georgia	4
4	Iraq	3
5	Belarus	3
6	Afghanistan	2
7	Kyrgyzstan	2
8	Liberia	2

Evolution of the number of asylum applications

	2004	2005	Difference +/-
First applications	167	118	-49
Rejections	50	30	-20
Removals	91	7	-84
Recognitions (refugee status)	12	15	+3
Subsidiary protection	407	327	-80
Voluntary/mandatory returns			
Number of Dublin cases sending out of the country		4	
Number of Dublin cases sending into the county		4	

2. Political and legal developments

On 2 February 2005, the Minister of Internal Affairs and the Minister of Social Security and Labour issued the Order on Accommodation of Unaccompanied Minors Asylum-seekers in the Refugee Reception Centre¹, which empowers the Refugee Reception Centre not only to accommodate unaccompanied minors, but also to act as their guardian.

On 28 April 2005, the Amendment of Art. 6 of the Law on Health Insurance² was passed. According to Article 6 of the Law on Health Insurance, after the period of social integration, health insurance, which is paid by the State, is provided to all refugees granted refugee status, and to the part of refugees granted subsidiary protection, or temporary protection – working in Lithuania, children, single parents, pregnant women, particularly ill people and people at retirement age. Other refugees granted subsidiary protection, or temporary protection do not have the right to medical insurance.

On 27 September 2005, the Minister of Social Security and Labour issued the List of Measures for the Years 2005–2006 in order to implement the National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion of Republic of Lithuania³, which includes the measures to improve integration of refugees, migrants and ethnic minorities.

On 28 October 2005, Minister of Health Security issued the Order on Hygiene Provisions and Rules in the Foreigners Registration Centre⁴, which clearly establishes hygiene requirements for the premises and services of the Foreigners Registration Centre.

3. Asylum-seekers/migrants issues raised in your country

The situation of asylum-seekers is not widely discussed in Lithuania. In 2005, the Lithuanian media was mostly interested in social rights of refugees within Lithuania.

¹ 2005 02 02 LR vidaus reikalų ministro ir LR socialinės apsaugos ir darbo ministro įsakymas Nr. 1V-31/A1-28 "Nelydymų nepilnamečių prieglobsčio prašytojų apgyvendinimo Pabėgėlių priėmimo centre taisyklės" [2 February 2005 Minister of Internal Affairs and Minister of Social Security and Labour Order No. 1V-31/A1-28 on Accommodation of Unaccompanied Minors Asylum Seekers in the Refugee Reception Center] // Valstybės žinios, 2005, Nr. 20-641

² 2005 04 28 LR sveikatos draudimo įstatymo 6 straipsnio pakeitimo įstatymas Nr. X-178 [28 April 2005 Amendment of Art. 6 of the Law on Health Insurance No. X-178] // Valstybės žinios, 2005, Nr. 61-2159

³ 2005 09 27 LR socialinės apsaugos ir darbo ministro įsakymas Nr. A1-254 "Konsoliduotas LR 2004-2006 m. nacionalinio kovos su skurdu ir socialine atskirtim veiksmų plano įgyvendinimo priemonių 2005-2006 m. sąrašas" [27 September 2005 Minister of Social Security and Labour Order No. A1-254 on the List of Measures for the Years 2005-2006 in order to Implement the National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion of Republic of Lithuania] // www.socmin.lt

⁴ 2005 10 28 LR sveikatos apsaugos ministro įsakymas Nr. V-836 "Užsieniečių registracijos centras. Higienos normos ir taisyklės" [28 October 2005 Minister of Health Security Order No. V-836 on Hygiene Provisions and Rules in the Foreigners Registration Center] // Valstybės žinios, 2005, Nr. 135-4863

4. Red Cross activities in the field of migration (asylum, migration, irregular migration)

Target group	Title of activity	Description of activity	Provider of activity within Red Cross (national headquarters, regional or local branch)
Asylum-seekers	Legal assistance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provision of legal consultations to asylum-seekers at Pabrade Foreigners Registration Centre, border check points, local migration offices, Lithuanian Red Cross headquarters in Vilnius 2. Preparation of complaints and appeals to the courts, 3. Representation of the interests of asylum-seekers at the courts and other institutions 4. Participation in the interviews of the asylum-seekers carried out by the officials of Foreigners Registration Centre, migration department or local migration offices 5. Preparation and submission of written recommendation on the protection regime applicable to the asylum-seekers; provision of other kind of legal assistance to asylum-seekers 	Lithuanian Red Cross refugee department

	Social support	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. social and psychological counselling 2. provision of hygiene items, medicine and food for babies 3. provision of second hand clothes 4. organizing sociocultural events 5. organizing sport activities and providing with sport equipments 6. organizing art activities, such as painting, sewing 7. provision of library services 8. Lithuanian language courses for English and Russian speaking asylum-seekers 9. provision of fresh fruit and juices each week (financed by Aland Post) 	Lithuanian Red Cross refugee department
	Activities with children	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Intercultural summer camp (Lithuanian children together with refugees' and asylum-seekers' children) 2. 'Cross-Cultural Communication'. During this, the Red Cross volunteers discussed with refugees and asylum-seekers the importance of mutual assistance and help, peer-to-peer communication, and invited them to take an active part in voluntarily activities at the Lithuanian Red Cross Society 	Lithuanian Red Cross refugee department together with youth department
Refugees	Social Integration activities	<p>During 2005, the Lithuanian Red Cross socially integrated 28 refugees (one social counsellor in Kaunas integrated 8 refugees and another social counsellor, who is a refugee from Afghanistan, integrated 20 refugees in the cities of Kaunas and Jonava). Lithuanian Red Cross social counsellors assisted foreigners in solving different daily problems, consulting on integration relevant issues, organizing Lithuanian language courses and vocational training, assisted in obtaining individual health insurance, assisting in finding work and accommodation etc.</p>	Lithuanian Red Cross refugee department under government control

	Humanitarian assistance	Vulnerable families, whose state integration support had finished, are provided with cash assistance for accommodation, necessities for children, health and care services.	Lithuanian Red Cross Refugee department with the help of UNHCR
	Activities with children and teenagers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'Cross-Cultural Communication'. During this, the Red Cross volunteers discussed with refugees and asylum-seekers the importance of mutual assistance and help, peer-to-peer communication, and invited them to take an active part in voluntarily activities at the Lithuanian Red Cross Society 2. Summer camp 3. Sport activities and competitions 4. Celebration of the local parties 	Lithuanian Red Cross Refugee department and the youth department
	Legal assistance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provision of legal consultations on the legal questions of social integration, health care, other social guarantees, etc. 2. Preparation of legal documents for the extension of the temporary residence permit (in case of granted subsidiary protection), preparation of applications for permanent residence permit etc. 3. Preparation of complaints and appeals to the courts in case of refusal to prolong temporary residence permit and to grant subsidiary protection 4. Representation of the interests of such foreigners in the courts 	Lithuanian Red Cross refugee department

	Refugee day centre	Refugees are provided with social assistance. The Lithuanian Red Cross lawyers give juridical consultations by phone. Refugees can use the Internet, the library and press corner, where newspapers and magazines are available. Social workers help refugees to look for the available work. During the weekends, social workers, refugee women, together with the youth volunteers of the Lithuanian Red Cross Society, organize the weekend school activities. Several times a week women attend the afternoon gatherings called 'Women Only' whilst youth volunteers from the Lithuanian Red Cross Society take care of their children. The ones who are interested are taught to work with a computer. This project was financed by ERF in 2004–2005, for the present time it is financed by UNHCR and government.	Lithuanian Red Cross refugee department
	Social clinic	The students of social work, specializing in the issues of refugees and asylum-seekers provide social assistance and consulting for refugees.	Kaunas University of Technology in co-operation with Lithuanian Red Cross