

TEMPLATE POLICY PAGE

Category:	Prostitution and Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation
Country:	Lithuania
Year:	/

Main policy page:	<p>Lithuania is a source, transit, and destination country for women and girls subjected to sex trafficking, as well as a source and destination country for men subjected to labor trafficking. Lithuanian children and adults are increasingly forced to engage in criminal activities, primarily shoplifting, in Nordic countries, France, the Netherlands, Spain, and the United Kingdom (UK).</p> <p>40 percent of identified Lithuanian trafficking victims are women and girls subjected to sex trafficking within the country. Lithuanian women are also trafficking victims in France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and the UK. Lithuanian women and girls from orphanages and state-run foster homes, as well as women with mental or psychological disabilities, are especially vulnerable. A small number of women from Russia and Belarus are transported through Lithuania en route to Western Europe, where they are forced into prostitution. Some Lithuanian men are subjected to forced labor in the Netherlands, the UK, and the United States, including in agriculture. Men from Bulgaria may be subjected to labor trafficking in Lithuania.</p> <p>In 2012-2013, an increase of reports about exploited labour of Lithuanians in other states and job announcements that did not reflect reality was observed. Trafficking in human beings is much affected by social, economic and legal differences among countries, the demand of prostitution and cheap labour, migration and criminal contacts abroad.</p> <p>The state policy on the prevention of such a negative phenomenon in Lithuania is based on a long-term and integrated approach. In 2009, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania approved the third Governmental programme, The Programme for the Prevention and Control of Trafficking in Human Beings for 2009-2012, oriented towards combating trafficking in human beings. The first programme covered the period of 2002-2004 and the second one was run in 2005-2008.</p> <p>The present multidisciplinary actions of prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings are incorporated into the Action Plan of the National Programme for Crime Prevention and Control for 2013-2015. It has the objectives to improve the professional skills of responsible specialists in the field of service, comprehensive assistance to victims of trafficking and forced prostitution, provision and protection of their rights; cooperation in the fight against human trafficking assurance, pays particular attention developing international and regional cooperation. The activities of these programmes including the projects for rendering assistance to trafficking in human beings victims are financed</p>
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	<p>from the state budget.</p> <p>In 2015 the Public security development program 2015-2025 was adopted, which includes objectives and procedures of the National Program for Crime Prevention and Control for 2013-2015, which will expire in 2016. The main objectives of the new program are to increase national coordination fighting against human traffic, to improve human traffic prevention and investigation measures, support providing system for victims suffering from human traffic.</p> <p>The national interdepartmental Commission coordinates this implementation. It is chaired by the Ministry of the Interior which is responsible for policy formation within the area. The investigations of trafficking in human beings are run and led by specialized police investigators and prosecutors. The most active NGO in assisting victims of trafficking in human beings in Lithuania remains The Lithuanian Caritas.</p>
<p>Relevant legislation:</p>	<p>Trafficking in human beings is classified as a serious crime punishable by up to 8 years of imprisonment under Article 147 of the Penal Code of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the “Penal Code”). The sale or purchase of a child is treated as a separate crime (Article 157 of the Penal Code) punishable by imprisonment of up to 8 years. Trafficking in children is treated as a constituent element of selling or purchasing a child, which is punishable by imprisonment from 2 to 10 years. Article 307 of the Penal Code provides for criminal liability to persons profiting from the prostitution of another person, while involving a person in prostitution is criminalized under Article 308. The Penal Code also provides for criminal liability for the smuggling of human beings across the state border (Article 292), organisation of trips of Lithuanian nationals abroad for the purpose of staying there illegally or leaving them without any help in a foreign country (Article 293), exploitation of children for pornography (Article 162), and other acts closely related to trafficking in human beings. Article 1821 of the Code of Administrative Offences of the Republic of Lithuania provides for administrative liability for engagement in prostitution and the use of prostitution services for material consideration.</p>
<p>Trends:</p>	<p>Lithuania is mostly a source country for trafficking in human beings for sexual and labour exploitation. It is also a transit and destination country for women and girls subjected to sexual exploitation. Lithuania has also experienced cases of internal trafficking. The groups particularly vulnerable to become victims of trafficking are young people who reside in orphanages and state-run foster homes, as well as people with mental or psychological disabilities. A small number of women from Belarus and Russia are transported through Lithuania and brought to Western Europe, where they are subsequently forced to provide sexual services.¹ The perpetrators and victims are mostly Lithuanian nationals. In 2012, a successful cooperation partnership was introduced between Lithuania and the responsible bodies in Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The Lithuanian authorities have also expressed a need to find ways to strengthen the</p>

cooperation with Spain.

Currently, various **assistance and support measures** are provided to victims of trafficking through several NGOs. In 2012, the Government financed five projects for rendering necessary assistance to both identified and potential victims of trafficking implemented by NGOs. 152 different services were rendered for victims (55 of them for male victims) based on their needs

Data on Trafficking in Human Beings in 2012-2014²

Data on victims

year	2012	2013	2014
Total number of victims	17	47	47
Age at time when exploitation began	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nationality	Mostly Lithuanian	Mostly Lithuanian	Mostly Lithuanian
Country of origin	N/A	N/A	N/A
Type of exploitation			
Sexual	Yes	Yes	Yes
Labour	Yes	Yes	Yes
Combination of sexual and labour	N/A	N/A	N/A
Organ trafficking	N/A	N/A	N/A
Forced/sham marriage	N/A	N/A	Yes
Number of victims identified	N/A	N/A	46
Number of victims accepting assistance	All were offered, some refused	All were offered, some refused	All were offered, some refused

Data on traffickers

Total number of traffickers	32	33	37
Gender	Men and women	Men and women	Men and women
Nationality	Mostly Lithuanian	Mostly Lithuanian	Mostly Lithuanian
Age	N/A	N/A	Age
Country of birth	N/A	N/A	Age
Type of exploitation	THB for sexual exploitation and forced labour	THB for sexual exploitation and forced labour	THB for sexual exploitation and forced labour, criminal activities, false marriages

Data on the trafficking process

Type of recruitment	N/A	N/A	N/A
Forms of border crossing	N/A	N/A	N/A
Means of control over victim	N/A	N/A	N/A
Country(ies) of exploitation	N/A	N/A	N/A

Data on criminal justice responses

Number of investigations ³ started	11	23	24
Number of investigations ⁴ successfully completed	9	11	-
Number of persons charged (under which charges)	25	33	40
Number of persons convicted (under which charges)	7 (from 4 to 7 years of imprisonment)	11 (from 3 to 12 years of imprisonment)	18

¹ TIP report 2012.

² The data are provided by the police and prosecutors and concern the pre-trial investigations started in 2012.

³ Registered criminal cases with several investigations (criminal acts).

⁴ Cases with several investigations (criminal acts) handed over to courts.

Contacts:

Ministry of the Interior
e-mail: reda.sirgediene@vrm.lt (any questions)

Police Department under the Mol
e-mail: tomas.puskorius@policija.lt (for police activity questions)

Ministry of Social Security and Labour
e-mail: post@socmin.lt (for assistance to victims questions).

National organisations

Caritas Lithuania
<http://www.anti-trafficking.lt/>
e-mail: caritas@anti-trafficking.lt

NGO Missing Persons' Families Support Centre
<http://www.missing.lt/en/index.php>
e-mail: centras@missing.lt

Completed template to be sent to the EUCPN Secretariat at eucpn@ibz.eu.