Resettlement and humanitarian admission - Lithuania

Overview

Content updated and validated on: 21/08/2025

Relevant EU legislation

Lithuania is bound by the Union Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Framework Regulation (URF).

National legislation

29.04.2004: Lietuvos Respublikos įstatymas dėl užsieniečių teisinės padėties | Law Nr. XIV-1593 on the Legal Status of Aliens. 24 February 2016: Dėl prieglobsčio Lietuvos Respublikoje suteikimo ir panaikinimo tvarkos aprašo | Order No 1V-131 On the approval of the procedure for granting and cancellation of asylum in the Republic of Lithuania.

Competent authority and stakeholders

Authorities responsible for establishing resettlement and humanitarian admission policy	Ministry of the Interior (pledges), Ministry of Social Security and Labour (reception conditions and integration)

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Identification and referral of refugees for a) resettlement programmes b) humanitarian admission programmes c) community sponsorship programmes	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Selection of refugees for a) resettlement programmes b) humanitarian admission programmes c) community sponsorship programmes	• Migration Department, Asylum Division | Migracijos departamentas (MD) • State Security Department | Valstybės saugumo departamentas (SSD) • Police Department | Policijos departamentas (PD) • State Border Guard Service | Valstybės sienos apsaugos tarnyba (SBGS)
Pre-departure assistance a) resettlement programmes b) humanitarian admission programmes c) community sponsorship programmes	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

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Travel arrangements a) resettlement programmes b) humanitarian admission programmes c) community sponsorship programmes	Migration Department | Migracijos departamentas (MD)
Arrival and reception a) resettlement programmes b) humanitarian admission programmes c) community sponsorship programmes	Reception and Integration Agency, under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour | Socialinės apsaugos ir darbo ministerija (MSSL)

Programmes currently in place

Lithuania does not implement resettlement or humanitarian admission programmes at the moment.

National quotas on resettlement and humanitarian admission

National commitments for resettlement, humanitarian admission and emergency quota

2-year Union Plan	National commitment for resettlement	National commitment for humanitarian admissions	Emergency quota

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Period 2024-2025	0	0	0
Period 2026-2027	0	0	0
Period 2028-2029	0	0	0

Procedural and practical arrangements

The admission procedure

Referral: The main authority responsible for the referral of both resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes is the Ministry of the Interior, which creates policy, and negotiates and presents programmes of both resettlement and humanitarian admission to the government. The decisions of approval on programmes of both resettlement and humanitarian admission is carried out by the government. There is no specific institutionalised difference between the resettlement and humanitarian admission referral procedures.

Selection and assessment of cases: Selection interview: The interviews are conducted with applicants individually by MD and SSG, the number of interviews applicants per selection mission varies sharply depending on the pledge being implemented. Questions related to reception/integration purposes are present during the interview, minors are not present, as underaged applicants do not match Lithuanian national criteria. There is no standard questionnaire, however the method of the interview generally follows the guidelines on asylum interviews. The difference with the standard asylum procedure is the involvement of the SSD and a broader number of topics discussed during the interview (reception/integration purposes, questions related to national security). Selection on dossier (if applicable): All cases are examined equally and individually using the same procedure, therefore there is no specific cases singled out for a more thorough examination.

Assessment of cases: 1 month to issue a decision on the admission/refusal for resettlement and humanitarian admission from the date of the reception of all

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necessary documents from the host country. No separate timeframe for emergency cases.

Type of protection granted and residence permit issued after the admission procedure

The following types of protection can be offered:

- Refugee status, in which case a foreigner is issued with a long-term resident's permit to permanently reside in Lithuania that is valid for 5 years;
- Subsidiary protection, in which case a foreigner is issued with a temporary resident's permit to reside in Lithuania that is valid for 2 years;
- Temporary protection, in which case a foreigner is issued with a temporary resident's permit to reside in Lithuania that is valid for either 1 or 2 years;
- Tolerable stay, in which case a foreigner is issued with a temporary resident's permit to reside in Lithuania that is valid for 1 year.

Renewals of these resident permits are valid for the same period as the initial one, however after 5 years of legal stay in Lithuania under any scheme, foreigners may apply for a long-term resident's permit to permanently reside.

All foreigners who are resettled or admitted in the country are generally obliged to apply for asylum, therefore the type of protection they receive is determined individually on a case by case basis, following the same procedure that is applicable for all other asylum applications.

Pre-departure assistance

After the selection interview, all applicants are informed by the interviewing staff of the next steps in the procedure (assessment to be concluded in Lithuania, estimated timeframe until a decision, possibility of a negative decision) and are provided with a booklet in a language they can understand about Lithuania that holds general information about the country, its customs, laws, etc. All other assistance/orientation is provided after departure.

Travel arrangements

Following a decision by the Ministry of the Interior and Foreign Affairs Minister, as of April 2021 Lithuania recognises the travel document issued by

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the International Committee of the Red Cross to enter the national territories among others for resettlement purposes. In issuing an international travel document, Red Cross organisations of different countries and the authorities of those countries cooperate to verify the identity of persons and their family ties.

Arrival and reception

Following a decision to transfer a foreigner to Lithuania, the Migration Department issues a travel document to enter the country, if necessary.

After the details of the foreigner’s arrival are known and prior to the transfer, the Migration Department informs the SBGS (which meets and registers the foreigner) and the MSSL (which takes care of the reception procedures).

Upon arrival, refugees must apply for international protection with SBGS officers who register their asylum application as per the regular asylum registration procedure. After that the asylum applications are examined in accordance with the regular examination procedure as all other applications.

Integration support to resettled and admitted refugees

The Reception and Integration Agency implements the project "Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission". The Agency will be responsible for organising integration measures for third-country nationals or stateless persons admitted through humanitarian admission, who are participating in the social integration programme either at a reception centre managed by the Agency or in a municipality (1 January 2022-31 December 2029).

Another project, called "Implementation of the Solidarity Mechanism between EU Member States and Third Countries"; aims to relocate third-country nationals from EU Member States.

Resettlement programmes

There are currently no resettlement programmes in place.

Humanitarian admission programmes

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There are currently no humanitarian admission programmes as described in the Union Resettlement Framework in place.

Complementary pathways

Community sponsorship schemes related to state-led resettlement programmes

There are currently no community sponsorship schemes related to state-led programmes in place.

Community sponsorship schemes linked to civil society-led humanitarian admission programmes

The RISE project (Reinforcing Integration through Sponsorship Enhancement, the Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund (2021–2027)) is implemented in Belgium, Italy, and Lithuania by the IOM, along with the Reception and Integration Agency and other partners. The main objectives are to strengthen knowledge and capacity to implement community sponsorship programmes, with a focus on housing.

Among other objectives, the project aims to improve access to and use of housing opportunities, identify effective models for piloting community sponsorship and expand housing and accommodation options by:

- engaging local authorities, real estate agents, landlords, and host families;
- developing practical toolkits;
- involving and training sponsors to provide housing support;
- connecting sponsors with beneficiaries of international protection.

Community sponsorship schemes linked to other complementary pathways

There are currently no community sponsorship schemes linked to other complementary pathways in place.

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