

**The Organisation of Reception Facilities
for Asylum Seekers in Lithuania**

EMN FOCUSED STUDY 2013



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Top-line “Factsheet”
Executive Summary

Lithuania has set up two centres to accommodate asylum seekers:

- **Foreigners’ Registration Centre (FRC)** in Pabradė is the main institution accommodating asylum seekers during the examination of their application and third country nationals who came into the country illegally and thus were detained (in the separate building). Foreigners’ Registration Centre has accommodation for 92 asylum seekers. The Centre accommodates an average of 500-600 asylum seekers throughout the year. Average duration of their stay at the centre is 2 months. The daily subsistence cost for one individual is 60 LTL. FRC is a law enforcement institution. The Ministry of the Interior and the State Border Guard Service (hereinafter the SBGS) under the Ministry of the Interior are responsible for the activities of the FRC.
- **Refugees Reception Centre (RRC)** in Rukla accommodates unaccompanied minors seeking asylum and aliens who were granted asylum in Lithuania. Refugees Reception Centre is able to accommodate 15 unaccompanied minors asylum seekers. During the year, the number of accommodated unaccompanied minors in the centre varies from 6 unaccompanied minors (in 2007) to 92 unaccompanied minors (in 2012). They stay for an average of 2 months in the centre. The daily subsistence cost for one unaccompanied minor is 50 LTL. The Refugee Reception Centre as a social institution is under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.

The Lithuanian legal framework guarantees the accommodation for all asylum seekers: both for those arrived legally and illegally. The law does not provide for the refusal to accommodate asylum seekers for the lack of places in the centres, or to evict individuals from the place of accommodation because of violations of local regulations or for other reasons. Currently, FRC does not have the facility to separately accommodate vulnerable individuals – they are housed in the same building as other asylum seekers¹. On the decision of the Migration Department, an asylum applicant may be permitted to reside in the place of his choice if the asylum applicant so desires, but that rarely happens.

Although individuals accommodated in the reception centres receive material, social and medical services, financial allowances and leisure activities are organised for them, but the material reception conditions are limited. It is necessary to improve the quality and availability of medical and psychological services, and review the amount of allowance (currently it is LTL 35, or 10 EUR, per month). Quality and improvement of material conditions is one of the most problematic aspects discussed in public debates.

The flow of asylum seekers in Lithuania is quite stable: from 2001, the highest number of applications was submitted in 2003 (644), while the lowest – in 2005 (410). However, since 2009 the number of asylum seekers increased every year (from 449 applications for asylum in 2009 to 627 applications in 2012.). Taking into consideration the flow of asylum seekers, it can be stated that Lithuania has not faced with the influx of asylum seekers. On the contrary – because of the unused facilities of the RRC it was decided to use one building for the accommodation of adult Lithuanian citizens with disabilities. However, if the number of asylum seekers suddenly increased,

¹However, the URC attempts to separate single women and families from other asylum seeker groups – they are accommodated on the other floor of the building.

border crossing points would be faced with a lack of accommodation, as there are limited accommodation facilities for asylum seekers.

The flow of asylum seekers remains stable and there are sufficient places at the centres for the acceptance of asylum seekers, nevertheless, the Lithuanian Government has approved the Emergency management plan, in which the massive influx of foreigners is listed as one of the threats. The plan has named the authorities responsible for the mass influx of aliens, and functions assigned to specific institutions. The plan details are described in the Emergency Prevention Action Plan approved by the commander of the SBGS, which sets out the measures to prepare for a mass influx of aliens, potential reasons for the rise of such threat (for example, unrest in a neighbouring country) and the consequences (influx of foreigners flows into the country's territory). The threat is recorded when a group of at least 15 people cross the border irregularly.

Section 1 Different types of Reception Facilities and different Actors

The Reception Conditions Directive (Directive 2003/9/EC, Article 13) and the Commission's proposal for the recast Reception Conditions Directive (Article 17) stipulate that Member States shall ensure availability of material reception conditions to applicants for international protection. Housing constitutes an essential, if not the primary, element of reception conditions. Provision of accommodation can be provided in a variety of possible manners. Directive 2003/9/EC (Article 14) makes broad reference to: a) accommodation premises for applicants who lodged their application at the border; b) accommodation centres which guarantee an adequate standard of living; c) private houses, flats, hotels or other premises adapted for housing applicants for international protection. Consequently, (Member) States have established different types of reception facilities, such as, collective/communal reception facilities, individual housing (private houses, flats or hotels arranged and paid for by the State), or, some also offer the applicant financial compensation which covers housing expenses.

Q1. Please indicate in Table 1 below what type of reception facilities exist in your (Member) State.

In case your (Member) State offers a different type of facility which is not listed in the table below, please include and describe this by adding additional rows to the table below. Please also indicate how many of these facilities exist and indicate what their capacity is and how many applicants were accommodated in these facilities per year starting from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2012.

Should your (Member) State not be able to provide the maximum capacity, please provide a brief explanation for this and specify the actual number of applicants accommodated in a certain type of facility on an annual basis for the period 2008-2012.

Table 1. Different types of Reception Facilities

Type of accommodation	Does this type of facility exist in your	If so, how many of these facilities	Specify the maximum number of	Number of applicants accommodated
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	Member State?	existed at the end of 2012?	applicants the facilities could accommodate	in such facilities per year during 2008-2012
Collective initial/transit reception centres	No	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Collective open reception centres²	Yes. Asylum seekers are accommodated in the FRC	1	92 places (at one time)	2008 – 275; 2009 – 353; 2010 – 437; 2011 – 509; 2012 – 677.
Special reception centres or facilities for vulnerable groups (e.g. victims of torture or specific vulnerable female applicants)	No	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Special separate reception centres for unaccompanied minors	Yes. Unaccompanied minor asylum seekers are accommodated in the RRC	1	15 (at one time)	2008 – 8; 2009 – 6; 2010 – 7; 2011 – 22; 2012 – 92.
Private houses or flats: arranged and paid for by competent authorities	No	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Private hotels: arranged and paid for by competent authorities	No	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Individually arranged accommodation such as houses, flats, hotels and/or possibilities of staying with friends and/or family³	Yes. Asylum seekers can reside in the place of their choice on the decision of the Migration department. In such case, they are not provided any services and not entitled to financial allowances.	-	-	-
Other premises for the purpose of accommodating applicants for international protection which are arranged and	No	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

² Open centres means that applicants are free to enter and leave the centre whenever they want.

³ Please specify whether applicants receive (or have the possibility of receiving) a financial allowance in case they have individually arranged their accommodation.

paid for by the competent authorities			
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Asylum seekers are accommodated in the FRC, while unaccompanied minors are accommodated in the RRC. Asylum seeker having legally entered the country may be permitted to reside in the place of his choice on the decision of the Migration Department. In practice, these persons have to prove that they have a place to stay, and that they have funds for subsistence.

Asylum seekers having legally arrived into the country and residing in the FRC are entitled to leave the Centre for 24 hours. Unaccompanied minors residing in the RRC may leave the Centre for 72 hours.

The FRC was established in 1996. The Centre is a unit of the State Border Guard Service under the Ministry of the Interior. The Centre can accommodate at one time up to 500 foreigners; there are 92 places for asylum seekers.

The RRC is a budget institution providing social services, established under the Minister of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania. The RRC aims to accommodate foreigners who are granted asylum in the Republic of Lithuania, and all unaccompanied minor asylum seekers. Unaccompanied minor asylum seekers are accommodated in the unit for minors. RRC can accommodate 15 unaccompanied minors at one time.

Q2. Which authority(ies) carry financial responsibility over the reception facilities?

- (a) State authorities (Yes)*
- (b) Local authorities / regional governments (No)*
- (c) External service provider such as NGOs, actors from the private sector or any other kind of third party involvement? (No)*

FRC⁴ is a budget institution reporting to the Ministry of the Interior. External funds may also be used to finance the Centre.

RRC⁵ is a budget institution financed by the state of the Republic of Lithuania, and municipal budget. External funds can also be used to finance the Centre.

Q3. Which authorities carry executive responsibility⁶ over the facilities:

- (a) State authorities (Yes)*
- (b) Local authorities / regional government (No)*
- (c) External service provider such as NGOs, actors from the private sector or any other kind of third party involvement? (No)*

FRC and RRC are under the responsibility of the state authorities.

⁴ Order No 4-76 of 30 September 2011 of the manager of the State Border Guard Service under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania „On the approval of Regulations of the squads and the Border guards school of the State Border Guard Service Under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania“.

⁵ Order No A1-234 of 18 August 2005 of the Minister of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania “On the approval of Regulations on the Refugee Reception Centre”.

⁶ Executive responsibility refers to the day-to-day running of the reception facilities and would also for example include including quality control of the services provided in the facility.

- Activities of the FRC are coordinated by the State Border Guard Service under the Ministry of the Interior;
- Activities of the RRC are coordinated by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.

The owner of the FRC is the state. The State Border Guard Service coordinates and controls the activities of the Centre, takes a decision on the changes of its headquarters address, solves other issues within its capacity according to the laws and regulations.

The owner of the RRC is the state. Rights and obligations of the Centre owner are implemented by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, which coordinates and controls the activities of the Centre, takes a decision on the changes of its headquarters address, solves other issues within its capacity according to the laws and regulations. Activities of the RRC are organised based on the annual activity plan which is prepared on the basis of the Strategic Planning Methodology, approved by Resolution No 827 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 6 June 2002, and approved by the Minister of Social Security and Labour.

Q4. In case reception facilities are run by local authorities/regional governments or with the involvement of an external service provider (e.g. NGOs or actors from civil society), please indicate whether the reception facilities are centrally coordinated (i.e. does one single authority still carry overall responsibility for the reception of applicants for international protection?)

Not applicable

Q5. In case reception facilities are run by local authorities/regional governments or with involvement of an external service provider (e.g. NGOs or actors from civil society), how is their involvement regulated?

Have any formal coordination mechanisms between the different actors been signed (for example cooperation agreements stipulating the division of competences)?

Not applicable

Section 2

Take up of Reception Facilities: Factors determining access to the different types of facilities

Q6. Please provide a short overview of which applicants for international protection are entitled to reception facilities provided by the State. Please complete Table 2 below:

Table 2. Categories of applicants entitled to reception facilities

Different categories of applicants depending on <i>type/stage of procedure</i>	Entitled to reception facilities (Yes/No)	Are these applicants entitled to standard or specific reception facilities ⁷ ?
Applicants under Dublin II⁸	Yes	The decision on the application of the Dublin II Regulation is taken within 48 hours from the moment of lodging the application for asylum. During this period, asylum seekers are accommodated in the institution which has received an asylum application: at the border crossing points or at the State Border Guard Service (in the area where the border legal regime applies), in a local police unit or in the FRC. If it is determined that another EU member state is responsible for the examination of the asylum application, an individual is granted temporary territorial asylum, and is issued a certificate of foreigner's registration. Then the individual has the right to reside in the FRC.
Applicants in admissibility procedures⁹	Yes	Asylum seekers are accommodated in the institution which has received the application for the period of 48 hours until the decision on admissibility is pending.
Applicants subject to accelerated procedures	Yes	The accelerated procedure applies if the individual coming from a safe third country, a safe country of origin, or if the application is manifestly unfounded. The decision is taken within 48 hours from the moment of lodging the application (the decision can be extended for up to 7 days). Asylum seekers spend this period in the institution which has received an application, where there is a possibility to

⁷ Specific reception facilities refer to facilities which divert from mainstream reception facilities, e.g. depending on the type of applicant, or stage/procedure.

⁸ Applicants under Dublin II mean those applicants for which a Dublin procedure has been initiated and who are awaiting a Dublin decision determining the responsible country for examining the asylum claim.

⁹ Admissibility procedures refer to the stage of the application in which (Member) States determine whether an application will or will not be considered in substance based on the criteria laid down in Article 25 of Directive 2005/85/EC (the Asylum Procedures Directive) which stipulates circumstances in which Member States are allowed to declare application as inadmissible and are subsequently not required to examine the application.

		accommodate an individual for such period. Otherwise, the individual is immediately transferred to the FRC.
Vulnerable groups of applicants¹⁰ (with specific psychological/medical assistance needs)	Yes	Vulnerable asylum seekers are accommodated in the FRC with other asylum seekers. To date, FRC has no facilities adapted for vulnerable individuals.
Unaccompanied minors awaiting decision for international protection	Yes	Unaccompanied minor asylum seekers are accommodated in the RRC.
Unaccompanied minors who have exhausted the procedure for international protection and are awaiting return	Yes	Return or expulsion of unaccompanied minors who have exhausted all measures according to the asylum procedure, is organized by the Migration Department and decisions are implemented by the police or the State Border Guard Service. An unaccompanied minor can be returned, provided that he is duly taken care of in the foreign country to which the unaccompanied minor alien is returned, taking into consideration his needs, age and level of independence. In practice, there have been no cases of unaccompanied minor returns.
Applicants who have lodged an appeal procedure	Yes	Asylum seekers who appeal the decision are accommodated in the FRC. All unaccompanied minors who appealed against the decision are accommodated in the RRC until exhaustion of all means according to the asylum procedure.
Applicants who have lodged a subsequent application	Yes	Asylum seekers who re-submit the application are subject to the standard reception facilities (accommodated in the FRC or in the RRC) until exhaustion of all means according to the asylum procedure.
Applicants who have received a positive decision on their international protection application	Yes	Aliens granted asylum are accommodated in the RRC where their integration program is implemented. Support in the centre is

¹⁰ The Reception Conditions Directive makes reference to the following categories of applicants under vulnerable groups: unaccompanied minors, disabled people, elderly people, pregnant women, single parents with minor children, persons who have been subjected to torture, rape, or other serious forms of psychological, physical, or sexual violence.

		provided for up to 8 months. If during the period the alien who has been granted asylum, for objective reasons failed to prepare for integration in the territory of the municipality, this period may be extended up to 12 months. If aliens who have been granted asylum belong to vulnerable groups, this period may be extended for up to 18 months. Stay in the centre may be extended for unaccompanied minors, taking into account the interests of the child, until they reach the age of 18 years. At the end of the integration period, aliens who have been granted asylum receive a place of residence in specific municipalities where they continue the integration program.
Applicants who have exhausted the procedure for international protection and who are awaiting return	Yes	Return or expulsion of asylum seekers who have exhausted all measures according to the asylum procedure, is organized by the Migration Department and decisions are implemented by the police or the State Border Guard Service. Individuals awaiting the expulsion are detained in the FRC according to the court decision. In case a return decision is taken, individuals may be accommodated in the FRC or in their chosen place of residence.
Other (e.g. applicants from other EU Member States, families with children with an irregular migrant status, applicants from safe third countries of origin etc. Please specify)	–	–

Q7. From the aforementioned categories of applicants who are entitled to reception, can any be excluded from reception facilities for particular reasons (e.g. because the applicant has sufficient financial means, or because the applicant has misbehaved in a reception facility, or any other reasons)?

No, the law does not provide for the possibility to refuse accommodation to asylum seekers.

Q8. a) Does your (Member) State carry out an assessment of vulnerability which could result in

assignment to special reception facilities for vulnerable groups of applicants?

Lithuania does not have special reception centres for vulnerable individuals; all asylum seekers, except unaccompanied minors, are accommodated in the FRC. To date, FRC has no special facilities for vulnerable individuals. The centre has internal regulations and procedures. A vulnerable person is provided with more care, however, is accommodated with all other asylum seekers.

Q8. b) If yes, please indicate whether the assessment of vulnerability is:

- a) **Obligatory and laid down in law**(No)*
- b) **Standard practice**(No)*
- c) **Optional** (Yes)*

Q9. Which authority/(-ies) carry responsibility for deciding on the allocation of applicants for international protection to different reception facilities?

Decisions on the accommodation of asylum seekers in the FRC, on the accommodation of unaccompanied minors in the RRC, are taken by the Migration Department.

Q10. How do these authorities allocate applicants to different types of reception facilities?

Please state whether one of the scenarios below, or a combination thereof, are applicable to your (Member) State and briefly describe:

i) Capacity;(No)

Your (Member) State assigns applicants for international protection according to capacity, e.g. your (Member) State monitors occupancy rate of each reception centre and assigns applicants accordingly.

ii) Dispersal Mechanism;(No)

Your (Member) State applies a dispersal scheme which defines how many applicants each reception centre at national/regional/local level ought to receive (either in percentages or based on a specific quota).

iii) Type of asylum procedure;(No)

Your (Member) State takes into account the type of asylum procedure and assigns applicants accordingly to a specific reception facility. For example, one or more of the below is applicable to your (Member) State:

- Applicants who fall under the Dublin II Regulation are accommodated in specific reception facilities;*
- Applicants subject to accelerated procedures are assigned to specific reception facilities;*
- Etc.*

iv) Stage of asylum procedure;(Yes)

Your (Member) State takes into account the stage of the asylum procedure and assigns applicants accordingly to a specific facility. For example, one or more of the below is applicable to your Member State:

- Applicants during the admissibility procedure – when a (multiple) application is assessed for admissibility or when a Dublin examination is carried out – are temporarily placed in specific initial/transit reception facilities;*

- *Applicants who are awaiting a first instance decision are placed in specific reception facilities;*
- *Applicants who have lodged an appeal procedure are transferred to specific reception facilities;*
- *Failed/rejected applicants for international protection are transferred to specific reception facilities.*

All asylum seekers are accommodated in the FRC (except unaccompanied minors). This centre also accepts detained migrants who have illegally entered the country. The FRC has two regimes: one for asylum seekers and one for illegal migrants. If the asylum seeker who has exhausted all procedural options, is subject to the expulsion procedure, FRC may contact the court on the apprehension of this person in the FRC. In this case, an individual is transferred from one building block to another, and is subject to the detention regime. Expulsion procedure is applied in cases where the asylum seeker has entered the country illegally.

v) *Profile of the asylum applicant;*(No)

Your (Member) State takes into account the profile of the applicant for international protection (e.g. special needs¹¹, nationality, or specific motives underpinning the application) and assigns applicants accordingly to a specific reception facility.

vi) *Duration of the asylum procedure;*(No)

Your (Member) State moves applicants for international protection from one facility to another after a certain time period has elapsed.

vii) *Other criteria (e.g. family composition)?*(Yes)

Lithuania decides on the accommodation according to the status of an asylum seeker. Asylum seekers and irregular migrants are accommodated in the FRC. In the case of asylum seekers who legally entered the country they may choose their residence place outside the FRC if they wish so and having received the decision of the Migration department. Unaccompanied minors seeking asylum are accommodated in the social institution – the RRC.

Q11. Is the process for assignment of applicants to different reception facilities:

a) *Laid down in legislation;*(Yes)

Accommodation of asylum seekers is regulated by the law “On the Legal Status of Aliens”¹² and corresponding subordinate legislation. The Law “On the Legal Status of Aliens” (LLSA) Art. 79 provides that asylum seekers who legally arrived to the Republic of Lithuania, who have been granted temporary territorial asylum, are accommodated in the FRC, whereas unaccompanied minors seeking asylum are accommodated in the RRC, if his temporary guardian (curator) or other legal representative does not object to it. Asylum seekers who legally enter the country, may reside in their chosen place of residence. Supporting legal acts¹³ provides that in addition to the asylum

¹¹ The Reception Conditions Directive makes reference to the following categories of applicants under vulnerable groups: unaccompanied minors, disabled people, elderly people, pregnant women, single parents with minor children, persons who have been subjected to torture, rape, or other serious forms of psychological, physical, or sexual violence.

¹² Law of the Republic of Lithuania "On the Legal Status of Aliens" // *Official Gazette*, 2004, No 73-2539.

¹³ Order No 1V-340 of the Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania of 4 October 2007 “On the approval of the description of procedure and conditions for temporary accommodation of foreigners in the Foreigners’ Registration Centre” // *Official Gazette*, 2007, No 105-4326

seekers named in article 79 of the LLSA (Asylum seekers who legally arrived to the Republic of Lithuania, who have been granted temporary territorial asylum), the FRC also accommodates:

- detained foreigners who submit asylum application;
- individuals who came at their own initiative and submitted asylum applications;
- individuals who applied for asylum to other bodies and institutions.

b) Outlined in soft law/guidelines;(No)

c) Not outlined in official documents, but there is a standard practice in place.(No)

Q12. Provided there is sufficient capacity, does your (Member) State offer the applicant a choice for reception facility/location?

No.

Q13. a) Does your (Member) State provide for a possibility to relocate applicants for international protection to different reception facilities after initial assignment to a reception centre?

No. If an individual comes into the country legally, he can stay in his chosen place of residence, rather than in the Foreigners' Registration Centre.

Q13. b) If yes, which of the below criteria are applied, or a combination thereof, for relocation to a different reception centre:

- i) Capacity/bed management issues***
- ii) Change in family profile (e.g. birth of a child)***
- iii) Medical or special need reasons***
- iv) Incidents at centres which may require transfer to alternative accommodation***
- v) Time limits (procedural-driven)***
- vi) Programme for voluntary return to the country of origin***
- vii) Any other reasons?***

Not applicable.

Section 3

Quality: National Legislation on Material Reception Conditions

Q14. According to national legislation in your (Member) State, what are applicants for international protection who are accommodated in reception facilities entitled to in terms of the following reception conditions:

- a) Food;**
- b) Clothing;**
- c) Financial allowance¹⁴.**

Please briefly describe your national legislation in relation to aforementioned material reception conditions and make reference to the relevant provisions in national legislation.

Legislation regulates the material conditions of reception only for individuals who are already accommodated in the FRC or in the RRC. Meanwhile, for asylum seekers awaiting the decision on the temporary territorial asylum at border points or territorial police units, provision of material reception conditions is not regulated. The legislation also does not provide access to material conditions for those living in their chosen place of residence.

The Law “On the Legal Status of Aliens” states that during the examination of the application, asylum seekers have the right to live in the FRC or in the RRC and use their services, receive necessary medical care and social services free of charge, receive a monthly allowance, and other rights guaranteed by international treaties of the Republic of Lithuania, its laws and regulations.

Foreigners’ Registration Centre (FRC)

- *Food.* Supporting legal acts indicate that adults accommodated in the centre receive 3 meals per day (minors receive 4 meals per day) free of charge according to the physiological nutritional standards approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.
- *Clothing.* Where possible, individuals may be provided with free clothing and footwear.
- *Financial allowance.* The Law “On the Legal Status of Aliens” indicates that entitlement of asylum seekers to receive a monthly allowance for individual needs is regulated by the Minister of Social Security and Labour. It is important to note that according to the order of the Minister of Social Security and Labour, payment of allowance has been established only for the unaccompanied minors asylum seekers living in the RRC. In practice, allowance for asylum seekers in the FRC is paid according to the legislation previously in force, although the current legislation does not regulate this process. At present, the monthly allowance comprises 10 per cent of the state-supported income and is equal to 35 LTL. It should be noted that this allowance may be reduced or terminated for violations of internal procedures of the Centre.

Refugees Reception Centre (RRC)

Material conditions of unaccompanied minors asylum seekers in the RRC are regulated by the

¹⁴ Please explain what costs the financial allowance is intended to cover (e.g. does it cover accommodation costs, does it include pocket money etc) and specify whether the financial allowance is provided de facto and/or whether it can be used to remunerate applicants who carry out work (small tasks) within the reception facility.

“Description of conditions and procedure for the accommodation of foreigners in the Refugees Reception Centre, organisation of foreigners’ employment and application of disciplinary measures” approved according to the order of the Minister of Social Security and Labour¹⁵ (hereinafter the Description of RRC Procedure).

- *Food.* Food allowance is granted for unaccompanied children under the age of 18 years and the amount of 60 per cent of the state supported income, which to this day is 210 LTL. Alternatively, catering can be provided by the Centre (centrally provided food in the canteen). In such cases, the said allowance is not paid.
- *Clothing.* Where possible, residents are supplied with clothing and footwear. Residents are provided with clothing and footwear using the state budget and charity.
- *Financial allowance.* Unaccompanied minors living in the RRC can get allowance for meals, which is equal to LTL 210, or to choose centralized canteen meals (in that case the allowance for meals is not paid). Moreover, according to the “Description of procedure for the alien’s right to receive a monthly allowance for petty expenses”, adopted by the Minister of Social Security and Labour, individuals living in the RRC are paid a monthly allowance for miscellaneous expenses. This allowance totals 10 per cent of the state-supported income and is currently equal to 35 LTL. The allowance is paid in accordance with the procedure specified by the Centre's Director, and can be reduced by up to 75 per cent or discontinued up to 3 months for failure to comply with obligations, and arbitrary departure from the Centre for more than 72 hours.

Q15. Please indicate in Table 3 below for each type of reception facility in place in your (Member) State: the available surface per applicant (in square meters); the supervision rate (number of staff per applicant); and specify whether applicants have the possibility to take part in organised leisure activities.

Table 3. Other quality criteria for reception facilities that relate to the applicant’s experience of being accommodated in a reception facility

<i>Type of accommodation</i>	<i>Available surface per applicant in square meters</i>	<i>Supervision rate (number of staff per applicant)</i>	<i>Possibility of leisure activities? Yes/No. If yes, briefly describe</i>
<i>Collective initial/transit reception centres</i>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<i>Collective open reception centres – Foreigners’ Registration Centre</i>	5	The Centre has 86 staff members (the staff also works with detained aliens)	Yes. Accommodation procedure in the FRC indicates that the centre staff must provide conditions for the accommodated individuals to visit the Centre's library, take part in sport competitions and cultural events, to engage

¹⁵Order No 20 of 13 February 2002 of the Minister of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania 20 On the approval of procedure for the implementation of the conditions and procedure for the accommodation of foreigners in the Refugees Reception Centre, organisation of foreigners’ employment and application of disciplinary measures, the alien's right to receive a monthly allowance for miscellaneous expenses, and the aliens' rights to receive a compensation for the use of public transport // *Official Gazette*. 2009. No 98-4135.

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			in crafts, and acquire knowledge of health care issues.
<i>Special reception centres or facilities for vulnerable groups (e.g. victims of torture or specific vulnerable female applicants)</i>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<i>Special separate reception centres for unaccompanied minors – Refugees Reception Centre</i>	Not specified	The Centre employs 10 employees who also work with unaccompanied minors asylum seekers.	Description of RRC procedure provides organisation system of activities for the residents of the Centre. It indicates that the staff of the Centre must provide conditions for the residents to: attend the Lithuanian language courses; attend vocational guidance activities; get free psychological counselling; use the Centre's library services and the media (TV and radio); engage in sports; participate in cultural events; engage in community service.
<i>Private houses or flats: arranged and paid for by competent authorities</i>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<i>Private hotels: arranged and paid for by competent authorities</i>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<i>Individually arranged accommodation such as houses, flats, hotels and/or possibilities of staying with friends and/or family</i>	-	-	No
<i>Other premises for the purpose of accommodating applicants for international protection which are arranged and paid for by the competent authorities</i>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Q16. Has your (Member) State developed guidelines or a handbook in relation to the reception offered to applicants for international protection?

No.

Q17. What control mechanisms are in place to ensure that reception conditions are provided according to the standards specified in national legislation or other protocols/regulations?

FRC activities are controlled by internal control mechanisms: management control, central institution control (immunity division), and the law division. The control mechanism is established in the FRC rules of procedure, which is approved by the order of the chief of the Centre and is intended for internal use only. In practice, the control system is implemented by organising the audit every few years, which inspects the documents and checks whether foreigners are properly introduced to the decisions taken and their rights. It also monitors for occurrences when asylum seekers are accommodated in the detainees block. FRC staff member has indicated that no technical errors were identified during the audits.

External control is provided the Law “On the Legal Status of Aliens”, which indicates that Lithuanian state institutions cooperate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, enables the Office to implement its obligations and to monitor the compliance with the requirements in the Republic of Lithuania of the Convention on the Status of Refugees of 1951.

It should be noted that UNHCR representatives have the opportunity to visit the Centre continuously and provide feedback to the Government on the quality of asylum seeker accommodation. In practice, this provision is implemented through the monitoring of the border points and the Foreigners’ Registration Centre, according to the tripartite memorandum of cooperation between the UNHCR, SBGS and the Lithuanian Red Cross Society. In the report of 2012 covering the period from June 2010 to December 2011, UNHCR identified following problems related to accommodation of asylum seekers in the FRC: lack of psychological assistance (it has been unavailable for 2 years); food in the Centre is not always compliant with the cultural habits of asylum seekers; rooms have poor living conditions; there are no facilities to accommodate vulnerable persons separately; insufficient opportunities for leisure activities; there is a lack of control authority capable of continuous monitoring of the reception conditions in the Centre¹⁶.

Q18. Has there been a public debate about the quality of reception facilities in your Member State in the period from 2008 onwards – to date?

Intensive discussions are held in the public domain on the conditions of asylum seeker reception: non-governmental organizations and the UNHCR are concerned about the existing asylum seeker reception procedure and offer a variety of tools on how to improve the existing system. In the seminar organised by the IOM Vilnius office in 2011 UNHCR representative pointed out the issues of accommodation at the border crossings: in some of them the conditions are good, in others – poor. UNHCR also criticized the FRC infrastructure, stating that the Centre does not have facilities to accommodate different groups of asylum seekers separately, for instance, single women and women with small children from other asylum seekers. The proposal was raised during the seminar to accommodate vulnerable asylum seekers in the RRC¹⁷.

Q19. Does primary research exist in your Member State, evaluating the quality of reception facilities?

Since Lithuania does not have the evaluation and quality assurance mechanisms for asylum reception, IOM Vilnius office in 2011 implemented the project funded by the European Refugee Fund (ERF) ‘Asylum system in Lithuania: theoretic and practical evaluation of effectiveness’, which aimed to identify the main problems of the asylum system and offer recommendations on how to improve the asylum procedures and the reception system. The project included interviews with the asylum system experts, civil servants, NGOs and UNHCR representatives and with asylum

¹⁶ Access to the Territory and the Asylum Procedure in Lithuania. Report on the Border Monitoring Activities, June 2010 – December 2011. UNHCR, 2012.

¹⁷ Report of the seminar organised by the IOM on 6 October 2011 “Lithuanian asylum system: problems and their solutions”

seekers, in order to determine the most relevant aspects of the problem.

The study found that the FRC does not implement all material rights of asylum seekers in a proper manner: there is a lack of access to health care services, there is a shortage of social workers, as well as the monthly allowance is not sufficient for satisfying the individual needs of asylum seekers. It was indicated in the recommendations of the study that where possible the Centre should establish positions for social worker. It also suggested, that monthly allowance should be increased, in accordance with financial possibilities.

In 2011, the Lithuanian Red Cross Society conducted a study “Asylum seeker detention and measures alternative to detention”, in which much attention was paid to the presentation of problems of asylum seeker accommodation at the FRC. The authors of the study found that the material conditions of the FRC are not sufficient: there have been complaints of residents of insufficient nutrition diversity and limited supply of hot water; the Centre does not have facilities of separate accommodation of vulnerable asylum seekers, such as single women or parents with minor children – they are accommodated on different floors in the same building¹⁸.

Section 4 Flexibility

Q20 Please fill out the national statistics in Table 4 below:

Table 4. National statistics on flexibility

Foreigners' Registration Centre	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total number of applicants entitled to reception¹⁹	210	211	373	406	529
Total number of applicants accommodated in reception facilities	167	117	312	262	295
Maximum number of applicants that could be accommodated in reception facilities (at one time)	92	92	92	92	92
Average occupation rate in reception facilities	108	94	59	64	76

Refugees Reception Centre	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012

¹⁸Lithuanian Red Cross Society “Asylum seeker detention and measures alternative to detention”. Vilnius, 2011. P. 35-37

¹⁹Statistics of new asylum applications.

(unaccompanied minors)					
Total number of applicants entitled to reception²⁰	1	3	9	10	4
Total number of applicants accommodated in reception facilities	8	6	7	22	92
Maximum number of applicants that could be accommodated in reception facilities (at one time)	15	15	15	15	15
Average occupation rate in reception facilities	-	-	-	-	60

Q 21. Please describe any pressure that your (Member) State may have experienced in relation to the reception of applicants for international protection during the period 2008-2012 and briefly explain possible reasons for such pressure. (Note that annual statistics from Eurostat on the number of applications for international protection, first decisions, etc. over the years 2008-2012 will be incorporated in the relevant section of the Synthesis Report. Hence, if relevant, you may refer to a period of pressure by comparing the number of applications with the capacity of your (Member) State's reception system).

The flow of asylum seekers in Lithuania is quite stable: from 2001 the highest number of applications was submitted in 2003 (644), whereas the lowest – in 2005 (410). In comparison to, 627 requests for asylum were submitted in 2012. Thus, Lithuania did not face the influx of asylum seekers.

Some border crossing points to date can accommodate from 2 to 5 people. Meanwhile, Foreigners' Registration Centre can accommodate 92 asylum seekers.

UNHCR in its border monitoring report indicated that in case of arrival of bigger flow of asylum seekers, almost all border points might face problems, such as inability to accommodate more people.

As for the unaccompanied minors accommodated in the Refugees Reception Centre, it should be noted that although the Centre has accommodation for 15 of such individuals, there was a case in 2012 when they had to accommodate a group of 18 individuals. The Centre representatives pointed out that there were no problems in resettling this group.

Q 22. Which flexibility mechanisms are foreseen and/or have been used in case there are shortages or surpluses in reception facilities? Please answer this question by indicating in Table 5 below whether any of the below mechanisms exist in your Member State and whether they have been actually used:

²⁰Number of unaccompanied minors who submitted asylum applications.

Table 5. Flexibility Mechanisms

Type of mechanism	Does this exist in your (Member) State? (Yes/No)	If yes, please describe	Has this mechanism been used? (Yes/No) If yes, please describe
<p>Early warning mechanism²¹ (including any software programmes monitoring capacity and occupancy in reception facilities)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Lithuania has the Emergency Prevention Plan ²² approved by the SBGS Commander, setting out the steps taken to prepare for a mass influx of foreigners, which is listed as one of the emergency situations in the country (threats). This plan specifies that each year the following activities are carried out:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preparedness of special forces of the SBGS is ensured to act in a situation in order to mitigate the consequences; 2. Information is collected on the arrival of foreigners in the FRC; 3. Plans for interaction with partner institutions are adjusted. <p>In addition, SBGS specialist stated that while performing the analysis of alien flows, information is exchanged with neighbouring countries on this issue, as well as with the help of Frontex foreigner flows are evaluated in other EU countries.</p> <p>It should be noted that the Migration Department under the Ministry of the Interior</p>	<p>Yes. The indicated actions are performed every year.</p>

²¹ An early warning mechanism refers to a monitoring system, e.g. a mechanism that monitors the inflow of applicants for international protection, evaluating in particular whether the (Member) State possesses the necessary capacity to deal with increased (or decreased) pressure. Such a monitoring system would enable identification of possible shortcomings (or excess capacity) at an early stage. An early warning mechanism could for example include a.o. any software programmes monitoring capacity and occupancy rate in reception facilities.

²² Order No 4-789 of 29 September 2011 of the manager of the State Border Guard Service under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania “State Border Guard Service Under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania. Emergency prevention plan for 2011-2013”

		collects and analyzes data on asylum seeker flows every year: the number of asylum applications, countries from which asylum seekers come, decisions made. This statistics allows assessing the asylum seeker flow trends in the near future.	
Additional reception centres acting as buffer capacity	No	-	
Emergency plans	Yes	<p>Government of the Republic of Lithuania on 20 October 2010 approved the Emergency management plan²³, listing the institutions responsible for mass inflow of aliens: Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of National Defence, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In such a situation, the Ministry of the Interior would be the main institution responsible in seclusion to organise the detention and temporary accommodation of aliens, and organising public peace in case of emergencies.</p> <p>SBGS also has the Emergency management plan²⁴, providing that mass inflow of aliens is enlisted as one of the potential dangers in the country. The plan indicates measures to be taken to manage and control emergency situations and mass inflow of aliens. According to this plan, the emergency operation centre of the SBGS is responsible for this plan, it has to perform the following actions in the event of mass inflow of aliens: provide suggestions on the enhancement of state border protection; organise detention and temporary accommodation of foreigners</p>	No

²³ See footnote 1.

²⁴ See footnote 2.

		<p>illegally crossing the state border; secure public peace during emergency situations; if necessary, a request assistance from military units; contact the Minister of Health of the Republic of Lithuania to perform the health checks of aliens illegally crossing the state border; organise the delivery of information about foreign nationals illegally crossing the state border, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania;</p> <p>Annex 1 to the aforementioned Emergency Management Plan “Analysis of potential dangers and risks of emergency situations”²⁵ defines potential dangers. The Annex identifies the mass inflow of aliens as one of the dangers resulting in a high likelihood that the aliens will move further into the country’s territory. Meanwhile, the reason of such potential danger may be unrest in the neighbouring country. It also indicates that the level of risk of the mass inflow of aliens is “10”, i.e. it is a event of a high risk.</p> <p>Meanwhile, in the resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania “On the approval of the list of criteria for emergency events”²⁶, mass inflow of aliens is identified as the event disturbing the social conditions of residence and requiring the preparation and coordination of the civil safety system efforts. The resolution points out that the critical indicator of this event is a</p>
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²⁵State Border Guard Service under the Ministry of the Interior. Annex 1 to the aforementioned Emergency Management Plan “State Border Guard Service Under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania. “Analysis of potential dangers and risks of emergency situations“

²⁶ Resolution No 241 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 9 March 2006 “On the approval of the criteria of emergency events”

		group of 15 people, i.e. upon identifying the group of aliens of such size, the actions provided in the plans are organised.	
Budget flexibility (to in- or decrease the budget when necessary)	No	-	-
Employing more case-workers to speed up decision-making	No	No	No
Fast-tracking procedures²⁷	No	-	-
Application of different standards/modalities of reception conditions in emergency situations²⁸	No	-	-
Provision of financial vouchers/allowance to cover costs of private accommodation	No	-	-
Review for specific categories of applicants who obtain priority access to reception	No	-	-
The use of excess space for other purposes	No		
Other?			

Q 23. Please indicate best practices in handling (disproportionate) pressure as well as ability to adjust to fluctuating numbers of applications over time. Where possible, please refer to the use (and effectiveness) of any of the aforementioned flexibility mechanisms.

Best practices were not identified since Lithuania has not faced described situation yet.

²⁷For example, hiring more officials analysing specific cases, will make decisions on applications of establishing or closing the reception infrastructure facilities.

²⁸ Article 14 paragraph 8 of the Reception Conditions Directive 2003/9/EC stipulates that: “Member States can exceptionally set modalities for material reception conditions different from those provided for in Article 14 for a reasonable period which shall be as short as possible, when: an initial assessment of the specific needs of the applicant is required; material reception conditions, as provided for in article 14, are not available in a certain geographical area; housing capacities normally available are temporarily exhausted; the asylum seeker is in detention or confined to border posts. The different conditions must cover in any case basic needs”.

Section 5
Efficiency

Q24. Please fill in the national statistics Table 6 below (please provide figures or, if not possible, estimates thereof):

Table 6. National Statistics on Efficiency

Foreigners' Registration Centre²⁹:

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
National budget allocated to the reception of applicants for international protection³⁰	LTL 3,771,000	LTL 3,771,000	LTL 3,771,000	LTL 3,771,000	LTL 3,771,000
Total costs of reception	LTL 60 per individual per day				
Total direct costs³¹	Not available				
Total indirect costs³²	Not available				
Total costs of reception including Dublin cases	Not available				
Total costs of reception excluding Dublin cases	Not available				
Inflow of new applicants to reception facilities	167	117	312	262	295
Inflow/return of applicants who have temporarily left a reception facility	30	46	81	122	100
Outflow of applicants from	44	142	280	255	397

²⁹Data of the Foreigners' Registration Centre.

³⁰ URC also accommodates detained persons illegally residing in the country (who are not asylum seekers). Part of the budget funds are used for the accommodation of such persons.

³¹ Direct costs refer to explicitly defined costs and budgets for the reception of applicants for international protection in each (Member) State.

³² Indirect costs refer to costs that are not directly measurable (as costs are borne by a wide range of stakeholders and further relate to the applicant's access to general public services).

reception facilities, who do not return later					
Share of applicants in reception facilities who have received a final decision on their application	Not available				
Median ³³ range of an applicant's stay	Not available				
Interquartile ³⁴ ranges of an applicant's stay	Not available				
Maximum time of stay in the Centre / Minimum time of stay in the Centre	331 / 2	338 / 4	350 / 3	324 / 3	304 / 4
Average time of stay in the Centre	108	94	59	64	76

Unaccompanied minors in the Refugees Reception Centre:

	2012
Admission costs	LTL 1500 per person per month
Number of unaccompanied minors who left the centre	91
Number of unaccompanied minors who left the centre, but later returned	0
Maximum time of stay in the Centre	5 months
Minimum time of stay in the Centre	3 days

Q25. Are cost (estimations) available for the flexibility mechanisms used in your Member State (see Question 22)?

No.

Q26. What is the tolerance time for extended stay of applicants in reception facilities who have already received a final decision on their application?

Unsuccessful asylum seekers are subject to the return or expulsion procedure. When decision on the return is made, the period from 7 to 30 days is given to the alien for voluntary departure from the Republic of Lithuania. Meanwhile, the decision to expel an alien from the Republic of Lithuania must be implemented immediately, unless there are circumstances due to which the implementation of the decision may be postponed.

³³ The median is the numerical value separating the higher half of the distribution of the lower half (middle value).

³⁴ The interquartile ranges refer to the value of the first quartile (25 percentile) and the third quartile (75 percentile) in a distribution.

Section 6 Conclusions

Q27. Please summarise the organisation of reception facilities in your (Member) State, indicating main strengths and weaknesses (please specify any evidence for these findings)

Asylum procedure in Lithuania was introduced in 1997 and from that moment Lithuania started admitting asylum seekers to Lithuania and providing international protection. At the same time two asylum reception centres were established - one in Pabradė and one in Rukla. These centres provide various services, including material, social and psychological support, medical assistance, leisure activities, financial support (monthly allowances), education for minors etc. However, practical implementation of the legislation causes some problems related to the reception and accommodation of asylum seekers. Experts indicate that asylum seekers reception conditions in the Republic of Lithuania related to the accommodation of asylum seekers during the examination of asylum applications are not in accordance with the requirements of the EU and national legislation.

Firstly, asylum experts and representatives of non-governmental organizations criticized the existing asylum accommodation arrangements in the FRC, indicating that asylum seekers, and in particularly vulnerable asylum seekers, should be accommodated in the institution providing social services, rather than the law enforcement institution.

A major concern is the provision of material services to asylum seekers. Experts pointed out that the amount of material assistance to asylum seekers needs to be improved. In June 2010, during the meeting with representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, the UNHCR has expressed concern at the need to improve material conditions and ensuring the quality of services in the FRC. In 2011, the International Organization for Migration, while implementing the project 'Asylum system in Lithuania: theoretic and practical evaluation of effectiveness', carried out the surveys of asylum seekers living in the FRC, which aimed to assess material and procedural conditions for reception. The interviewed asylum seekers criticized the quality of medical services. They also indicated that the period of 24 hours during which they are allowed to leave the Centre is insufficient. Complaints were raised about the financial allowance amount, food ration, household conditions (shortages of household appliances and hot water).

Financial support provided for asylum seekers is not adequate. The amount of allowance is not sufficient to meet the needs of individual people. Legal regulations also need to be updated. Payment of allowance for asylum seekers residing in the FRC is not legally formalized at the moment (mid-2013).

Legal framework pertaining to asylum seekers in Lithuania was assessed critically, as it does not provide the right of work for asylum seekers. Individuals accommodated in the FRC have no opportunity even in cases where the examination of their asylum applications is extended. During this period, individuals are at risk of losing their professional and social skills.

In summary, it can be stated that several issues were identified in assessing reception infrastructure and accommodation situation of asylum seekers in Lithuania. Reception conditions for asylum seekers are minimal. Individual circumstances of asylum seekers are also not taken into consideration. Responsible state institutions are working to improve the situation

Q28. Please summarise whether your (Member) State has experienced pressure on its reception facilities (in terms of both in-and outflow, and duration of the processing time of applications) and indicate what measures have been most successful in handling such pressure

During the period of 2008 – 2012 Lithuania has not experienced pressure in reception and accommodation of asylum seekers. Migration flows remained stable; furthermore, public authorities have drawn up emergency plans providing actions to be taken in case of surge of foreigners from other countries occur.

Q29. Please describe best practices in controlling costs of reception facilities whilst ensuring quality (maximum half a page)

Since FRC and RRC are state institutions, their financial control is the responsibility of the National Audit Office of the Republic of Lithuania. The State Controller supervises the legality and efficiency of management and use of public finances and other assets as well as the execution of the state budget. The National Audit Office performs the financial and performance audits.

Annex

Reception Conditions in different Reception facilities

Please fill out the table below concerning the rights granted to applicants for international protection as laid down in national legislation in different reception facilities.

Table A0.1 Reception conditions in different reception facilities

	Collective initial/transit reception centres	Collective open reception centres	Special reception centres/facilities for vulnerable groups	Special separate receptions centres for UAMs	Private houses or flats ³⁵	Private hotels ³⁶	Individually arranged accommodation ³⁷	Other premises	Comments
Food		Yes		Yes			No		The Description of FRC Procedure indicates, that adults accommodated in the centre received 3 meals per day, minors receive 4 meals per day free of charge according to the physiological nutritional standards approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. According to the Description of procedure for the accommodation the RRC, food allowance for unaccompanied children under the age of 18 years is granted and the

³⁵ Arranged and paid for by competent authorities.

³⁶ Arranged and paid for by competent authorities.

³⁷ E.g. houses/flats/hotels and/or staying with friends and family.

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									amount of 60 per cent of the state supported income, which to this day is 210 LTL. Alternatively, catering can be provided by the Centre (centrally provided food in the canteen), or by providing food items with a value equal to the amount of the allowance for meals. In such cases, the allowance is not paid.
Clothing		Yes		Yes			No		The Description of FRC Procedure provides that where possible, individuals may be provided with free clothing and footwear. Description of procedure of RRC indicates that where possible, residents are provided with clothing and footwear.
Financial allowance³⁸		Yes		Yes			No		Allowance for asylum seekers in the FRC is unregulated, and in practice is paid according to the rules previously in effect. At present, the allowance comprises 10 per cent of the state-supported income and is equal to 35 LTL. Unaccompanied minors living in the RRC can get allowance for meals, which is equal to

³⁸ Please explain what this consists of.

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									LTL 210, or to choose centralized canteen meals (in which case the allowance for meals is not paid). Moreover, according to the “Description of procedure for the alien’s right to receive a monthly allowance for petty expenses”, adopted by the Minister of Social Security and Labour, Individuals living in the RRC are paid a monthly allowance for miscellaneous expenses. This allowance totals 10 per cent of the state-supported income and is currently equal to 35 LTL.
Emergency health care		Yes		Yes			No		The Law “On the Legal Status of Aliens” indicates that individuals accommodated in the FRC and RRC are entitled to free medical assistance.
Medical care		Yes		Yes			No		The Description of FRC Procedure indicates that individuals accommodated in the Centre are insured with primary outpatient health care and emergency medical assistance, including the possibility of vaccination, according to the national program of immunization of the Republic of Lithuania. It should be noted that additional medical services are provided from the EU

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									<p>funds, while implementing projects, since currently the asylum seekers' health insurance system has not yet been developed.</p> <p>Unaccompanied minor asylum seekers living in the RRC have access to medical services. Unaccompanied minor asylum seekers are covered by compulsory health insurance, and have free access to health care services.</p>
Psychological care		Yes		Yes			No		<p>According to the Description of FRC Procedure individuals accommodated in the Centre who have been subjected to torture or rape, minors, single women, the elderly and others in need, are provided with psychological assistance. The Centre has a psychologist's position.</p> <p>Description of procedure for the accommodation in the RRC indicates individuals are entitled to use the counselling services offered by the centre. The Centre allows the use of services of a social worker, and if necessary of a psychologist for every unaccompanied minor asylum seeker.</p>
Free legal		Yes		Yes			Yes		The Law "On the Legal Status

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assistance									of Aliens” indicates that during the examination of the application asylum seekers have the right to take advantage of the state-guaranteed legal aid. Its delivery is organized by the Migration Department.
Interpretation services		Yes		Yes			Yes		The law stipulates that asylum seekers can use free services of an interpreter.
Access to education		Yes		Yes			Yes		The Law indicates that minor asylum applicants shall be entitled to study at general education schools and vocational schools.
Access to vocational training		Yes		Yes			Yes		See item “Access to education”.
Access to employment (after which period of time?)		No		No			No		In Lithuania the right to employment is not provided for asylum seekers.
Other? Please add									