

Fundamental rights of children displaced in the EU following the Russian war of aggression

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Contractor:

Mykolas Romeris university

Author(s):

Anželika Banevičienė, Violeta Vasiliauskienė

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1. Children fleeing Ukraine

1.1. Data on children fleeing Ukraine

Table 1 Children fleeing Ukraine

Category of child	Registration system Y/N	Number of children on 31 May 2023
Overall number of children	Y ¹	<i>up to 6 years - 6 012 6-17 years old - 19 980</i>
Arrived accompanied by mother, father or another legal guardian	N	23734 (calculated)
Arrived without parents but with other family members, neighbours or family friends	Y ²	Arrived - 1588 Left Lithuania - 757 (including unaccompanied children)
Arrived unaccompanied	Y ³	Arrived - 267
Arrived within a group of children, as an organised evacuation from Ukrainian institutions or foster carers (with or without an appointed legal guardian)	Y ⁴	Arrived - 375 Left Lithuania - 267
Arrived within a group of children, through private initiatives, such as football clubs (with or without an appointed legal guardian)	Y ⁵	Arrived - 28 Left Lithuania - 12

¹ Lithuania, State Data Agency (2023), '[War refugees from Ukraine](#)' (*Karo pabėgėliai iš Ukrainos*).

² Internal Register of State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.

³ Internal Register of State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.

⁴ Internal Register of State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.

⁵ Data of the Internal Register of State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, provided by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of Lithuania, Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 20 June 2023.

Source: Lithuanian Migration Information System (MIGRIS) and Internal Register of State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.

The number of registered children,⁶ the number of children in guardianship (curatorship) in the family settings and the institutional settings, and children who were returned according to the age⁷

Age	Number of registered children on 5 July 2023		Number of children in family settings on 31 May 2023	Number of children in institutional settings on 31 May 2023	Number of returned unaccompanied children and children who arrived without parents but with other family members, neighbours or family friends on 31 May 2023
	girls	boys			
0	142	148			2
1	357	438		16	3
2	493	600	5	12	5
3	597	605	5	9	5
4	598	614	6	10	7
5	701	696	13	8	11
6	751	792	19	5	15
7	766	726	19	1	21
8	812	826	24	2	25
9	917	935	29	2	45
10	871	893	30	4	40
11	922	886	26	1	40
12	831	806	35	2	64
13	834	920	38	1	99
14	934	851	68	9	116
15	838	778	67	6	112
16	813	796	106	12	141

⁶ Lithuania, State Data Agency (2023), 'War refugees from Ukraine' (*Karo pabėgėliai iš Ukrainos*).

⁷ Data of the Internal Register of State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, provided by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of Lithuania, Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 20 June 2023.

17	753	834	207	8	161
18			4		111
19					7
Total:	12930	13144	701	108	1030

Discussing the number of children in foster family settings, it should be noted that 98 per cent of children have guardians (curators) who are other family members, neighbours, or family friends from Ukraine. The annual report of 2022 of the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service indicates that in 2022 out of 1735 children from Ukraine for whom guardianship (care) was established, other family members neighbours, or family friends from Ukraine were appointed guardians (curators) in 1700 cases and Lithuanian families in 35 cases only.⁸ It should be noted that data on all cases of guardianship (curatorship) are collected in the information system of Social Support for the Family – SPIS. Still, SPIS does not allow filtering and sorting cases of guardianship (curatorship) according to the child's nationality or country of origin. The instrument for sorting the number of guardianship (curatorship) cases based on the establishment's grounds is not supplemented with the indicators required by the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners.⁹ Accordingly, this data cannot be collected quickly, so it is collected once a year to prepare the annual report.

The number of children who reached the age of maturity while in Lithuania¹⁰:

Age	Number
18	345
19	61

The data about all migrants, including children, are stored in MIGRIS – Lithuanian Migration Information System. The MIGRIS system collects data that is necessary to correctly identify all persons to whom migration services are provided or procedures applied, to collect, store, process, systematise, and provide personal data used in the process of determining the legal status of foreigners in the Republic of Lithuania and acquiring citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania. The manager of the MIGRIS system is

⁸ Lithuania, State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2023). [Report of 2022](#). No. 5-1, 31 March 2023, p. 56-57.

⁹ Lithuania, State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 27 April 2023.

¹⁰ Data of the Internal Register of State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, provided by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of Lithuania, reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 20 June 2023.

the Ministry of the Interior. The MIGRIS system administrators are the Department of Migration under the Ministry of Internal Affairs and other institutions to the extent necessary for performing their duties. The State Data Agency receives aggregated de-personalized data from the MIGRIS system and makes it available to the public on the official statistics portal <https://osp.stat.gov.lt/>. On the Official statistics portal, the primary data on persons who arrived from Ukraine, including children, are updated daily.¹¹ Such data on children are the number of children who came during the entire period since the start of the war in Ukraine, the number of children who came during the last 24 hours, the number of children who arrived during the last seven days, the number of children who arrived the week before, dividing them by age groups from 0 to 6 years and from 6 up to 18 years. It also indicates what percentage of the total number of arrivals (combined adults and children) are Ukrainian citizens. In addition, the portal provides data on how many men and women by age are in Lithuania from Ukraine on the day of the data review.¹²

Additionally, the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour collects statistical data about children in its internal database, which is managed by the MIGRIS system, and these data are not available to the public. The data about children who arrived without parents but with other family members, neighbours or family friends, arrived unaccompanied, came within a group of children, as an organised evacuation from Ukrainian institutions or foster carers (with or without an appointed legal guardian), and arrived within a group of children, through private initiatives, such as football clubs (with or without an appointed legal guardian) are collected by the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service in its internal database and are available upon request.

In addition, the primary data from the MIGRIS information system and the internal databases of the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service are also available to the public on the Ministry of Social Security and Labour website.¹³ Every week (on Monday), the website provides data on the total number of children who came to Lithuania, the number of unaccompanied children and children from Ukraine who have been placed in the care of a Lithuanian family.

The information system of Social Support for the Family - SPIS collects data on possible violations of the child's rights, cases of violence against children, assessment of the child's situation, evaluation of the safety of the child's environment, temporary care of the child at the request of the child's parents or other legal representatives, actions of

¹¹ Lithuania, State Data Agency (2023), '[War refugees from Ukraine](#)' (*Karo pabėgėliai iš Ukrainos*).

¹² Lithuania, State Data Agency (2023), '[War refugees from Ukraine](#)' (*Karo pabėgėliai iš Ukrainos*).

¹³ Lithuania, The Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2023). [War refugees from Ukraine: statistics](#) (*Karo pabėgėliai iš Ukrainos: statistika*).

the mobile team, child guardianship (curatorship), family-care setting, children care institutions, community children's care homes, care centres, on-call guardians, information about the restriction of parental rights and separation of the child from the parents, and information about families at social risk.¹⁴ The manager of the SPIS is the Ministry of Social Security and Labour. The SPIS system administrators are the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service and other institutions to the extent necessary to perform their duties.

1.2. Crimes against children fleeing Ukraine and children going missing

Table 2 – Serious crimes against children fleeing Ukraine and children going missing

<i>Issue / risk</i>	<i>Number of cases reported and investigated as of 31 May 2023</i>
<i>Violence, including domestic violence</i>	<p><i>39 (all reported cases are investigated)</i></p> <p><i>(from their father – 11; from their mother – 4; from their sister – 1; from their stepmother – 1; from their stepfather – 3; from their educator – 1; from someone they know – 4; from a stranger – 11; not specified – 3)</i></p> <p><i>(serious health injury – 1; minor health injury – 7; minor health impairment – 24; physical pain – 4; not specified – 3)</i></p>
<i>Sexual abuse</i>	<p><i>3 (all reported cases are investigated)</i></p> <p><i>(from their father – 2; from someone they know – 1)</i></p>
<i>Trafficking for exploitation</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Children reported as missing</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Other crimes against children fleeing Ukraine</i>	<p><i>non-pecuniary damage – 1 (not specified)</i></p> <p><i>psychological abuse – 1 (from the neighbour)</i></p> <p><i>Pecuniary damage – 2</i></p>

¹⁴ Lithuania, The Minister of Social Security and Labour (2023), Order Regarding the Approval of the Provisions of the Social Support for the Family Information System and the Data Security Provisions of the Social Support for the Family Information System (*Dėl Socialinės paramos šeimai informacinės sistemos nuostatų ir Socialinės paramos šeimai informacinės sistemos duomenų saugos nuostatų patvirtinimo*), No. A1-172, 29 May 2008, last amendment No. A1-347, 2 June 2023, Article 8.4.

	<i>(from a stranger – 1; not specified – 1)</i> <i>not specified – 10</i> <i>(all reported cases are investigated)</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>56</i>

Source: Official Register of criminal acts¹⁵

All information about crimes is collected in the official register of criminal acts. The manager of the Register is the Ministry of Interior. The administrators of the Register are the Information Technology and Communications Department under the Ministry of the Interior, Police and other institutions to the extent necessary for their duties.¹⁶ Data are available upon request from the Information Technology and Communications Department under the Ministry of the Interior.

¹⁵ Data of the Official Register of criminal acts, provided by the Information Technology and Communications Department under the Ministry of the Interior, reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 26 June 2023.

¹⁶ Lithuania, The Minister of Interior (2015), Order Regarding the Reorganization of the Official Register of Criminal Acts and Approval of the Regulations of the Official Register of Criminal Acts (*Dėl Nusikalstamų veikų žinybinio registro reorganizavimo ir Nusikalstamų veikų žinybinio registro nuostatų patvirtinimo*), No 1V-667, 27 August 2015, last amendment No 1V-657, 21 September 2016, Article 7 and 8.

2. Child protection – legal, policy framework and procedures in place

2.1. Responsibilities of child protection authorities

2.1.1. Individual children, including unaccompanied and separated children

All children from Ukraine have the right to receive temporary protection and are admitted to the territory of Lithuania. They are not required to have a travel document, health insurance, visa, residence permit or other documents entitling them to come to and stay in Lithuania.¹⁷

To ensure the proper care of the children from Ukraine who arrived in Lithuania without parents, their representation and protection of their rights and interests, and the return to Ukraine at the end of the war and, if possible and necessary, before its termination or abolition, on 11 April 2022, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine signed The Cooperation Agreement.¹⁸

The agreement details the procedure for the temporary transfer of children from Ukraine to Lithuania, the organisation of reception, accommodation, and care of the children, the roles of relevant stakeholders, the conditions for informing children about their rights in Lithuania, the procedure for collecting and providing information about children to the relevant institutions.

The Cooperation agreement applies to children who are orphans, children deprived of parental care, who were enrolled in boarding institutions of various types, forms of

¹⁷ Lithuania, Seimas (2004), Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners (*Lietuvos Respublikos įstatymas dėl užsieniečių teisinės padėties*). No. IX-2206, 29 April 2004, last amendment No. XIV-1889, 20 April 2023, Article 92.

¹⁸ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 2.

ownership and subordination to 24-hour children's stay in Ukraine institutions, as well as residing in patronage families, family-type orphanages, foster families, and custodians, and children who have parents, who were temporarily displaced from the territory of Ukraine as a result of hostilities (including unaccompanied or accompanied children).¹⁹

The cooperation agreement determines the areas of responsibility shared between Lithuanian and Ukrainian institutions. Lithuanian legal acts²⁰ also select the areas of responsibility and functions of Lithuanian institutions in accepting children from Ukraine.

The responsibilities of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine

- Organises the movement of children from Ukraine to Lithuania, as well as informs Lithuania about the children's arrival by the decision of competent authorities of Ukraine.²¹
- Before the arrival of children in Lithuania, provides the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of Lithuania or the competent institution of Lithuania with Information on children (age, sex, attendance at school, disability, form and type of guardianship, institution of guardianship over children).²²
- Cooperates in considering individual cases that may lead to violations of children's rights.²³
- Cooperates in coordinating the return of children back to Ukraine in the manner and time agreed upon by the Parties.²⁴

¹⁹ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 1(1).

²⁰ Lithuania, Seimas (1996). Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vaiko teisių apsaugos pagrindų įstatymas*), No. I-1234, 14 March 1996, last amendment No. XIV-1839, 28 March 2023; Lithuania, Seimas (1996), Law on Health Insurance (*Lietuvos Respublikos sveikatos draudimo įstatymas*), No I-1343, 21 May 1996, last amendment No XIV-1303, 30 June 2022; Lithuania, Seimas (2006), Law on Social Services (*Lietuvos Respublikos socialinių paslaugų įstatymas*), No. X-493, last amendment No. XIV-1841, 28 March 2023.

²¹ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 4 (2.1).

²² Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 5 (1) and 5 (4).

²³ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 4 (2.2).

²⁴ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 4 (2.1).

- Exchanges Information on protecting children's rights and legitimate interests, meeting their individual needs and addressing specific issues to ensure the best interests of the child, following the Convention of 19 October 1996 on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children.²⁵

The responsibilities of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania

- Organises the reception of children, ensuring full protection of their rights in the manner prescribed by the law of Lithuania.²⁶
- Takes responsibility for reception and accommodation of groups of children deprived of parental care or groups of children who have parents (including unaccompanied or accompanied children).²⁷
- Ensures prompt registration of children who entered the territory of Lithuania at the Consular Section of the Embassy of Ukraine in Lithuania.²⁸
- Ensures the provision of information to the Consular Section of the Embassy of Ukraine in Lithuania and the central authority responsible for the protection of the rights of the Child in the destination country when a child travels through Lithuania only as a transit country or stays temporarily in Lithuania and then travel to another country with an accompanying person. The information contains data about the child (name, surname, date of birth) and the person accompanying the child (names, surnames, dates of birth, contacts with the child).²⁹
- Takes measures to protect children in Lithuania from the threat of trafficking and immediately transmits all information on any manifestations of trafficking of

²⁵ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Articles 3(6) and 4 (1.4).

²⁶ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 4 (3.1).

²⁷ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 1 (3).

²⁸ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 4 (3.2).

²⁹ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 4 (3.3).

children to the competent authorities under national law and signed international agreements.³⁰

- Cooperates in considering individual cases that may lead to violations of children's rights.³¹
- Ensures that based on the principle of inseparability of brothers and sisters, brothers and sisters in the territory of Lithuania live together in any circumstances, except this is against the best interests of the child.³²
- Ensures that groups of children arriving in the territory of Lithuania from Ukraine (for example, a group of children living together in one institution of guardianship (care), etc.) will not be separated from each other unless this is contrary to the best interests of the children.³³
- Takes all possible measures to prevent separation of children from their relatives and other accompanying persons, as well as separation from groups and forms of family type in which children lived before crossing the border.³⁴
- Provides children from Ukraine with all possible assistance in the settlement and ensures the fulfilment of vital needs.³⁵
- Ensures that children born in Ukraine who have not been issued a birth certificate or other identity document in Ukraine are not granted citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania upon arrival to Lithuania.³⁶

³⁰ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 4 (3.7).

³¹ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 4 (3.12).

³² Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 4 (3.5).

³³ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 4 (3.6).

³⁴ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 4 (3.10).

³⁵ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 4 (3.11).

³⁶ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 4 (3.8).

- Organises the return of children staying in Lithuania back to Ukraine after receiving the official decision of the competent authorities of Ukraine in the manner and terms agreed by the Parties.³⁷
- Exchanges Information on protecting children's rights and legitimate interests, meeting their individual needs, and addressing specific situations to ensure the best interests of the child following the Convention of 19 October 1996 on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children.³⁸
- Takes measures to ensure a provision of information to every child who arrives in Lithuania about child rights, available services, and other information in a language they understand, considering their age, maturity, and individual needs. If necessary, an interpreter can be involved in remote translation.³⁹

The responsibilities of the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania:⁴⁰

- Organises the reception and accommodation of individual children deprived of parental care or children who have parents (including unaccompanied or accompanied children).
- Provides information for registration of children from Ukraine at the Consular Section of the Embassy of Ukraine in Lithuania.⁴¹
- Reacts to any information about an unaccompanied child from Ukraine who has arrived in Lithuania and takes measures to assess the child's situation.
- Decides regarding accommodation of an unaccompanied child who is not an asylum seeker.
- Looks for a guardian (curator) for unaccompanied children from Ukraine, applies to municipal administrations with a request to establish temporary guardianship (curatorship).

³⁷ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 4 (3.9).

³⁸ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Articles 3(6) and 4 (1.4).

³⁹ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Articles 4 (1.3) and 6 (2).

⁴⁰ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022.

⁴¹ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 4 (3.2).

- Initiates the provision of services to unaccompanied children from Ukraine.
- oversees the guardianship (curatorship) both in family settings and in institutional settings.
- When a child arrives in Lithuania with a guardian appointed by the Ukraine institutions, to avoid the recognition procedure in Lithuania of the guardian, nominated according to the Ukrainian law, the Service urgently applies to municipal administration with a request to reappoint such guardian as a temporary guardian (curator) under the law of Lithuania.⁴²

The Responsibilities of the Migration Department

- Registers children from Ukraine and issues them registration certificate, which indicates the person's name(s), surname(s), date of birth, code of a foreigner who has interests in Lithuania (ILTU) and electronic health history (HR) number. Note: Other state or municipal institutions can also issue the registration document.⁴³

The Responsibilities of the Ministry of Health

- Ensures the provision of health services to children from Ukraine, including mental and emotional treatment.
- Provides information about available health services to children from Ukraine.

The Responsibilities of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport

- Ensures all children from Ukraine have access to education according to kindergarten, preschool, general education programs or vocational training programs in Lithuanian educational institutions.⁴⁴
- Prepares recommendations for schools on particularities of education of children from Ukraine.
- Provides information regarding all issues related to access to education.
- Provides educational material in Ukrainian - printed text and audiobooks for those who cannot read a regular printed text.⁴⁵

⁴² Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 4 (3.4).

⁴³ Lithuania, Government (2022), Resolution on granting temporary protection in the Republic of Lithuania to foreigners (*Dėl laikinosios apsaugos Lietuvos Respublikoje užsieniečiams suteikimo*), No. 224, 16 March 2022, last amendment No 439, 7 June 2023, Article 2(3).

⁴⁴ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2023), [Circular regarding the education of Ukrainian children in the 2023-2024 academic year](#) (*Aplinkraštis Dėl ukrainiečių vaikų ugdymo 2023–2024 mokslo metais*), No SR 2180, 5 June 2023.

⁴⁵ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2023), [Educational Resources](#).

The Responsibilities of Municipalities

- Ensure the provision of medical services to unaccompanied⁴⁶ and other⁴⁷ children from Ukraine living in the municipality's territory.⁴⁸
- Ensure a timely provision of transportation services to unaccompanied children from Ukraine who reside in the territory of the municipality (when an ambulance is not required for transportation) in such situations⁴⁹ to go to a health care facility providing services of the II or III level for receiving scheduled necessary health care services, without which the patient's health condition could deteriorate to the point that they would need emergency medical assistance; to go to a physical therapy or rehabilitation health care institution to receive the necessary services.
- Ensure the provision of mobile nursing services in each registration centre for people from Ukraine who have left the war; delegate a nurse from the medical treatment facility located in the territory of the municipality to the registration centre located in the municipality's territory, where they provide mobile nursing services.

Other Stakeholders

In cooperation with non-governmental organisations, Lithuania's state institutions provide accommodation, meals, and necessary support and assistance for children from Ukraine.⁵⁰

⁴⁶ Lithuania, Seimas (1996), Law on Health Insurance (*Lietuvos Respublikos sveikatos draudimo įstatymas*), No I-1343, 21 May 1996, last amendment No XIV-1303, 30 June 2022, Articles 6(1)(3).

⁴⁷ Lithuania, Seimas (1996), Law on Health Insurance (*Lietuvos Respublikos sveikatos draudimo įstatymas*), No I-1343, 21 May 1996, last amendment No XIV-1303, 30 June 2022, Articles 6(1)(7).

⁴⁸ Lithuania, Ministry of Internal Affairs (2022), [Order on the provision of personal health care services for foreigners who left Ukraine due to the military actions of the Russian Federation in Ukraine during the period of temporary protection](#) (*Dėl užsieniečių, pasitraukusių iš Ukrainos dėl Rusijos federacijos karinių veiksmų Ukrainoje, asmens sveikatos priežiūros paslaugų užtikrinimo laikinosios apsaugos galiojimo laikotarpiu*), No 1V-149, 1 March 2022, last amendment No 1V-249, 28 April 2023, Article 2.1.1.

⁴⁹ Lithuania, Ministry of Internal Affairs (2022), [Order on the provision of personal health care services for foreigners who left Ukraine due to the military actions of the Russian Federation in Ukraine during the period of temporary protection](#) (*Dėl užsieniečių, pasitraukusių iš Ukrainos dėl Rusijos federacijos karinių veiksmų Ukrainoje, asmens sveikatos priežiūros paslaugų užtikrinimo laikinosios apsaugos galiojimo laikotarpiu*), No 1V-149, 1 March 2022, last amendment No 1V-249, 28 April 2023, Article 2.1.2.

⁵⁰ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 6 (1).

The algorithm of actions upon arrival of an individual unaccompanied child or a child accompanied by persons who are not official guardians according to Ukrainian law:⁵¹

1. An unaccompanied child arrives in Lithuania (alone or accompanied by relatives, family members (except mother and father) or persons with close emotional ties who are not appointed guardians under Ukrainian law).
2. During the period of numerous arrivals, temporary registration centres on the main registration routes were set up, where representatives of the Migration Department, the Red Cross of Lithuania and the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service were present. The representatives of the Migration Department registered children who arrived from Ukraine. The child without official guardians was registered in the IT system MIGRIS based on the information the person accompanying him provided. The unaccompanied child could provide himself with data for registration. After registration, the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service representative was informed about such a child.

Due to the decrease in arrivals from Ukraine, the temporary registration centres were closed. After the closure of temporary registration centres, migrants from Ukraine can register at the territorial units of the Migration Department located in 13 cities (Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda, Šiauliai, Panevėžys, Alytus, Marijampolė, Tauragė, Telšiai, Utena, Visaginas, Šalčininkai, Elektrėnai).

During the registration in the MIGRIS system, a request for a temporary living permit is submitted.

3. The Migration Department issues a permit to the child and person who arrived with the child for temporary residence in Lithuania.
4. Upon registration or under other circumstances, each municipality, State Border Guard Service, NGO or private individual who had information about an unaccompanied child from Ukraine who had arrived in Lithuania had to inform the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (central office or territorial unit) about such child.
5. After receiving information about the child, the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (territorial unit) performs the following functions:

⁵¹ Lithuania, Ombudsperson for the Rights of the Child (2023). [Annual Report of 2022](#). No. 4-2, 31 March 2023, p. 114; Lithuania, State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 21 June 2023.

- 5.1. Ensures that the child has accommodation. When the child is not accompanied by the person they knew, the Service finds a place to live in suitable premises.
 - 5.2. Finds a candidate for guardian (curator) (in most cases, the person with whom the child has arrived; otherwise, from the approved list of guardianship candidates who had special training on being a guardian and are listed as potential guardians).
 - 5.3. Applies to municipal administration with a request to establish temporary guardianship (curatorship) and appoint the proposed person as guardian (curator). An expedited procedure is applied. The process took under a week.
 - 5.4. When there is a need for child legal representation before the guardian is appointed, the Service performs this function until the guardian (curator) is appointed.
 - 5.5. Registers all the information about the child and guardianship (curatorship) in the Social Support for the Family – SPIS information system.
6. The territorial unit of the Service in which the service area the child lives is responsible for monitoring and supervision of the child's guardianship (curatorship). When the child and their guardian change their living place, the case file on guardianship (curatorship) is transferred to the territorial unit of the Service where the child will live.
 7. According to Lithuanian law, the guardian (curator) has full legal representation of the child and can request all the services needed for the child.
 8. The Service regularly submits data to the consular division of the Ukrainian Embassy about children in guardianship (curatorship) (name, surname, date of birth).

Challenges

The following challenges were encountered in practice:

At the beginning of the war, Lithuanian institutions had difficulties handling a large number of arrivals and ensuring timely fulfilment of the needs of the arriving persons, including children.

The State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service has a challenge to follow up on the returns of the children to Ukraine with their guardians or parents. Not all parents who arrive from Ukraine and take the child or guardians inform the State Child Rights

Protection and Adoption Service about their return to Ukraine or travel to another country.⁵² Upon receipt of such information directly from parents or guardians or through other means, the Service initiates the termination of guardianship (curatorship).⁵³

The Social Support for the Family – SPIS IT system functionality is insufficient. SPIS does not allow filtering and sorting data about a child's nationality in guardianship (curatorship) cases, and grounds for guardianship (curatorship) and grounds foreseen in the Law on the legal status of foreigners are not included.⁵⁴

2.1.2. Children evacuated from Ukrainian institutions

Reception and accommodation of children follow the Cooperation Agreement of 11 April 2022, signed by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine⁵⁵ and Lithuanian legal acts regulating the establishment of guardianship (curatorship).⁵⁶ The agreement details the procedure for the temporary transfer of children from Ukraine to Lithuania, the organisation of reception, accommodation, and care of the children, the roles of responsible institutions, the conditions for informing children about their rights in Lithuania, the procedure for collecting and providing information about children to the relevant stakeholders. The Agreement applies to all children temporarily displaced from Ukraine due to hostilities (including unaccompanied or accompanied children).⁵⁷

According to the cooperation agreement, unlike individual children, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour of Lithuania handles the reception of children from Ukrainian

⁵² Lithuania, State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2023). [Report of 2022](#). No. 5-1, 31 March 2023, p. 116-117.

⁵³ Lithuania, State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 27 April 2023.

⁵⁴ Lithuania, State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 27 April 2023.

⁵⁵ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022.

⁵⁶ Lithuania, Government (2002). [On the adoption of the Regulations on the organisation of child care](#) (*Dėl Vaiko globos organizavimo nuostatų patvirtinimo*), No. 405, 27 March 2002, last amendment No. 270, 19 April 2023.

⁵⁷ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 1(1).

institutions.⁵⁸ Other functions of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour of Lithuania and other stakeholders are similar to those performed in the reception and accommodation of individual children (see section 2.1.1).

The algorithm of actions upon arrival of a group of children from Ukrainian institutions⁵⁹

1. The Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine informs the Lithuanian Ministry of Social Security and Labour about a group of children from Ukrainian childcare institutions willing to arrive in Lithuania, indicating the number of children, their age and other characteristics.
2. The Ministry of Social Security of Lithuania consults with municipal administrations and finds a municipal legal entity authorised to provide social care services – childcare, as a guardian (curator) that can accept children from Ukraine.
3. The group of children arrives from Ukraine at the place of residence – the premises of a municipal childcare institution.
4. The representatives of the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service visit the children to monitor the situation.
5. The State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service applies to municipal administration in which territory the childcare institution is established with a request to establish guardianship (curatorship) for all group of children and to nominate the legal entity that hosts the children from Ukraine as a guardian (curator) for all children in the group.
6. The guardian (curator) is appointed by the decree of the mayor of the municipality (until April 2023 – by the head of municipality administration).
7. If the staff of a Ukrainian childcare institution have arrived with the children, they are employed by the Lithuanian childcare institution that has been appointed the guardian (curator) of the children.
8. The Lithuanian childcare institution nominated as guardian (curator) organises all required services for children in the same way as for Lithuanian children under their guardianship (curatorship).

Presently, there are four groups of children under the guardianship of Lithuanian childcare institutions, totalling 83 children. Furthermore, there are three groups of

⁵⁸ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 1 (3).

⁵⁹ Lithuania, Ombudsperson for the Rights of the Child (2023). [Annual Report of 2022](#). No. 4-2, 31 March 2023, p. 114; Lithuania, State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 21 June 2023.

children whose guardians are persons who arrived from Ukraine, but they are accommodated in the premises of Lithuanian childcare institutions (a sports group and two social families from Ukraine), a total of 25 children.

Challenges

During the first months of the war in Ukraine, Lithuania faced challenges placing children from Ukrainian childcare institutions, schools and other institutions in groups because almost all orphanages have been closed in Lithuania recently, and Lithuanian children are moved to live in family settings. Contrary to Lithuanian policy, due to a large flow of refugees from Ukraine, Lithuania had to return to orphanage-type institutions to accept large groups of children from Ukraine and not disperse the children to different places of residence.⁶⁰

In the Annual Report of 2022, the Ombudsperson for the Rights of the Child expressed doubt whether the amendments to the Law on Social Services, which reduces the requirements for childcare institutions (see further explanation in section 2.3.3), correspond to the principle of the best interests of the child. In 2022, when examining the complaints on violations of the rights of unaccompanied children from Ukraine, the Office of the Ombudsperson found that the staff ratio in some childcare institutions does not meet the norms of social care, and that has a negative impact on the fulfilment of children's needs (emotional environment, options of leisure and occupational activities, etc.).⁶¹ There have been cases where 14-15 children are looked after by one adult.⁶²

At the beginning of the war in Ukraine, there were cases when groups of children arrived from Ukrainian foster care institutions without following the procedure established by the cooperation agreement without notifying the Lithuanian authorities. The Lithuanian authorities had to urgently look for a place to accommodate the children. The children had to temporarily live in facilities unsuitable for childcare (in a recreation centre) until the premises of the former childcare facility were prepared.⁶³

⁶⁰ Lithuania, Ombudsperson for the Rights of the Child (2023). [Annual Report of 2022](#). No. 4-2, 31 March 2023, p. 115.

⁶¹ Lithuania, Ombudsperson for the Rights of the Child (2023). [Annual Report of 2022](#). No. 4-2, 31 March 2023, p. 115.

⁶² Lithuania, Representative of the Office of Ombudsperson for the Rights of the Child (2023), the phone call with Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 11 July 2023.

⁶³ Lithuania, Representative of the Office of Ombudsperson for the Rights of the Child (2023), the phone call with Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 11 July 2023.

2.2. Safeguards and measures addressing risk of violent crimes against children fleeing Ukraine

2.2.1. Safeguards to protect and defend children from crimes

According to the Cooperation agreement signed by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine,⁶⁴ the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania has an obligation to undertake all necessary measures to protect children from Ukraine, including any threats of child trafficking and upon any manifestation of child trafficking immediately inform about that the Lithuanian Police, Prosecutor Office, Embassy of Ukraine and other competent authorities.⁶⁵

The State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service has implemented risk-reducing measures for the protection of children from Ukraine from human trafficking:⁶⁶

- An algorithm of actions was developed, which provided steps for institutions to act effectively during a high arrival rate when groups of children arrive from Ukraine and how to act when individual unaccompanied children come from Ukraine. The algorithm is explained in sections 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 of the report.
- The Service actively raises public awareness about the ineligibility of children from Ukraine to be adopted or placed in permanent foster care under any circumstances.
- The Service actively raises public awareness about the requirement to inform the Service about all known unaccompanied children from Ukraine.
- During periods of high arrival rate, Service representatives were on duty at the registration points for foreigners to be able to communicate immediately with the identified unaccompanied child.

⁶⁴ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022.

⁶⁵ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 4 (3.7).

⁶⁶ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 20 June 2023.

The Lithuanian Criminal Police Bureau informed⁶⁷ that the Lithuanian Police does not have any legal regulations exclusively dedicated to ensuring the safety of children from Ukraine. The Police respond to all reports on potential or actual threats to children's safety and carry out preventive measures to safeguard and increase the safety of children.

The Police, the Prosecutor's Offices, and the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service, in carrying out their functions, are guided by the 28/06/2018 Cooperation Agreement.⁶⁸ This agreement establishes a network for sharing information between institutions, i.e. defines in which cases what data is transferred to which institution.

Under this agreement, the prosecutor's office and the police inform specialists of the territorial divisions of the Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (Child rights protection departments):⁶⁹

- When during the investigation, it has appeared that a child may have suffered from a father (mother), guardian (curator), person living together with a child, or another person responsible for raising or caring for a child, or from improper performance of the duties of such persons.
- When a medical or other institution has sent a report to the police or prosecutor about an injured child when the child or his legal representatives refuse to explain the cause of the injury, although there is no evidence that a criminal act was committed.
- When there is evidence that the child was (is) not adequately supervised.
- When child protection measures must be applied to protect the child from a perpetrator who used violence against a child or committed domestic violence, and the child may have suffered as a result.
- When due to the criminal act, it is necessary to resolve the issue with custody and care of the child urgently.
- When the child's legal representatives are detained or arrested.

The police and the prosecutor's office are obliged to notify the Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service within five days. The specialists of the territorial divisions of the

⁶⁷ Lithuania, Lithuanian Criminal Police Bureau (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 14 June 2023.

⁶⁸ Lithuania, General Prosecutor's Office, the Police Department, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, The Office of the Ombudsperson of Child's Rights and the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2018), [Cooperation agreement](#), No 9.11-17/5-IL-4325/D4-85/SB-1/BS-1, 28 June 2018.

⁶⁹ Lithuania, General Prosecutor's Office, the Police Department, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, The Office of the Ombudsperson of Child's Rights and the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2018), [Cooperation agreement](#), No 9.11-17/5-IL-4325/D4-85/SB-1/BS-1, 28 June 2018.

Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (Child Rights Protection departments) then take measures to ensure child protection.

When a police officer discovers a case of violence against a child or the presence of a child in an environment that is not safe for him, he immediately informs the Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service about it at any time of the day. The Service representatives must arrive at the child's location and take steps to ensure the child's safety within 1 hour of receiving the notification.⁷⁰

If, for justified reasons, the representatives of the Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service cannot come, the Service provides the police officer with information about a nearby person or institution to which the child can be delivered and handed over for care until the Service representative arrives. The Service also contacts the person or institution and warns them that they must take care of the child and ensure his safety until the Service's representatives arrive.

Under the Cooperation Agreement, the Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service also undertakes to inform immediately, but no later than within 24 hours, the prosecutor's office or the police about the cases of violence against a child that it has become aware of. It also undertakes to address the prosecutor's office or the police about any other child rights violations that raise suspicion to be classified as crimes.⁷¹

In addition, prosecutor's offices, police, and the Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service inform each other that a child is missing. The Service informs the police on the day of the child's disappearance.⁷²

In the agreement amendment signed in 2023 on July 21, additional measures for protecting children who have experienced sexual violence were planned, and other cooperation actions were discussed.⁷³

An example of interinstitutional cooperation

⁷⁰ Lithuania, General Prosecutor's Office, the Police Department, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, The Office of the Ombudsperson of Child's Rights and the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2018), [Cooperation agreement](#), No 9.11-17/5-IL-4325/D4-85/SB-1/BS-1, 28 June 2018.

⁷¹ Lithuania, General Prosecutor's Office, the Police Department, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, The Office of the Ombudsperson of Child's Rights and the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2018), [Cooperation agreement](#), No 9.11-17/5-IL-4325/D4-85/SB-1/BS-1, 28 June 2018.

⁷² Lithuania, General Prosecutor's Office, the Police Department, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, The Office of the Ombudsperson of Child's Rights and the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2018), [Cooperation agreement](#), No 9.11-17/5-IL-4325/D4-85/SB-1/BS-1, 28 June 2018.

⁷³ Lithuania, General Prosecutor's Office, the Police Department, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, The Office of the Ombudsperson of Child's Rights and the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2023), [Agreement No. 1, Regarding the amendment of 28 June 2018 cooperation agreement No. 9.11-17/BS-1](#), No BS-8, 21 July 2023.

In the middle of March 2022, the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service applied to the police with a statement regarding possible planned cases of illegal adoption. The Service asked to examine and evaluate the circumstances related to the arrival of 43 children from Ukraine to Lithuania. The statement stated that several adults who came to Lithuania with these children on 2 March 2022 intend to take some of these children to another country, allegedly for temporary family visits; however, other data suggest that they may intend to place them for adoption. Doubts about the legality and transparency of such intentions were caused by the fact that no decisions of Ukrainian institutions and official documents were submitted to the Lithuanian authorities, which would confirm that such removal of these children from Ukraine and their adoption in another country is fully coordinated, justified and legal.⁷⁴

Having assessed that the data collected are insufficient to ascertain that the transportation and adoption of these children is not a possible criminal offence, the Prosecutor General, on 1 April 2022, adopted the decision to open a pre-trial investigation.⁷⁵ The pre-trial investigation is conducted according to the signs of a criminal act, provided for in Article 157 (2) of the Lithuanian Criminal Code, "Purchase or sale of a child." Later, the pre-trial investigation was supplemented by the investigation based on the characteristics of another crime provided for in Article 140 (1) of the Lithuanian Criminal Code, "Causing physical pain or minor health impairment."⁷⁶

On 30 June 2022, during the meeting held at the initiative of the Prosecutor General, in which representatives of the Lithuanian Prosecutor's Office and the Ukrainian Prosecutor General's Office, the Presidency, the Verkhovna Rada, the police and the Ukrainian Embassy in Lithuania participated, the prosecutor in charge of the pre-trial investigation informed that the pre-trial investigation, considering the data collected so far, must be continued.⁷⁷

⁷⁴ Lithuania, General Prosecutor's Office (2022), Press release "[Pradėtas ikiteisminis tyrimas dėl galimos neteisėtos prekybos vaikais iš Ukrainos](#)" (A pre-trial investigation into the possible illegal trafficking of children from Ukraine has been launched), Website of the Prosecutor's Office, 1 April 2022.

⁷⁵ Lithuania, General Prosecutor's Office (2022), Press release "[Pradėtas ikiteisminis tyrimas dėl galimos neteisėtos prekybos vaikais iš Ukrainos](#)" (A pre-trial investigation into the possible illegal trafficking of children from Ukraine has been launched), Website of the Prosecutor's Office, 1 April 2022.

⁷⁶ Lithuania, Organized crime and corruption investigation department of Vilnius district prosecutor's office (2022), Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 17 July 2023.

⁷⁷ Lithuania, General Prosecutor's Office (2022), Press release "[Su Ukrainos institucijų atstovais aptarta ikiteisminio tyrimo dėl įtariamų prekybos žmonėmis eiga](#)" (The progress of the pre-trial investigation into suspected human trafficking was discussed with representatives of Ukrainian institutions), Website of the Prosecutor's Office, 30 June 2022.

On July 17, 2023, the Prosecutor's Office provided information that the pre-trial investigation is continuing and significant information is being collected. Currently, there are no charges against the individuals.⁷⁸

On July 1, 2022, the responsible institutions of Ukraine changed the guardian of the children in Ukraine; the legal representative of the children in Lithuania remained in the same childcare institution appointed upon the arrival of this group of children in Lithuania.⁷⁹

During the investigation, regular communication among Lithuanian authorities, the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine, the Advisor of the President of Ukraine on the Rights of the Child and Children's Rehabilitation, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Ukrainian Police, and the Ukrainian Embassy in Lithuania take place.⁸⁰

In August 2022, all children, except four, returned to Ukraine.⁸¹

According to one person who made a statement to the media, the four children told the responsible Lithuanian institutions about the constant pressure, plans to take them to the United States against their will, and psychological violence. Because the children told the Lithuanian authorities about the circumstances known to them, the Ukrainian guardians started threatening that the "traitors" would be punished when the children returned to Ukraine. The children talked about their experiences of being abused, and they are afraid because they feel a significant threat from their former guardians in Ukraine.⁸²

Four children refused to return to Ukraine; therefore, after consultations among the relevant institutions, they were exceptionally allowed to stay in Lithuania.

⁷⁸ Lithuania, Organized crime and corruption investigation department of Vilnius district prosecutor's office (2022), Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 17 July 2023.

⁷⁹ Platūkytė, Deimantė (2022) "[Globėjai baiminasi: iš Ukrainos į Lietuvą atkelti vaiku namai įtariami dėl prekybos vaikais, globotiniai pasakoja apie patiriamą smurtą](#)" (Foster carers fear: orphanages brought from Ukraine to Lithuania suspected of child trafficking, foster children speak of violence), *LRT.lt*, 20 July 2022.

⁸⁰ Platūkytė, Deimantė (2022) "[Globėjai baiminasi: iš Ukrainos į Lietuvą atkelti vaiku namai įtariami dėl prekybos vaikais, globotiniai pasakoja apie patiriamą smurtą](#)" (Foster carers fear: orphanages brought from Ukraine to Lithuania suspected of child trafficking, foster children speak of violence), *LRT.lt*, 20 July 2022.

⁸¹ Damulytė, Jūratė (2022), "[Ukrainos vaiku namu „Perlinka“ vaikai grįžo į tėvynę, keli pasiprašė prieglobsčio Lietuvoje](#)" (Children of the Ukrainian orphanage "Perlinka" have returned to their homeland, several have applied for asylum in Lithuania), *LRT.lt*, 5 August 2022.

⁸² Platūkytė, Deimantė (2022) "[Globėjai baiminasi: iš Ukrainos į Lietuvą atkelti vaiku namai įtariami dėl prekybos vaikais, globotiniai pasakoja apie patiriamą smurtą](#)" (Foster carers fear: the orphanage brought from Ukraine to Lithuania is suspected of child trafficking, foster children speak of violence), *LRT.lt*, 20 July 2022.

2.2.2. Support for children victims of crimes

Support for children from Ukraine is organised similarly as for children from Lithuania.

The leading institution that ensures support for children - victims of crime is the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service. According to the law, the Service by itself or through structural units has an obligation:⁸³

- To defend and ensure the protection of the child's rights and represent the child's rights and legitimate interests in municipal territories around the clock.
- To form mobile teams to provide intensive assistance to the family and coordinate their actions.
- When there is a manifestation of a violation of the child's rights, assess the child's situation, initiate the examination of the case, and make decisions on the implementation of protection measures.
- To organise child guardianship (curatorship) and adoption and supervise custody (care).
- To represent the child's interest during a pre-trial investigation and criminal case trial.⁸⁴
- If there is a danger to the child's safety, health or life, the Office immediately takes measures to protect the child's rights (moves the child to a safe environment).
- To act as the child's legal representative until a guardian (caregiver) is appointed.
- To provide methodological assistance to other institutions regarding the protection of children's rights.
- To advise children, parents, guardians (curators), adoptive parents, educational and social workers, and other natural and legal persons on protecting and defending children's rights.⁸⁵

The Police, the Prosecutor's Offices, and the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service, in carrying out their functions, are guided by the 28/06/2018 Cooperation Agreement.⁸⁶ This agreement establishes a network for sharing information between

⁸³ Lithuania, Seimas (1996). Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vaiko teisių apsaugos pagrindų įstatymas*), No. I-1234, 14 March 1996, last amendment No. XIV-1839, 28 March 2023.

⁸⁴ Lithuania, Seimas (1996). Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vaiko teisių apsaugos pagrindų įstatymas*), No. I-1234, 14 March 1996, last amendment No. XIV-1839, 28 March 2023.

⁸⁵ Lithuania, Government (2005), [Resolution Regarding the approval of the Statute of the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service](#) (*Dėl Valstybės vaiko teisių apsaugos ir įvaikinimo tarnybos prie Socialinės apsaugos ir darbo ministerijos nuostatų patvirtinimo*), No 1114, 20 October 2005, last amendment No 328, 3 May 2023.

⁸⁶ Lithuania, General Prosecutor's Office, the Police Department, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, The Office of the Ombudsperson of Child's Rights and the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2018), [Cooperation agreement](#), No 9.11-17/5-IL-4325/D4-85/SB-1/BS-1, 28 June 2018.

institutions, i.e. defines in which cases what data is transferred to which institution for ensuring the protection of children victims of crime. In this Agreement, among other obligations:⁸⁷

- The prosecutor's office and the police undertake to provide information to the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service about the fact that it is necessary to organise help for a child victim of a crime. The information must be provided immediately but no later than within five calendar days.
- The State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service undertakes to investigate the domestic environment, living and upbringing conditions of a child who is a witness or a victim and to submit this information to the prosecutor or the police, respectively, who submitted the request, no later than within seven days.
- The prosecutor's offices, the Police and the Service undertake to inform each other when there is sufficient reason to believe that the legal representatives of the victimised child may interfere with the pre-trial investigation, oppose and harm the child's interests by participating in the process.
- The police undertake to immediately inform the Service of those situations when it becomes clear that children are present or may be present at the place where coercive measures are applied.

Although the criminal case trial is conducted in the Lithuanian language, the participants who do not know the Lithuanian language are provided with a translation into a language they understand.

The pre-trial investigation officer, prosecutor or court must determine in the shortest possible time whether the participant in the criminal proceedings (including the victims or their legal representatives) knows the Lithuanian language and whether, for him to properly exercise his rights or understand the ongoing criminal proceedings, it is necessary to use the services of an interpreter during the criminal proceedings.⁸⁸

Participants in criminal proceedings who do not speak Lithuanian can make statements, give testimonies and explanations, file requests and complaints, and speak in court in their native language or another language they know. In all these cases, as well as when

⁸⁷ Lithuania, General Prosecutor's Office, the Police Department, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, The Office of the Ombudsperson of Child's Rights and the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2018), [Cooperation agreement](#), No 9.11-17/5-IL-4325/D4-85/SB-1/BS-1, 28 June 2018, Article 3.2.

⁸⁸ Lithuania, Seimas (2002), Law on the Approval, Entry into Force and Implementation of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Criminal Procedure Code ([Baudžiamojo proceso kodekso patvirtinimo, įsigaliojimo ir įgyvendinimo įstatymas. Baudžiamojo proceso kodeksas](#)), No IX-785, 14 March 2022, last amendment No XIV-2086, 22 June 2023, Article 8 (2).

familiarising with the case material, the participants in the process have the right to use the services of an interpreter.⁸⁹

Case documents that are provided to the participants in the process must be translated into their native language or another language that they know. A victim who does not speak Lithuanian or his representative has the right to submit a reasoned request to the pre-trial investigation officer, prosecutor or court to have other important case documents or parts of them, which they have the right to access, translated in writing into their native language or into another language they know. The victim or his representative has the right to submit such a request in cases where the translation of these documents or their parts is necessary for them to participate in criminal proceedings actively.⁹⁰

A victim of a criminal offence or his representative who does not speak Lithuanian is guaranteed the right to file a complaint or statement regarding a criminal offence in their native language or another language they know or the right to use the services of an interpreter when submitting a complaint orally.⁹¹

The witness has the right to testify in his native language and to use the services of an interpreter if the questioning is conducted in a language he does not understand.⁹²

Protective measures in the Code of Criminal Procedure are applied to reduce the impact of criminal proceedings or other traumatic events on the victim.⁹³ To select appropriate measures, no later than during the first interview of the victim, the pre-trial investigation officer or the prosecutor must assess the victim's special protection needs following the Recommendations on assessing the special protection needs of the victims approved by

⁸⁹ Lithuania, Seimas (2002), Law on the Approval, Entry into Force and Implementation of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Criminal Procedure Code ([Baudžiamoji proceso kodekso patvirtinimo, įsigaliojimo ir įgyvendinimo įstatymas. Baudžiamoji proceso kodeksas](#)), No IX-785, 14 March 2022, last amendment No XIV-2086, 22 June 2023, Article 8 (2)

⁹⁰ Lithuania, Seimas (2002), Law on the Approval, Entry into Force and Implementation of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Criminal Procedure Code ([Baudžiamoji proceso kodekso patvirtinimo, įsigaliojimo ir įgyvendinimo įstatymas. Baudžiamoji proceso kodeksas](#)), No IX-785, 14 March 2022, last amendment No XIV-2086, 22 June 2023, Article 8 (5)

⁹¹ Lithuania, Seimas (2002), Law on the Approval, Entry into Force and Implementation of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Criminal Procedure Code ([Baudžiamoji proceso kodekso patvirtinimo, įsigaliojimo ir įgyvendinimo įstatymas. Baudžiamoji proceso kodeksas](#)), No IX-785, 14 March 2022, last amendment No XIV-2086, 22 June 2023, Article 8 (6).

⁹² Lithuania, Seimas (2002), Law on the Approval, Entry into Force and Implementation of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Criminal Procedure Code ([Baudžiamoji proceso kodekso patvirtinimo, įsigaliojimo ir įgyvendinimo įstatymas. Baudžiamoji proceso kodeksas](#)), No IX-785, 14 March 2022, last amendment No XIV-2086, 22 June 2023, Article 81 (1)(1).

⁹³ Lithuania, Seimas (2002), Law on the Approval, Entry into Force and Implementation of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Criminal Procedure Code ([Baudžiamoji proceso kodekso patvirtinimo, įsigaliojimo ir įgyvendinimo įstatymas. Baudžiamoji proceso kodeksas](#)), No IX-785, 14 March 2022, last amendment No XIV-2086, 22 June 2023, Article 186¹

the Prosecutor General.⁹⁴ The questioning of children follows the Recommendations on questioning minor witnesses and victims approved by the Prosecutor General.⁹⁵

In the interrogation of a witness or victim under the age of 14 at all times, and in the interrogation of an older child witness or victim for crimes against human life, health, freedom, sexual determination, child and family, for profiting from child prostitution or involving a child in prostitution or in other cases where at the request of the participants in the process or at the initiative of the pre-trial investigation officer, prosecutor or pre-trial investigation judge, a psychologist must be invited to help interview the child, taking into account his social and psychological maturity.⁹⁶

However, it should be noted that during the pre-trial investigation, only psychologists in the list of psychologists administered by the State-Guaranteed Legal Aid Service can participate in the child's interview.⁹⁷ The list does not show psychologists who can provide psychological services in the Ukrainian language.⁹⁸ This allows us to say that the direct participation of a psychologist in the pre-trial investigation of Ukrainian children is not guaranteed.

In addition, the pre-trial investigation officer, prosecutor or court recognises that the participation of a lawyer is necessary in cases involving crimes against human health, freedom, sexual determination, a child and family or morals when a child has suffered from these acts, as well as in other cases where the rights of the victim child would not be adequately defended without the assistance of a lawyer.⁹⁹ The State-guaranteed legal aid service has not concluded contracts with lawyers who speak Ukrainian, so the lawyer and the child victim of the crime can communicate with each other only in the

⁹⁴ Lithuania, Prosecutor General (2016), Order on the approval of the Recommendations regarding the assessment of the special protection needs of the victims ([Dėl Rekomendacijų dėl nukentėjusiųjų specialių apsaugos poreikių vertinimo patvirtinimo](#)), No I-63, 29 February 2016.

⁹⁵ Lithuania, Prosecutor General (2009), Order on the approval of the Recommendations on the examination of a minor witness and victim ([Dėl Rekomendacijų dėl nepilnamečio liudytojo ir nukentėjusiojo apklausos patvirtinimo](#)), No I-126, 16 September 2009, last amendment No I-63, 11 February 2022.

⁹⁶ Lithuania, Prosecutor General (2009), Order on the approval of the Recommendations on the examination of a minor witness and victim ([Dėl Rekomendacijų dėl nepilnamečio liudytojo ir nukentėjusiojo apklausos patvirtinimo](#)), No I-126, 16 September 2009, last amendment No I-63, 11 February 2022, Article 13.

⁹⁷ Lithuania, Seimas (2002), Law on the Approval, Entry into Force and Implementation of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Criminal Procedure Code ([Baudžiamojo proceso kodekso patvirtinimo, įsigaliojimo ir įgyvendinimo įstatymas. Baudžiamojo proceso kodeksas](#)), No IX-785, 14 March 2022, last amendment No XIV-2086, 22 June 2023, Article 89 (5).

⁹⁸ Valstybės garantuojamos teisinės pagalbos tarnyba (State-guaranteed legal aid service) website [Advokatu, mediatorių ir psichologų sąrašai](#) (Lists of lawyers, mediators and psychologists).

⁹⁹ Lithuania, Seimas (2002), Law on the Approval, Entry into Force and Implementation of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Criminal Procedure Code ([Baudžiamojo proceso kodekso patvirtinimo, įsigaliojimo ir įgyvendinimo įstatymas. Baudžiamojo proceso kodeksas](#)), No IX-785, 14 March 2022, last amendment No XIV-2086, 22 June 2023, Article 55 (4).

presence of an interpreter. The situation is better if the child knows Russian. The service has concluded contracts with lawyers who understand and can communicate in Russian. However, these lawyers are available mainly in the capital of Lithuania - Vilnius, while there are few or no such lawyers in other cities¹⁰⁰

Finally, it should be noted that in the list of lawyers provided by the State Guaranteed Legal Aid Service, it is not easy to select lawyers who speak one or another language. It is necessary to review each lawyer's profile to determine in which categories the lawyer provides services. This limits the possibility of choosing a lawyer who speaks a language other than Lithuanian.¹⁰¹

All available psychological support is presented in section 3.1.3. of this Report.

2.3. Guardianship/legal representation arrangements for unaccompanied and separated children fleeing Ukraine

2.3.1. Arrived unaccompanied

According to Lithuanian law, an **unaccompanied child** is a child who arrived in Lithuania without parents or other legal representatives or arrived in Lithuania with legal representatives and has been left alone in Lithuania.¹⁰² The law does not differentiate between children who arrived unaccompanied and who came without parents but with other family members, neighbours or family friends. Legal regulation does not provide for a difference between the situation of children from Ukraine and children from other countries.

The Lithuanian legislation foresees that all unaccompanied foreign minors are immediately appointed a legal representative during their stay in the territory of Lithuania by order of the mayor of the municipality (until April 2023 – by the decision of

¹⁰⁰ Valstybės garantuojamos teisinės pagalbos tarnyba (State-guaranteed legal aid service) website [Advokatu, mediatorių ir psichologų sąrašai](#) (Lists of lawyers, mediators and psychologists).

¹⁰¹ Valstybės garantuojamos teisinės pagalbos tarnyba (State-guaranteed legal aid service) website [Advokatu, mediatorių ir psichologų sąrašai](#) (Lists of lawyers, mediators and psychologists).

¹⁰² Lithuania, Seimas (2004), Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners (*Lietuvos Respublikos įstatymas dėl užsieniečių teisinės padėties*). No. IX-2206, 29 April 2004, last amendment No. XIV-1889, 20 April 2023, Article 2 (16).

the head of municipality administration).¹⁰³ The legal representative can be a guardian or curator. The guardian is appointed for children until 14 years old, and the curator is appointed for children over 14.

The State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (a territorial unit) finds a candidate for guardian (curator) (in most cases, the person with whom the child has arrived, otherwise from the approved list of candidates for guardianship, who had special training on how to be a guardian and are listed as potential guardians) and applies to municipal administration with a request to establish temporary guardianship (curatorship) and appoint the proposed person as guardian (curator). This procedure is the same as in national cases of establishing guardianship (curatorship). The form of guardianship (curatorship) established for unaccompanied children from Ukraine is temporary guardianship (curatorship).¹⁰⁴

When there is a need for child legal representation before the guardian is appointed, the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service performs this function until the guardian (curator) is appointed.

The Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners states that in a state of war, a state of national emergency, or an extraordinary situation due to a mass influx of foreigners, the requirements for a natural person who can be appointed as a legal representative (guardian or curator) of an unaccompanied child differ from the ordinarily applicable requirements.¹⁰⁵

When a **citizen of Lithuania, a citizen of another EU member state who has the right to temporarily or permanently reside in Lithuania**, or their **family member** wants to be appointed as the legal representative of the unaccompanied child, they are not required to submit their health certificate and persons over the age of sixteen who lives together with them are not required to submit health certificate.¹⁰⁶ This person can be appointed as a representative of an unaccompanied child until his suitability to become a guardian

¹⁰³ Lithuania, Seimas (2004), Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners ([Lietuvos Respublikos įstatymas dėl užsieniečių teisinės padėties](#)). No. IX-2206, 29 April 2004, last amendment No. XIV-1889, 20 April 2023, Article 32; Lithuania, Government (2002). On the adoption of the Regulations on the organisation of child care (*Dėl Vaiko globos organizavimo nuostatų patvirtinimo*), No. 405, 27 March 2002, last amendment No. 270, 19 April 2023, Article 30.

¹⁰⁴ Lithuania, Government (2002). On the adoption of the Regulations on the organisation of child care (*Dėl Vaiko globos organizavimo nuostatų patvirtinimo*), No. 405, 27 March 2002, last amendment No. 270, 19 April 2023, Article 30.

¹⁰⁵ Lithuania, Seimas (2004) Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners ([Lietuvos Respublikos įstatymas dėl užsieniečių teisinės padėties](#)) No. IX-2206, 29 April 2004, last amendment No. XIV-1889, 20 April 2023, Art. 140²⁷.

¹⁰⁶ Lithuania, Seimas (2004) Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners ([Lietuvos Respublikos įstatymas dėl užsieniečių teisinės padėties](#)) No. IX-2206, 29 April 2004, last amendment No. XIV-1889, 20 April 2023, Art. 140²⁷ (1)(2).

(curator) of an unaccompanied child is checked and if such appointment does not conflict with the child's interests.¹⁰⁷

When a **citizen of Ukraine** is appointed as the representative of the unaccompanied child, they do not have to comply with the requirements to undergo the procedure to become a guardian (curator) and to comply with the requirements for guardians established in the Civil Code of Lithuania.¹⁰⁸

The Role of the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service

Territorial unit of the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service, upon receiving information about an unaccompanied child who is not an asylum seeker, acts following the same procedure as for responding to a child left at home unattended. The Service representative visits the child and assesses the child's situation.¹⁰⁹ Territorial departments of the Service decide where to accommodate the unaccompanied child, initiate the appointment of a guardian (curator), apply to municipal administrations requesting temporary guardianship (curatorship), and initiate the provision of services.¹¹⁰ Each unaccompanied child from Ukraine is accommodated in family settings.¹¹¹

The algorithm of actions of Lithuanian institutions upon arrival of an individual unaccompanied child is provided in Section 2.1.1. of this Report.

The State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service has prepared special training for people who have contacts with unaccompanied children from Ukraine in the form of online videos in Lithuanian, subtitled in Ukrainian. The video is on the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service's YouTube account.¹¹²

The training provides additional knowledge and facilitates communication with children from Ukraine. It is helpful to guardians, teachers, doctors, social workers, and children's

¹⁰⁷ Lithuania, Seimas (2004) Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners (*Lietuvos Respublikos įstatymas dėl užsieniečių teisinės padėties*) No. IX-2206, 29 April 2004, last amendment No. XIV-1889, 20 April 2023, Art. 140²⁷ (2).

¹⁰⁸ Lithuania, Seimas (2004) Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners (*Lietuvos Respublikos įstatymas dėl užsieniečių teisinės padėties*). No. IX-2206, 29 April 2004, last amendment No. XIV-1889, 20 April 2023, Art. 140²⁷ (1)(1).

¹⁰⁹ Lithuania, Seimas (1996). Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vaiko teisių apsaugos pagrindų įstatymas*), No. I-1234, 14 March 1996, last amendment No. XIV-1839, 28 March 2023, Art. 36; Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2019), Order on the approval of the description of the procedure for assessing the child's situation, (*Įsakymas dėl vaiko situacijos vertinimo tvarkos aprašo patvirtinimo*), No. A1-803, 30 December 2019, last amendment No. A1-254, 19 April 2023.

¹¹⁰ Lithuania, State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2023). [Report of 2022](#). No. 5-1, 31 March 2023, p. 116.

¹¹¹ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 20 June 2023.

¹¹² Lithuania, State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2022) [Special training for guardians of children from Ukraine](#) (*Vaikų iš Ukrainos globėjams - specialūs mokymai*).

leisure and summer employment organisers. The training covers various topics: grief and mourning, temporary custody of a child, self-help, war trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder, and how to help a child. The training materials were prepared by a psychologist, the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service specialist, a trauma-sensitive methods practitioner and a child and adolescent psychiatrist.

In preparation for being a guardian of unaccompanied children from Ukraine, the guardians from Lithuania had special training. The willingness of Lithuanian families to foster children from Ukraine may be illustrated by the fact that on 5 March 2022, 222 Lithuanian persons expressed their desire to become foster families for unaccompanied children from Ukraine.¹¹³ Presently, the number of willing potential guardians is not publicly available. However, all unaccompanied children from Ukraine who arrived not from Ukrainian childcare institutions are in the care in the family.¹¹⁴

Supervision of the guardianship (curatorship)

The oversight of the guardianship (curatorship), both in family settings and in institutional settings, is carried out in the same way as in the case of guardianship (curatorship) of Lithuanian children in guardianship (curatorship).

Specialists of the territorial division of the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service visit institutional care institutions and other guardians (curators) following the Regulations on the Organisation of Child Care,¹¹⁵ that is, during foster guardianship (curatorship) supervision. In the exercise of guardianship supervision, the territorial divisions of the Office: meet with the child, talk to him/her without restrictions, listen to his/her opinion on the conditions of guardianship (care), his/her relationship with the guardian (curator), his/her relationship with his/her parents or close relatives, other relatives and other persons with whom he/she has an emotional bond, listen to the views of the child's guardian (curator) on the implementation of the guardianship (curatorship), his/her relationship with the child and with his/her parents or close relatives, other relatives with whom the child has an emotional bond, and find out what help the guardian (curator) needs; an assessment of how the foster parent/guardian takes care of the child's physical and mental safety, health and education, educates the child, cooperates with the care centre, the territorial department of the Office and other interested State and municipal institutions, uses the funds allocated for the

¹¹³ Zicarri, E. (2022). [95 children from Ukraine have already stayed in Lithuania, at least 100 more are expected](#). (Lietuvoje jau apsistojo 95 vaikai iš Ukrainos, laukiama dar bent šimto). *15min.lt*. 5 March 2022.

¹¹⁴ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 20 June 2023.

¹¹⁵ Lithuania, Government (2002). [On the adoption of the Regulations on the organisation of child care](#) (*Dėl Vaiko globos organizavimo nuostatų patvirtinimo*), No. 405, 27 March 2002, last amendment No. 270, 19 April 2023, Chapter IV.

maintenance of the fostered/cared-for child, and manages the child's property, whether he/she does not hinder the child's contact with his/her parents, provided that this is not detrimental to the child's interests, maintains contact with the child's parents, informs the child's parents or close relatives, if they so wish, about the child's development, health, education and other important matters, takes care of the child's leisure time, taking into account the child's age, health, growth and aptitudes, prepares the child for an independent life; assess the relationship of other persons living with the child's guardian to the child in care.¹¹⁶

Challenges

When a child arrives unaccompanied, without family members or persons they know, the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service searches for any relatives or persons well known to the child who might have arrived previously in Lithuania to provide the opportunity for them to become guardians (curators) for the unaccompanied child, and only in case if such person was not found, a Lithuanian guardian would be appointed. This requires additional time and resources from the Service specialists.

The internal system of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour for collecting data about unaccompanied children from Ukraine does not allow for the timely reception of necessary data, which impedes the abilities of the Ministry to monitor the situation of unaccompanied children from Ukraine effectively. The system for collecting data has inaccuracies; there is a possibility for errors.

2.3.2. Arrived without parents, but with other family members, neighbours or family friends

The guardianship arrangement for these children is the same as for individual unaccompanied children.

When another family member, neighbour or family friend (who does not have residence rights in Lithuania) wants to be appointed as the representative of an unaccompanied child from Ukraine, they do not have to comply with the requirements to undergo the procedure to become a guardian (curator) and to comply with the requirements for guardians established in the Civil Code of Lithuania.¹¹⁷

¹¹⁶ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 20 June 2023.

¹¹⁷ Lithuania, Seimas (2004) Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners (*Lietuvos Respublikos įstatymas dėl užsieniečių teisinės padėties*). No. IX-2206, 29 April 2004, last amendment No. XIV-1889, 20 April 2023, Art. 140²⁷ (1)(1).

The algorithm of actions of Lithuanian institutions upon arrival of a child accompanied by persons who are not official guardians according to Ukrainian law is provided in Section 2.1.1. of this Report.

In practice, for more than 90 per cent of children from Ukraine who did not arrive with their parents and did not have an official guardian appointed by the Ukrainian institutions, the appointed guardian (curator) in Lithuania was the person who came with the child from Ukraine. In 2022, persons who arrived with a child from Ukraine were appointed for 1700 out of 1735 children who arrived with other than mother and father family members, neighbours or friends.¹¹⁸

It is understandable that due to mass arrivals during the war, the requirements for guardians (curators) were simplified for the appointment of guardians who are not residents of Lithuania to ensure legal representation for children coming in large numbers from the warzone. However, this creates potential risks that persons who became guardians were not prepared well enough to care for children from Ukraine.

According to the law of Lithuania, when a child from a foreign country arrives with an officially appointed guardian, the guardian has to undergo the procedure of recognising the foreign guardianship rights.¹¹⁹ To simplify the recognition of the rights of guardians from Ukraine arriving in Lithuania, Lithuanian authorities have implemented in practice the procedure of reappointment of the guardians according to Lithuanian law. The reappointment procedure allows them to obtain the guardian's (curator's) rights according to the law of Lithuania (legal representation and daily care) faster.

2.3.3. Arrived within a group, from Ukrainian institution or foster carers (with or without an appointed legal guardian)

According to the Cooperation agreement, the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine organises the movement of children from Ukraine to the Republic of Lithuania, as well as by official decision of the competent authorities of Ukraine officially inform the Republic of Lithuania about the children's arrival.¹²⁰ The Ministry of Social Security and

¹¹⁸ Lithuania, State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2023). [Report of 2022](#). No. 5-1, 31 March 2023, p. 56-57.

¹¹⁹ Lithuania, Seimas (1994). Law on Courts (Lietuvos Respublikos teismų įstatymas), No. I-480, 31 May 1994, last amendment No. XIV-2137, 29 June 2023.

¹²⁰ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 4 (2.1).

Labour of the Republic of Lithuania organises the reception of children, ensuring full protection of their rights in the manner prescribed by the current legislation of the Republic of Lithuania.¹²¹ The Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania is responsible for all matters concerning groups of children arriving from Ukrainian childcare institutions.

The algorithm of actions of Lithuanian institutions upon arrival of a group of children from Ukrainian childcare institutions is provided in Section 2.1.2. of this Report.

Presently, there are four groups of children under the guardianship of Lithuanian childcare institutions, totalling 83 children. Lithuanian law does not separate legal representation duties from daily care duties. The legal entities as guardians (curators) have child legal representation duties and daily care duties (children live in their premises).

Furthermore, there are three groups of children whose guardians are persons who arrived from Ukraine, but they are accommodated in the premises of Lithuanian childcare institutions (a sports group and two social families from Ukraine), a total of 25 children.

Oversight of the institutions hosting children from Ukraine

The institutions providing social care services (which include childcare) may operate only if they get a licence for such activity.¹²² These institutions are supervised by the Department of the Supervision of Social Services under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.¹²³ The Department supervises the institution's compliance with the social care norms¹²⁴ and licencing requirements.¹²⁵

Additionally, the **guardianship (curatorship) process is monitored** by the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service, which carries out regular meetings with the

¹²¹ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 4 (3.1).

¹²² Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2014) Regarding the approval of the licensing rules of social care institutions (*Dėl Socialinės globos įstaigų licencijavimo taisyklių patvirtinimo*), No. A1-684, 31 December 2014, last amendment No. A1-275, 12 April 2022.

¹²³ Lithuania, Seimas (2006). Law on Social Services (*Lietuvos Respublikos socialinių paslaugų įstatymas*) No. X-493, 19 January 2006, last amendment XIV-1841, 28 March 2023.

¹²⁴ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2007) [Regarding the approval of the description of social care norms](#) (*Dėl Socialinės globos normų aprašo patvirtinimo*), No. A1-46, 20 February 2007, last amendment No. A1-536, 18 August 2022.

¹²⁵ Lithuania, Seimas (2006). Law on Social Services (*Lietuvos Respublikos socialinių paslaugų įstatymas*) No. X-493, 19 January 2006, last amendment XIV-1841, 28 March 2023, Article 14 (6).

child in guardianship (curatorship) and guardian (curator) to determine the situation of guardianship (curatorship).¹²⁶

2.3.4. Arrived within a group, through private initiatives, such as football clubs (with or without an appointed legal guardian)

A group of children came with sports coaches who, after arrival to Lithuania, were appointed as the children's guardians, as they have an emotional bond with the children.¹²⁷ The coaches were appointed as individual legal guardians of the children; there were five coaches and 23 children. The appointment procedure was the same as in other cases - the guardianship (curatorship) (which includes daily care and legal representation) was granted by the decree of the head of municipal administration, on the request of the territorial unit of the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service. Even though the coaches were appointed as guardians (curators) for each child, the Service arranged that all the group could live together in the same place. Presently, there are 11 children in this group.¹²⁸

Furthermore, Lithuania has two more social families from Ukraine (consisting of 8 and 5 children) where the guardians (curators) of the children were nominated persons who arrived with them. Still, they were accommodated in the premises of Lithuanian childcare institutions.¹²⁹

¹²⁶ Lithuania, Government (2002) [Regarding the approval of the regulations for the organization of child guardianship \(Dėl Vaiko globos organizavimo nuostatų patvirtinimo\)](#), No. 405, 27 March 2002, last amendment No. 270, 19 April 2023, Articles 71-79.

¹²⁷ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 20 June 2023.

¹²⁸ Lithuania, State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 11 July 2023.

¹²⁹ Lithuania, State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 11 July 2023.

2.4. Placement of unaccompanied and separated children fleeing from Ukraine

Table 3 – Placement of unaccompanied and separated children

Type of placement	Number of children 31 May 2023	Details
With adult relatives	23734	
With a foster family	701	In the registers, data are combined
With a person who looked after the child when fleeing		
In reception centres for unaccompanied children (all nationalities)	2	<p>Case 1. A child lived with his mother in the Refugee Reception Centre. Mother has left for Ukraine but promises to return. A decision was made to nominate the Refugee Reception Centre as guardian of the child to keep the child's environment the same, which was already familiar to him.</p> <p>Case 2. The child arrived with his grandfather. The grandfather had left for Ukraine. The child stated that volunteers brought him to the Rukla Refugee Reception Centre. The person reached the age of majority on 17 June 2023.¹³⁰</p>
In reception centres for children fleeing Ukraine	0	
In childcare institutions	108	For children who arrived in groups from Ukrainian childcare institutions

Source: Lithuanian Migration information system (MIGRIS) and Internal Register of State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour

¹³⁰ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 20 June 2023.

On the Official statistics portal <https://osp.stat.gov.lt/>, the main data on children from Ukraine are updated every day.¹³¹ In addition, the number of unaccompanied children is updated each week (on Monday) on the Ministry of Social Security and Labour website.¹³²

Discussing the number of children in foster family settings, it should be noted that 98 per cent of children have guardians (curators) who are other family members, neighbours, or family friends from Ukraine. The annual report of 2022 of the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service indicates that in 2022 out of 1735 children from Ukraine for whom guardianship (care) was established, other family members neighbours, or family friends from Ukraine were appointed guardians (curators) in 1700 cases and Lithuanian families in 35 cases only.¹³³

2.5. Children evacuated from Ukrainian institutions

2.5.1. Institutional placements

The Ministry of Social Security and Labour confirmed¹³⁴ that the reception of groups of children from Ukraine in the Republic of Lithuania was organised by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania in cooperation with the municipalities that had suitable accommodations for the children. There is no uniform procedure. The arrival and accommodation of each group were organised individually, taking into account the age, health and needs of the children to be accommodated to ensure that accommodation conditions are in the children 's best interests.

The admission of groups of children was organised strictly according to the lists of children provided by the competent authorities of Ukraine, in coordination with the Embassy of Ukraine in the Republic of Lithuania and the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service, which was responsible for meeting each group at the place of placement in Lithuania, assessing each child's situation and taking further decisions on

¹³¹ Lithuania, State Data Agency (2023), '[War refugees from Ukraine](#)' (*Karo pabėgėliai iš Ukrainos*).

¹³² Lithuania, The Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2023). [War refugees from Ukraine: statistics](#) (*Karo pabėgėliai iš Ukrainos: statistika*).

¹³³ Lithuania, State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2023). [Report of 2022](#). No. 5-1, 31 March 2023, p. 56-57.

¹³⁴ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 20 June 2023.

the establishment of guardianship (curatorship). These children's guardians (curators) were Lithuanian childcare institutions licenced to provide social care (childcare) services. The guardianship (curatorship) entails both duties - daily care and legal representation. The institutions then employed, besides their personnel, the staff who arrived with children from Ukraine. The groups were accommodated together and had the same guardian (curator).

Presently (June 2023), four Lithuanian childcare institutions have guardianship of groups of children from Ukrainian childcare institutions. The Lithuanian childcare institutions employed staff who came with children from Ukraine besides personnel from Lithuania and, if needed, assigned additional personnel from their team (Lithuanians) to care for the children from Ukraine.

Institutional placement of groups of children – a situation in childcare institutions

	Group I ¹³⁵	Group II ¹³⁶	Group III ¹³⁷	Group IV ¹³⁸
Location, premises	<p>City</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premises of a former childcare institution (2 years ago). • Whole floor of the building is dedicated to children. The accommodation is designed for individual child activities, group activities, sleeping and hygiene. • Rooms are warm, well-ventilated, and well-lit. • The premises are equipped with the necessary furniture and equipment. • The furniture and equipment selected to ensure the safety of children. 	<p>Small town</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premises of a family support centre. • Dedicated separate wing of the building, separate bedroom, kitchen, shower and toilet. • All inhabitants use a standard activity room. • Bedroom – 15,64 sq.m, is comfortable, with two beds, a desk and a seating area. • Kitchen – 20,52 sq.m., has a table and chairs, a fridge, kitchen furniture, TV. • Bathroom with toilet 	<p>City</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-storey building with an elevator. • Children aged 3 to 8 years on the second floor. • Children aged 1 to 2 years and children with reduced mobility on the ground floor. • one living/standard room (30-48 sq.m.), one bedroom (31-45 sq.m.), kitchenette, cloakroom, toilet room with shower. • The living and hygiene conditions are adapted to children's needs. 	<p>City</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premises of former childcare institution • 4 rooms of 20-25 sq.m., 3-4 children lived in the rooms. • Residents of two rooms use one toilet and two showers. • Common space with a dining room and a large kitchen. A total area of about 200 sq.m. • From July 2023 - two 4-room apartments in an apartment building, 80-90 sq.m. There is a kitchen and a bathroom that all the children will use. • The premises are newly renovated, and all furniture and things meet the needs and ages of the children. • 2-3 children live in the rooms. • Care will be provided on a family basis.

¹³⁵ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 20 June 2023; Lithuania (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner by the childcare institution No. 1, dated 11 July 2023.

¹³⁶ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 20 June 2023; Lithuania (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner by the childcare institution No. 2, dated 11 July 2023.

¹³⁷ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 20 June 2023; Lithuania (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner by the childcare institution No. 3, dated 7 July 2023.

¹³⁸ Lithuania (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner by the childcare institution No. 4, dated 10 July 2023.

Age and number of children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34 children: • 20 children aged 1 to 2; • 14 children aged 3-5. 	2 children, aged 16 and 17.	<p>30 children. The children are accommodated in three groups of 10 children each.</p> <p>Age of children:</p> <p>1-2 year old– 6 children; 3-4 year old – 10 children; 5-6 year old – 8 children; 7-9 year old – 6 children.</p>	15 children, aged 14-17.
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 groups of 8-11 children were formed, considering the children's arrival periods, age, and emotional relationships. • 6-7 individual care workers work with each group. • The total number is 25 individual care workers and 2 social workers. • Some are from Ukraine, most of the staff – Lithuanians. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lithuanian staff of the childcare institution • No people from Ukraine are employed in the institution. • 1 social worker (speaks Russian) and 5 assistant social workers work with the children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 staff members of a Ukrainian childcare institution arrived together with children and worked with the children as care workers. • Lithuanian employees also work in the Ukrainian groups. • The work in the groups is organised and coordinated by Lithuanian employees, the senior children's nurse, and the senior social worker. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One group of children: cared for by Ukrainian individual care workers (their workload corresponds to 4,5 working positions) and 1 social worker (Lithuanian). • Second group of children: cared for by 1 Ukrainian and 2 Lithuanian workers (their workload corresponds to 4,5 working positions) and 1 social worker (Lithuanian). • Employees work on a rolling schedule based on cumulative work accounting.
Services, transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent consultations with specialists outside the institution: family doctors, medical specialists, employees of preschool education institutions and other specialists. • Specialists working in the institution are also used: physiotherapists, occupational therapists, employment specialists, and social workers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation is available when needed (provided by the institution) • Education ensured according to individual needs: one child studies remotely in a Ukrainian education institution for professional training, and the other studies in a Lithuanian professional training institution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All necessary services (school or education at the childcare institution, the polyclinic, family doctor, direction to relevant health specialists). • Organised and quality leisure time for children (various events, trips, educational activities in the centre). • The institution has its transport. Accordingly, access to medical and education services is ensured. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the services are provided in the community. • A psychologist is available at the institution. • Both public transport and the institution's transport are available for children. • Family-like environment and services • Active and full leisure time. • Development of personal talents • Swimming pools and gyms can be visited daily.
Children with special needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only 2 children had established disability by Ukrainian authorities before arrival in Lithuania. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One child: mental health issues, hospital treatment, regular consultations with psychologists and psychotherapists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 children with disabilities at the institution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The institution does not have children with disabilities in guardianship.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 out of 34 children: a disability is established in Lithuania according to the Lithuanian disability criteria and establishment procedure. • Other children have mild developmental and motor disorders. • 19 children with heart pathologies. • The criteria for establishing disability in Lithuania differs from those in Ukraine. • The employees have experience in the care of children with disabilities. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting children’s needs: registration with doctors, all necessary medical services, and operations are provided. 	
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges are to coordinate the process of recognition of disability for a large number of children, coordinate a large number of visits to doctors, perform a large number of necessary developmental assessment tests, etc. • To ensure a high-quality service, personnel qualifications needed improvement (topics: children's development, behaviour correction, etc.). The challenge is providing training for Ukrainians; very few required trainings are organised in Russian. • From 1 July 2022 - no doctors left in care facilities, causing difficulties in organising proper health care for 34 children; children of this age must be examined and evaluated by a doctor daily. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The challenge (common to Lithuanian citizens as well) – after registration, there is a long waiting time for visits to some doctors (up to half a year). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the beginning – Ample attention of the society when caring for more than 300 Ukrainian children. • Difficulties to withstand and control the desire of Lithuanian society to publicly show help for war refugees (make photos of children and publicly publish them, dissatisfaction of the public regarding restricted access to children. • Groundless complaints from non-governmental organisations to the Labor Inspectorate, etc. • In the beginning – there was much uncertainty due to the lack of legislation regulation. • Different Lithuanian and Ukrainian staff approaches toward childcare without violence, etc. • Presently: decreased number of children; stable situation.

2.5.2. Alternative care

The agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression foresees that Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania have to ensure that groups of children arriving in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania from Ukraine (for example, a group of children living together in one institution of guardianship (care), etc.) will not be separated from each other unless it is contrary to the best interests of the child.¹³⁹

The Ministry of Social Security and Labour has informed that in one case, 4 children from Ukrainian guardianship institution were accommodated separately from the whole group of children to ensure the children's safety while a pre-trial investigation on possible trafficking in children and psychological violence was started. The group was then returned to Ukraine with the cooperation of Lithuanian and Ukrainian law enforcement and other institutions, and the four children remained in Lithuania.¹⁴⁰ There were no more such cases when children from Ukrainian institutions ended up in different care institutions or another form of care.¹⁴¹

2.5.2. Safeguards for children placed in institutional care settings

Cooperation agreement

The cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine requires that brothers and sisters live together in all cases on the principle of inseparability of brothers and sisters, except in cases where it violates the interests of the child.¹⁴²

Minimum requirements for childcare institutions

¹³⁹ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 4 (3.6).

¹⁴⁰ Damulytė, Jūratė (2022), "Ukrainos vaikų namų „Perlinka“ vaikai grįžo į tėvynę, keli pasiprašė prieglobsčio Lietuvoje" (Children of the Ukrainian orphanage "Perlinka" have returned to their homeland, several have applied for asylum in Lithuania), *LRT.lt*, 5 August 2022.

¹⁴¹ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 20 June 2023.

¹⁴² Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 4 (3.5).

The social care norms established by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour¹⁴³ apply to all children in childcare institutions (including those who host Ukrainian children).¹⁴⁴ However, the Law on Social Services amendments reduced requirements for licencing institutions providing childcare. By a simplified procedure, they indicated the possibility of creating centres for social care for unaccompanied minors and foreign minors left without parental care from states where a humanitarian crisis has occurred.¹⁴⁵ The Law states that if the institution intends to provide institutional social care only to unaccompanied foreign children or children left without parental care arriving from a foreign state(s) in the event of a humanitarian crisis, the licence can be granted when:

- 1) the establishment provides unaccompanied foreign children or children deprived of parental care with uninterrupted care, suitable accommodation and meals.
- 2) the institutional social care to be provided by the establishment complies with the requirements in the social care standards regarding the number, scope, and duration of protection measures.¹⁴⁶

The supervision measures indicated below are still applicable to these childcare institutions.

The Ombudsperson for the Rights of the Child expressed doubts about the compatibility of this initiative with the principle of the child's best interests. Dealing with complaints on violation of the rights of unaccompanied children from Ukraine placed in the institution, the Ombudsperson established that the staff ratio did not comply with the norms of social care. This negatively impacted the fulfilment of the children's needs (bad emotional environment, shortages of leisure and occupation opportunities, etc.).¹⁴⁷

Supervisions and monitoring of Lithuanian childcare institutions hosting children from Ukraine

Speaking about the **control of the childcare institution itself**, it is supervised by the Department for Supervision of Social Services under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, which assesses the compliance of a social care institution with the requirements established in the law, gives a licence for its activity, controls the compliance with

¹⁴³ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2007), [Regarding the Description of social care norms](#) (*Dėl Socialinės globos normų aprašo patvirtinimo*), No. A1-46, 20 February 2007, last amendment No. A1-536, 18 August 2022.

¹⁴⁴ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 20 June 2023.

¹⁴⁵ Lithuania, Seimas (2022). Law on the Amendment of Articles 2,23, 24 and 24 of the Law on Social Services No. X-493 (*Lietuvos Respublikos socialinių paslaugų įstatymo Nr. X-493 2, 23, 24 ir 34 straipsnių pakeitimo įstatymas*), No. XIV-952, 17 March 2022.

¹⁴⁶ Lithuania, Seimas (2006), Law on Social Services (*Lietuvos Respublikos socialinių paslaugų įstatymas*), No. X-493, last amendment No. XIV-1841, 28 March 2023, Art. 23 (1¹).

¹⁴⁷ Lithuania, Ombudsperson for the Rights of the Child (2023). [Annual Report of 2022](#). No. 4-2, 31 March 2023, p. 115.

requirements and may withdraw the licence.¹⁴⁸ The staff of Ukrainian childcare institutions who come to Lithuania with children do not have to undergo Lithuanian qualification procedures. They are exempted from Lithuanian legal requirements for childcare workers so that they can continue the work with the children who have come with them.¹⁴⁹ Once the Lithuanian childcare institution employs them, they have to comply with the legal regulations in Lithuania, internal legal acts of the institution and the requirements of their employee, and they are subject to inspections of the institution and the guardianship review process.

Supervision of guardianship (curatorship)

The **supervision of the guardianship process** is carried out by the specialists of the territorial division of the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service, who visit childcare institutions performing guardianship of children from Ukraine and meet each child from Ukraine who is under guardianship (curatorship).¹⁵⁰ In performing the guardianship supervision, the territorial divisions of the Service:¹⁵¹

- Meet with the child, talk to them without restrictions, and listen to their opinion on the conditions of guardianship (care), their relationship with the guardian (curator), their relationship with their parents or close relatives, other relatives and other persons with whom they have an emotional bond, listen to the views of the child's guardian (curator) on the implementation of the guardianship (curatorship), their relationship with the child and with their parents or close relatives, other relatives with whom the child has an emotional bond, and find out what help the guardian (curator) needs.
- Assess how the foster guardian (curator) takes care of the child's physical and mental safety, health and education, educates the child, cooperates with the territorial department of the Office and other interested State and municipal institutions, manages the child's property, whether they do not hinder the child's contact with their parents, provided that this is not detrimental to the child's interests, maintains contact with the child's parents, informs the child's parents or close relatives, if they so wish, about the child's development, health, education and other important matters, takes care of the child's leisure time,

¹⁴⁸ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2014) Regarding the approval of the licensing rules of social care institutions (*Dėl Socialinės globos įstaigų licencijavimo taisyklių patvirtinimo*), No. A1-684, 31 December 2014, last amendment No. A1-275, 12 April 2022.

¹⁴⁹ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 20 June 2023.

¹⁵⁰ Lithuania, Government (2002). [On the adoption of the Regulations on the organisation of child care](#) (*Dėl Vaiko globos organizavimo nuostatų patvirtinimo*), No. 405, 27 March 2002, last amendment No. 270, 19 April 2023, Chapter IV.

¹⁵¹ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 20 June 2023.

taking into account the child's age, health, growth and aptitudes, prepares the child for an independent life and other.

The first visit of the personnel of the territorial departments of the Service must be carried out no later than **one month** from the decision to establish temporary guardianship (curatorship), and other visits – as required, but **not less than every six months**.¹⁵²

Practical examples of implementation of safeguards in childcare institutions

The Ministry of Social Security and Labour has indicated the following security arrangements in childcare institutions hosting children from Ukraine:¹⁵³

Group I - CCTV cameras ensure the institution's territory's safety. Children have sufficient space for playing sports and other leisure activities according to the child's age and leisure time. To ensure the safety of the children, the children cannot be visited by persons who are not representatives of companies or institutions providing direct services to children. An exception is for persons who perform supervision of the childcare institution (the Department for Supervision of Social Services and representatives of territorial units of the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service).

Group II - The family support centre ensures children's safety by locking the premises' gates after working hours. Access to the Centre is controlled after 18.00. The social workers' assistants control access to the centre's premises at that time. Visits and meetings during the day are arranged and coordinated upon request to the Head of the Centre, specifying the meeting's time, day, and purpose. The centre has separate rooms where meetings can take place.

Group III - The territory of the premises is fenced, all the doors of the building have access codes, and persons who want to visit the building are allowed in but cannot enter by themselves. Persons wishing to volunteer are admitted following the Care institutions Volunteer Policy upon presentation of health and criminal record certificates, signing an agreement and getting a permit. Other persons wishing to meet the children are accompanied by the institution's director or a person designated by the institution's director. Outsiders are not allowed to visit the children on their own. The personnel

¹⁵² Lithuania, Government (2002). [On the adoption of the Regulations on the organisation of the child care](#) (*Dėl Vaiko globos organizavimo nuostatų patvirtinimo*), No. 405, 27 March 2002, last amendment No. 270, 19 April 2023, Article 73.

¹⁵³ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 20 June 2023.

working with children's groups are informed about the guests and the volunteers' schedules.

Group IV – The children were accommodated in childcare institution premises, with security guards onsite. Recently, children were placed in two apartments in an apartment building, and there is no need for physical protection of those premises; police or other institutions can be contacted when required.

Lessons to be learned

In the annual report for 2022,¹⁵⁴ the Ombudsperson for the Rights of the Child noted that at the beginning of the hostilities in Ukraine, groups of children from foster care institutions arrived in Lithuania, which was unprepared for that. This led to difficulties in children's proper reception, accommodation, and organisation of services. For example, there was a situation when children from a Ukrainian orphanage arrived in Lithuania. Although the number of children to be accommodated was not agreed upon, the number of children who arrived was bigger than expected. Consequently, the children from Ukraine were housed in buildings unsuitable for social care homes for children. The buildings were ready for the recreation of people but not for children to live in. The accommodation did not comply with the social care norms in terms of layout, the number of children per room and privacy (children lived in groups of 2 to 7 children, also in rooms in between, some of them in double beds), and partly did not comply with security standards (the resort continued to accommodate holidaymakers, etc). There were 43 children placed in these settings, and they stayed there for approximately three months (March–May of 2023).¹⁵⁵

The State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service have also confirmed that in that particular situation, the group of children from a Ukrainian foster care institution arrived in Lithuania without notice and advanced planning. Accordingly, Lithuanian institutions were not prepared, and the guardian (curator) had challenges in ensuring the necessary number of employees to work with the children from Ukraine. However, as good practice should be noted, persons who came from Ukraine together with children were employed at the place of children's accommodation to avoid breaking the emotional connection important to the children.¹⁵⁶

¹⁵⁴ Lithuania, Ombudsperson for the Rights of the Child (2023). [Annual Report of 2022](#). No. 4-2, 31 March 2023, p. 114-115.

¹⁵⁵ Lithuania, State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 11 July 2023.

¹⁵⁶ Lithuania, State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 11 July 2023.

2.5.3. Access to local services and support

As the Lithuanian childcare institutions who are the guardians of Ukrainian children have the licences for childcare and are experienced in providing childcare services to children, they ensure the provision of necessary services by the institution's capacities. The administration of the institutions and their social workers who work with children decide which services are required for children and proceed to ensure them; the institutions have their own transport that can be used at any time.

The practical examples of ensuring the provision of social services in the abovementioned childcare institutions:¹⁵⁷

Group I - Due to the young age of the children, decisions about the services they need are made by professionals. Consultations are held with family doctors, specialist doctors, preschool staff and other professionals who recommend the services required for children. The institution's social workers, considering the recommendations of specialists working in the orphanage and specialists from other institutions, assess each child's individual needs, organise the necessary services for the children, and draw up individual social care plans. Children who can understand due to their age and intelligence are involved in planning services and are consulted, and their wishes are considered. They are informed about their rights during a conversation with the staff with the help of visual materials (posters are displayed in the groups to convey the child's rights in images).

The staff informs children from Ukraine living in the institution of the possible dangers. However, most of the children arriving from Ukraine are not able to understand the threat due to their age and maturity (they are 1-5 years old, many are children with special needs and some with disabilities), so the staff working with these children assess the environment, the possible threats and take measures to avoid the dangers.

Group II - Children communicate with Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service specialists. A designated social worker responds to the children's needs and requests, identifies the needs for services and organises their provision. The child's legal representative follows up, implements and consistently complies with the recommendations of the child rights specialists, doctors, and psychologists.

Group III – Each group of children personnel include a social worker who informs children about their rights, duties and services they are entitled to in a child-friendly way during daily sessions and activities. All children accommodated in the care institution are registered at the polyclinic, and a family doctor performs their health care. In the

¹⁵⁷ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 20 June 2023.

care institution, a paediatrician, a head paediatric nurse, a duty paediatric nurse and a team of specialists are responsible for ensuring the continuity of the children's healthcare. Lessons, employment, other activities and recreation are organised by the group's social worker and the Senior social worker. The quality of social care provided to children from Ukraine living in the care institution is assessed and monitored by the Vilnius City Child Rights Protection Unit of the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.

Group IV - All services are provided in the community (the psychologist is in the institution), and the services are accessible with public transport and the institution's transport. Children receive services that are necessary to meet their needs, just like children growing up in families. The institution aims to ensure quality free time and the development of individual talents according to personal needs; the institution has membership to the swimming pool and gyms, where children can go daily as they want to.

2.6. Child-friendly information and means to ensure participation of children from Ukraine

2.6.1. Child friendly information

The State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service has prepared information about the child rights protection system in Lithuania, which includes information about main child rights, violence against children and different types of violence, main duties of children, main duties of child guardians, and information about where to call for help.¹⁵⁸ The information is available for download in Lithuanian, English, Ukrainian and Russian. It is in the section of the website containing information for those who help Ukrainians, therefore more aimed at adults, but could also be understood by children.

The State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service have focused on education on children's rights for people coming from Ukraine (both adults and children) in various ways:¹⁵⁹

¹⁵⁸ Lithuania, State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2023), [Information about Child Rights Protection in Lithuania](#) (*Informacija apie vaiko teisių apsaugą Lietuvoje*).

¹⁵⁹ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 20 June 2023.

- Distribution of leaflets in Ukrainian for both children and their parents or other persons with whom the child has arrived, providing information on the system of protection of children's rights in Lithuania, what is considered a violation of children's rights and how to respond to a report of a possible violation of children's rights.
- Special training for people and professionals caring for unaccompanied children from war-torn Ukraine in Lithuania was prepared, providing additional knowledge and facilitating communication with these children. The short videos briefly cover grief and mourning, temporary care of a child, self-help, war trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder, child support, etc.¹⁶⁰

The website <https://ukrainiankids.lt/lt/> provides information for children in the Ukrainian language about children's camps, free classes, extracurricular activities and other help for children from Ukraine.

2.6.2. Child participation

Active volunteers from Ukraine (age 14-29) working or volunteering with youth or children are provided scholarships by the Lithuanian Agency for Youth Affairs.¹⁶¹

The participation of children from Ukraine is also ensured by the activity of the Youth Exchange Council of Lithuania and Ukraine (hereinafter - the Council), which was established on 28 August 2015 by the agreement of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of Ukraine. The Council finances Lithuanian and Ukrainian youth exchanges, events, meetings, and projects, which are prepared and implemented by organisations promoting youth exchanges and various initiatives of both countries, as well as projects aimed at fostering cultural cooperation, tolerance, understanding and recognition in both countries, exchange of good practice and publications aimed at bringing the Lithuanian and Ukrainian peoples closer.¹⁶² Unfortunately, in 2023, the activities of the Council were limited to financing joint projects. (There were no activities in 2022). The Council could be the basis for

¹⁶⁰ Lithuania, State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2022) [Special training for guardians of children from Ukraine](#) (*Vaikų iš Ukrainos globėjams - specialūs mokymai*).

¹⁶¹ Lithuania, Agency for Youth Affairs (2022) [Regarding the approval of the description of the procedure for awarding scholarships of the Agency for Youth Affairs to young citizens of Ukraine who volunteer or work with youth and/or children](#) (Dėl Jaunimo reikalų agentūros stipendijų skyrimo jauniems Ukrainos piliečiams, savanoriaujantiems arba dirbantiems su jaunimu ir (ar) vaikais, tvarkos aprašo patvirtinimo), No. 2V-323(1.4), 9 November 2022.

¹⁶² Lithuania, Agency for Youth Affairs (2023), [Youth Exchange Council of Lithuania and Ukraine](#). (*Lietuvos ir Ukrainos jaunimo mainų taryba*).

collaborative discussions between Lithuanian and Ukrainian youth; it could be involved in preparing youth policies or measures for children in Ukraine after the war.

The legal framework of Lithuania allows the inclusion of students from Ukraine in the adoption of decisions related to the conditions of education in schools. The Law on Education¹⁶³ notes that every student **can** participate in school self-government. School student representatives are also members of school councils. The school council is the highest self-governing institution of the school. Every year, the school council evaluates the school director's annual report and expresses its opinion. However, the factual involvement of children from Ukraine depends on school and children from Ukraine initiatives. The data is unavailable on how actively children from Ukraine are involved in school self-government.

¹⁶³ Lithuania, Seimas (1991), Law on education (*Lietuvos Respublikos švietimo įstatymas*), No. I-1489, 25 June 1991, last amendment No. XIV-1263, 30 June 2022, Articles 46 (1)(9), 60 (3), and 60 (5).

3. Access to social rights

3.1. Access to health care

3.1.1. Scope of medical care for children fleeing Ukraine

Table 4 – Scope of medical care for children

<i>Scope of medical care for children</i>	<i>Y/N</i>	<i>Reference / details</i>
<i>Only emergency care/essential treatment of illnesses (Article 13.2 TPD)</i>	Y	
<i>Complete medical check-up / health screening</i>	Y	
<i>Mental health screening (PTSD, depression, anxiety)</i>	Y	
<i>Vaccinations for children</i>	Y	
<i>Mental health / psychosocial support</i>	Y	
<i>Children with disabilities and those with chronic illnesses have access to the medical care needed</i>	Y	

Source: [The website of the Ministry of Health, https://sam.lrv.lt/](https://sam.lrv.lt/)

According to the Report of the National Health Insurance Fund under the Ministry of Health on the Implementation of the Healthcare Quality and Efficiency Increase Program (11-002) of the 2022 Strategic Action Plan, from 1 March 2022, healthcare institutions that have concluded contracts with territorial health funds receive payment from health funds for health care services provided to children, who left Ukraine due to the military actions of the Russian Federation or who are unable to return to it.¹⁶⁴ The health care services are paid following the order of the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania - Head of State Operations of Emergency Situations of 1 March 2022 No. 1V-149 "On the provision of personal health care services for foreigners who left Ukraine due to the military actions of the Russian Federation in Ukraine during the period of

¹⁶⁴ Lithuania, National Health Insurance Fund under the Ministry of Health (2023), [Report On the Implementation of the Healthcare Quality and Efficiency Increase Program \(11-002\) of the 2022 Strategic Action Plan](#) (2022 metų strateginio veiklos plano sveikatos priežiūros kokybės ir efektyvumo didinimo programos (11-002) įgyvendinimo ataskaita), No 8K-3, 1 March 2023, p. 2.

temporary protection."¹⁶⁵ The Order of the Minister of the Interior obliges directors of municipal administrations to ensure the provision of medical services to unaccompanied¹⁶⁶ and other¹⁶⁷ children living in the territory of their municipality who left Ukraine due to the military operations of the Russian Federation in Ukraine.¹⁶⁸ Since May 2022, the same personal health care services as for Lithuanian children have been provided and paid for by the budget of the Compulsory Health Insurance Fund for children from Ukraine whose arrival in Lithuania is registered in the Migration Department.¹⁶⁹

According to the Lithuanian Law on Health Insurance, all children from Ukraine have State compulsory health insurance covered by the State.¹⁷⁰

Also, there is a list of healthcare institutions that must provide medical rehabilitation and/or psychosocial rehabilitation services to foreigners who have suffered injuries during military operations in Ukraine, including those foreigners who are not registered with the Migration Department at the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, if for objective reasons they couldn't do it.¹⁷¹

In addition, the director of municipal administrations must ensure the timely provision of transportation services to unaccompanied foreign children (with a guardian (curator) present) residing in the territory of their municipality who left Ukraine due to the

¹⁶⁵ Lithuania, Ministry of Internal Affairs (2022), [Order on the provision of personal health care services for foreigners who left Ukraine due to the military actions of the Russian Federation in Ukraine during the period of temporary protection](#) (*Dėl užsieniečių, pasitraukusių iš Ukrainos dėl Rusijos federacijos karinių veiksmų Ukrainoje, asmens sveikatos priežiūros paslaugų užtikrinimo laikinosios apsaugos galiojimo laikotarpiu*), No 1V-149, 1 March 2022, last amendment No 1V-249, 28 April 2023.

¹⁶⁶ Lithuania, Seimas (1996), Law on Health Insurance (*Lietuvos Respublikos sveikatos draudimo įstatymas*), No I-1343, 21 May 1996, last amendment No XIV-1303, 30 June 2022, Articles 6(1)(3).

¹⁶⁷ Lithuania, Seimas (1996), Law on Health Insurance (*Lietuvos Respublikos sveikatos draudimo įstatymas*), No I-1343, 21 May 1996, last amendment No XIV-1303, 30 June 2022, Articles 6(1)(7).

¹⁶⁸ Lithuania, Ministry of Internal Affairs (2022), [Order on the provision of personal health care services for foreigners who left Ukraine due to the military actions of the Russian Federation in Ukraine during the period of temporary protection](#) (*Dėl užsieniečių, pasitraukusių iš Ukrainos dėl Rusijos federacijos karinių veiksmų Ukrainoje, asmens sveikatos priežiūros paslaugų užtikrinimo laikinosios apsaugos galiojimo laikotarpiu*), No 1V-149, 1 March 2022, last amendment No 1V-249, 28 April 2023, Article 2.1.1.

¹⁶⁹ Lithuania, National Health Insurance Fund under the Ministry of Health (2023), [Report On the Implementation of the Healthcare Quality and Efficiency Increase Program \(11-002\) of the 2022 Strategic Action Plan](#) (*2022 metų strateginio veiklos plano sveikatos priežiūros kokybės ir efektyvumo didinimo programos (11-002) įgyvendinimo ataskaita*), No 8K-3, 1 March 2023, p. 3.

¹⁷⁰ Lithuania, Seimas (1996), Law on Health Insurance (*Lietuvos Respublikos sveikatos draudimo įstatymas*), No I-1343, 21 May 1996, last amendment No XIV-1303, 30 June 2022, Articles 6(1)(3), 6(1)(7), 6(4)(6).

¹⁷¹ Lithuania, Ministry of Internal Affairs (2022), [Order on the provision of personal health care services for foreigners who left Ukraine due to the military actions of the Russian Federation in Ukraine during the period of temporary protection](#) (*Dėl užsieniečių, pasitraukusių iš Ukrainos dėl Rusijos federacijos karinių veiksmų Ukrainoje, asmens sveikatos priežiūros paslaugų užtikrinimo laikinosios apsaugos galiojimo laikotarpiu*), No 1V-149, 1 March 2022, last amendment No 1V-249, 28 April 2023, Article 2.3.

military operations of the Russian Federation in Ukraine (when no ambulance is required during transportation), in the following cases:¹⁷²

- To go to a health care facility providing level II or III services to receive scheduled necessary health care services, without which the patient's health condition could deteriorate to the point that he would need emergency medical assistance.
- To go to a physical therapy and rehabilitation healthcare institution to receive the necessary services.

Municipal budgets cover transportation costs.¹⁷³

The Resolution of the Government specifies that the costs of purchasing prescription medications for children are paid from the state budget or other funds, as far as possible, in the cases, conditions and procedures determined by the Minister of Health.¹⁷⁴ According to Article 10 (2)(1) of the Law Health Insurance,¹⁷⁵ children under the age of 18 are reimbursed 100 per cent of the base price of compensable medications entered in the *List of Diseases and compensable medicines for their treatment* and in the *List of Compensable Medications*, and of medical equipment entered in the *List of Compensable Medical Equipment for outpatient treatment*.

According to the *Description of the procedure for the provision of mobile care services for foreigners withdrawn from Ukraine due to military actions of the Russian Federation in Ukraine at the Registration Centre*,¹⁷⁶ mobile nursing services are provided in each registration centre for Ukrainians who have left the war. The municipality administration delegates a nurse from the medical treatment facilities located in the municipality's

¹⁷² Lithuania, Ministry of Internal Affairs (2022), [Order on the provision of personal health care services for foreigners who left Ukraine due to the military actions of the Russian Federation in Ukraine during the period of temporary protection](#) (*Dėl užsieniečių, pasitraukusių iš Ukrainos dėl Rusijos federacijos karinių veiksmų Ukrainoje, asmens sveikatos priežiūros paslaugų užtikrinimo laikinosios apsaugos galiojimo laikotarpiu*), No 1V-149, 1 March 2022, last amendment No 1V-249, 28 April 2023, Article 2.1.2.

¹⁷³ Lithuania, Government (2022), Resolution on granting temporary protection in the Republic of Lithuania to foreigners ([Dėl laikinosios apsaugos Lietuvos Respublikoje užsieniečiams suteikimo](#)), No. 224, 16 March 2022, last amendment No. 439, 7 June 2023, Article 2.13.

¹⁷⁴ Lithuania, Government (2022), Resolution on granting temporary protection in the Republic of Lithuania to foreigners ([Dėl laikinosios apsaugos Lietuvos Respublikoje užsieniečiams suteikimo](#)), No. 224, 16 March 2022, last amendment No. 439, 7 June 2023, Article 2.14.

¹⁷⁵ Lithuania, Seimas (1996), Law on Health Insurance (*Lietuvos Respublikos sveikatos draudimo įstatymas*), No I-1343, 21 May 1996, last amendment No XIV-1303, 30 June 2022, Articles 6(1)(3).

¹⁷⁶ Lithuania, Ministry of Internal Affairs (2022), [Order on the provision of personal health care services for foreigners who left Ukraine due to the military actions of the Russian Federation in Ukraine during the period of temporary protection](#) (*Dėl užsieniečių, pasitraukusių iš Ukrainos dėl Rusijos federacijos karinių veiksmų Ukrainoje, asmens sveikatos priežiūros paslaugų užtikrinimo laikinosios apsaugos galiojimo laikotarpiu*), No 1V-149, 1 March 2022, last amendment No 1V-249, 28 April 2023.

territory to the registration centre located in the municipality's territory, where he provides mobile nursing services:

- Assesses the condition of applying patients (measures body temperature, blood pressure, blood oxygen saturation, and glycemia as needed, assesses the general state of health).
- As needed, prescribes and administers medications necessary to provide the necessary medical assistance.
- Advises on health and self-care issues (sufficient fluid intake, diet and rest regime, maintenance of normal body temperature, etc.).
- Recommends addressing a medical institution when needed, prioritising the institution providing family medical services.
- If, after assessing the patient's general state of health, the nurse providing mobile nursing services determines that it is necessary to transport the patient to a treatment facility, he, considering the patient's condition, calls the provider of transportation services organised by the municipal administration or calls an ambulance.
- Together with the nurse, mobile nursing services can be provided by a nurse's assistant according to competence. The provision of mobile nursing services is organised during the working hours of the registration centre (except at night). The health care services at the registration centre are free of charge. The state budget covers the expenses of mobile nursing services.

In 2022, the amount of Compulsory Health Insurance Fund (PSDF) budget funds allocated for the months of March-November for health care services provided to persons from Ukraine amounted to 6.5 million Euros.¹⁷⁷

The My Government website¹⁷⁸ provides simplified information on procedures for obtaining health care for persons arriving from Ukraine. Information is provided in Lithuanian,¹⁷⁹ Ukrainian¹⁸⁰ and English¹⁸¹ languages. The website also provides a

¹⁷⁷ Lithuania, National Health Insurance Fund under the Ministry of Health (2023), [Report On the Implementation of the Healthcare Quality and Efficiency Increase Program \(11-002\) of the 2022 Strategic Action Plan](#) (2022 metų strateginio veiklos plano sveikatos priežiūros kokybės ir efektyvumo didinimo programos (11-002) įgyvendinimo ataskaita), No 8K-3, 1 March 2023, p. 16.

¹⁷⁸ Lithuania (2023) "[Informacija apie paramą ukrainiečiams - Sveikatos paslaugos](#)" (Information about support for Ukrainians - Health services), Website "Mano vyriausybė" (My government).

¹⁷⁹ Lithuania (2023) "[Informacija apie paramą ukrainiečiams - Sveikatos paslaugos](#)" (Information about support for Ukrainians - Health services), Website "Mano vyriausybė" (My government).

¹⁸⁰ Lithuania (2023) "[Пам'ятка про медичне обслуговування в Литві для ноземців, як виїхали з України в Литву через військов дії Російської Федерації в Україні](#)" (Information about support for Ukrainians - Health services), Website "Mano vyriausybė" (My government).

¹⁸¹ Lithuania (2023), "[Information about support for Ukrainians - Health services](#)", Website "Mano vyriausybė" (My government).

simplified Memo of health care services in Lithuania available in English,¹⁸² Lithuanian,¹⁸³ Ukrainian¹⁸⁴ and Russian.¹⁸⁵

3.1.2. Challenges in practical provision

The challenges are not specific to providing health services to persons fleeing Ukraine but general to the health system of Lithuania. There is a common issue regarding the long waiting times to visit needed specialists in Lithuania, which has increased due to the arrival of persons from Ukraine. Furthermore, all health services are financed to persons from Ukraine on the same grounds as Lithuanian residents; therefore, an additional budget is needed for the health care system.

All medical services are provided in Lithuanian. Treatment services are not provided in the Ukrainian language. If necessary, you can come with an interpreter. However, there are medical institutions where doctors speak Russian and can communicate with a child from Ukraine in Russian. Most of the children know Russian. Also, most of the children's legal representatives know Russian and usually act as interpreters between the child and the doctor.

Doctors cannot always determine what diseases children from Ukraine were vaccinated against before arriving in Lithuania. A considerable number of refugees arrived in Lithuania without detailed documents about their children's health. Nevertheless, children from Ukraine are included in vaccination programs paid for by the state. After seeing the child and assessing his health condition and other circumstances, the family doctor draws up an individual vaccination plan.¹⁸⁶

¹⁸² Lithuania (2023), "[Procedures for obtaining health care for persons arriving from Ukraine](#)", Website "Mano vyriausybė" (My government).

¹⁸³ Lithuania (2023), "[Sveikatos priežiūros paslaugų gavimo tvarka asmenims, atvykusiems iš Ukrainos](#)" (Procedures for obtaining health care for persons arriving from Ukraine), Website "Mano vyriausybė" (My government).

¹⁸⁴ Lithuania (2023) "[Порядок отримання медичної допомоги особами, які прибувають з України](#)" (Procedures for obtaining health care for persons arriving from Ukraine), Website "Mano vyriausybė" (My government).

¹⁸⁵ Lithuania (2023) "[Памятка о медицинских услугах в Литве для иностранцев, покинувших Украину в связи с военными действиями Российской Федерации в Украине](#)" (Information about support for Ukrainians - Health services), Website "Mano vyriausybė" (My government).

¹⁸⁶ Lithuania, Radvilė Rumšienė, LRT.lt (2023), [Українічюю ваіку вакінаціја тапо місле Ліетувос медікамс: даžнаі неаіšku, нуо кокіу лігу ііе буво скіепуті, документаі пражуве](#) (Vaccination of Ukrainian children has become an enigma for Lithuanian doctors: it is often unclear what diseases they were vaccinated against, the documents have been lost), dated 12 July 2023.

3.1.3. Mental health and psychosocial support for children fleeing Ukraine

Children from Ukraine receive all the mental health care and treatment services that Lithuanian children receive. Services are provided to all children under the same conditions and procedures.¹⁸⁷ Additionally, children from Ukraine can receive emotional support. It is provided free of charge to all people affected by the war in Ukraine.¹⁸⁸ Brief information about this support is available in Lithuanian,¹⁸⁹ Ukrainian¹⁹⁰ and Russian¹⁹¹ languages.

Emotional support in the Russian language is provided by phone number 1809 or +37066465792 on weekdays (Monday-Friday) from 18:00 to 21:00, on weekends (Saturday to Sunday) from 12:00 to 15:00. During non-working hours, calls are recorded, and a consultant contacts the caller during working hours.

By phone line "LINIJA DOVERIJA" 8 800 77277, student volunteers provide emotional support to teenagers in the Russian language every day from 16:00 to 19:00.

Psychologists and psychiatrists provide video consultations in Russian or Ukrainian languages www.manodaktaras.lt/slava-ukraini. Consultation times of psychologists and psychotherapists are publicly announced and constantly updated. Everyone can choose the desired specialist and consultation time and register in the system.

Psychological support in sign language is available at www.lkd.lt/kurtiesiems-nemokama-psichologine-pagalba-gestu-kalba. Individual psychologist consultations and group sessions are conducted live or remotely in sign language.

Individual psychological counselling in the Russian language in person for children over 16 years old at the premises in Vilnius, as well as remote counselling by phone and online via Skype and Messenger, is provided by a psychologist of Krizių Įveikimo Centras (Crisis Overcoming Centre). Services are provided on weekdays (Monday-Friday) from 16:00 to

¹⁸⁷ Lithuania, National Health Insurance Fund under the Ministry of Health (2023), [Report On the Implementation of the Healthcare Quality and Efficiency Increase Program \(11-002\) of the 2022 Strategic Action Plan](#) (2022 metų strateginio veiklos plano sveikatos priežiūros kokybės ir efektyvumo didinimo programos (11-002) įgyvendinimo ataskaita), No 8K-3, 1 March 2023, p. 3.

¹⁸⁸ Lithuania (2023), "[Informacija apie paramą ukrainiečiams - Emocinė pagalba](#)" (Information about support for Ukrainians - Emotional support), Website "Mano vyriausybė" (My government).

¹⁸⁹ Lithuania (2023), "[Nemokama pagalba žmonėms, nukentėjusiems nuo karo Ukrainoje](#)" (Free help for people who suffered from the war in Ukraine), Website "Mano vyriausybė" (My government).

¹⁹⁰ Lithuania (2023), "[Бесплатная помощь людям пострадавшим от военных действий в Украине](#)" (Free help for people who suffered from the war in Ukraine), Website "Mano vyriausybė" (My government).

¹⁹¹ Lithuania (2023), "[Бесплатная помощь людям пострадавшим от военных действий в Украине](#)" (Information about support for Ukrainians - Emotional support), Website "Mano vyriausybė" (My government).

20:00 and on Saturdays from 12:00 to 16:00. Information about the provision of the service can be found at <https://krizesiveikimas.lt/paslaugos/konsultacii-psihologa/>.

The website <https://www.samopomi.ch/> provides information in Ukrainian about various ways of self-help. The first aid section includes information on how to act in emergencies and what help is available.

The Ministry of Social Security and Labour website also provides information on institutions providing mental health services to people from Ukraine. The Ministry prepared leaflets in Lithuanian¹⁹² and Ukrainian¹⁹³ languages with information about other service providers.

The leaflet states that emotional support is provided by crisis psychologists, psychologists, and psychiatrists from Ukraine on the emotional support line of the International Organization for Migration. No pre-registration is required. Working hours: 09.00 - 20.00 (daily). Support is provided by phone at +370 800 00 474 in Ukrainian and Russian languages.

The psychologists of this organisation from Lithuania provide psychological help on-premises or remotely. Pre-registration by e-mail at psichologas@iom.int is required.

The Centre for Psychotraumatology in Vilnius provides free services of psychiatrists, psychologists, psychotherapists, and, when needed, treatment in an inpatient or daycare facility. Child and adolescent psychiatrists and psychotherapists from Ukraine, Belarus and Lithuania provide services. Services are provided in Ukrainian and Russian languages.

Mental health centres throughout Lithuania provide primary mental health care services. Help is provided by psychiatrists, medical psychologists, social workers, and mental health nurses from Lithuania. Services are provided in Lithuanian and Russian (if possible).

Also, hospital emergency departments provide emergency care for acute mental health conditions. Working hours: around the clock.

¹⁹² Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2023), [Psichikos sveikatos paslaugos ukrainiečiams Lietuvoje](#) (*Mental health services for Ukrainians in Lithuania*).

¹⁹³ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2023), [Послуги психологічної допомоги для Українців у Литві](#) (*Mental health services for Ukrainians in Lithuania*).

Until 10 February 2023, 17748 children from Ukraine have received emotional and psychosocial support.¹⁹⁴

3.2. Access to education

3.2.1. Types of schooling

The Lithuanian education system includes:¹⁹⁵

- 1) Formal education (general education, formal vocational training and higher education studies)
 - Note: General education - primary education, basic education, secondary education
- 2) Non-formal education (kindergarten, pre-school, other non-formal education for children (as well as education supplementing formal education) and adult education)
- 3) Self-education
- 4) Educational assistance (professional guidance, educational informational, psychological, social pedagogical, special pedagogical assistance, health care at school, consulting, teacher's qualification improvement and other assistance).

Table 5 – Enrolment and attendance of children fleeing Ukraine

<i>Types of schooling</i>		<i>Number of children enrolled 1 January 2023</i>	<i>Number of children attending</i>	<i>Source</i>
<i>National formal educational system</i>	<i>Children in nursery</i>	2297		
	<i>Children in preschool education</i>	690		
	<i>Children in general education</i>	10221		
<i>Physical attendance of Ukrainian led school / educational setting</i>				
<i>Online attendance of Ukrainian led school / educational setting</i>				

¹⁹⁴ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2023). [Suteikta pagalba ukrainiečiams](#) (Help that has been provided to Ukrainians).

¹⁹⁵ Lithuania, Seimas (1991), Law on Education (*Lietuvos Respublikos švietimo įstatymas*), No I-1489, 25 June 1991, last amendment No XIV-1733, 22 December 2022, Articles 2 (2) and 6.

Source: Data provided by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 23 June 2023.

The share of children attending an educational institution from the total number of children from Ukraine aged 0 - 6 years - 40%. The percentage of school-going children from the total number of children from Ukraine aged 7 - 17 years - 51%.¹⁹⁶

3.2.2. Support to integration in the formal educational system

Article 24(3) of the Law on Education foresees that state-guaranteed education according to pre-school, primary, basic and secondary education programs is provided to foreigners with the right to live permanently or temporarily in Lithuania.¹⁹⁷ Articles 32 (4)(2) and 94 (2) of the Law on Legal Status of Foreigners establish that children have the right to learn according to the kindergarten, pre-school and general education programs.¹⁹⁸ In implementing the provisions of these legal acts, each child who is/or has been granted temporary protection¹⁹⁹ has the right to be educated according to the kindergarten, preschool, general education programs or vocational training programs in Lithuanian educational institutions.²⁰⁰

When organising the education of children from Ukrainian in the 2023-2024 school year, the Ministry recommends²⁰¹ that Lithuanian educational institutions follow the rules for the admission of children, registration in educational institutions, organisation of education, and the evaluation and legalisation of achievements established in the circular of the Ministry “*Regarding the education of Ukrainian children in the 2022-2023*

¹⁹⁶ Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 23 June 2023.

¹⁹⁷ Lithuania, Seimas (1991), Law on Education (*Lietuvos Respublikos švietimo įstatymas*), No I-1489, 25 June 1991, last amendment No. XIV-1733, 22 December 2022, Article 24(3).

¹⁹⁸ Lithuania, Seimas (2004), Law on Legal Status of Foreigners (*Lietuvos Respublikos įstatymas dėl užsieniečių teisinės padėties*), No. IX-2206, 29 April 2004, last amendment No XIV-1889, 20 April 2023, Articles 32 (4)(2) and 94 (2).

¹⁹⁹ Lithuania, Government (2022), Resolution on granting temporary protection in the Republic of Lithuania to foreigners (*Dėl laikinosios apsaugos Lietuvos Respublikoje užsieniečiams suteikimo*), No. 224, 16 March 2022, last amendment No. 439, 7 June 2023.

²⁰⁰ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2023), [Circular regarding the education of Ukrainian children in the 2023-2024 academic year](#) (*Aplinkraštis Dėl ukrainiečių vaikų ugdymo 2023–2024 mokslo metais*), No SR 2180, 5 June 2023.

²⁰¹ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2023), [Circular regarding the education of Ukrainian children in the 2023-2024 academic year](#) (*Aplinkraštis Dėl ukrainiečių vaikų ugdymo 2023–2024 mokslo metais*), No SR 2180, 5 June 2023.

school year.”²⁰² To register a child in a kindergarten or school, the parents or guardians of the child must apply to the municipality where they are located. They can apply to the reception of the municipal administration or the municipal education department.

Kindergarten and pre-school education

Kindergarten and pre-school education is not conducted in Ukrainian. Joint groups of children from Lithuania and Ukraine are formed, where education is performed in the Lithuanian language. Educational institutions are advised to have a teaching assistant who speaks Ukrainian in such groups.²⁰³ Lithuania allows the employment of Ukrainian nationals who have obtained a professional teaching qualification in Ukraine as teaching assistants in schools where displaced children from Ukraine are studying.²⁰⁴ The teaching assistant is not required to speak the Lithuanian language.

The decision to have a teaching assistant is made by the municipality where the kindergarten is located and the head of the kindergarten. Therefore, there are no aggregated statistical data on how many kindergartens have teaching assistants. In kindergartens with no teaching assistant, children from Ukraine are spoken to in Russian, which most of them understand, or with the help of translators on mobile phones.²⁰⁵

If the parents wish and if it is possible, joint groups of children of national minorities and Ukrainians are formed in the educational institution, where education is organised in the language of the national minority. If the preschool education program is provided in the language of national minorities, the education must include teaching in the Lithuanian language at least 5 hours per week.²⁰⁶

In individual cases, when children attend an educational institution after September 1 and need an adaptation period (to overcome the stress of war, change of place or relocation), temporary groups can be formed where education is organised in Ukrainian. The Law on Education allows the recruitment of Ukrainian teachers without the need to

²⁰² Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2022), [Regarding the education of Ukrainian kids during school year 2022-2023](#) (*Dėl ukrainiečių vaikų ugdymo 2022–2023 mokslo metais*), No. SR-2534, 30 June 2022.

²⁰³ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2022), [Regarding the education of Ukrainian kids during school year 2022-2023](#) (*Dėl ukrainiečių vaikų ugdymo 2022–2023 mokslo metais*), No. SR-2534, 30 June 2022.

²⁰⁴ Lithuania, Daiva Jakavonytė-Staškuvienė, article „[Models for Organising the Education of Ukrainian Children Who Have Fled the War in Lithuanian Municipalities: Psychological, Material, and Linguistic Support](#)“, published 5 June 2023, Education Academy, Vytautas Magnus University, Para 4.4

²⁰⁵ Lithuania, Director of kindergarten (2023), the phone call with Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 11 July 2023.

²⁰⁶ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2022), [Regarding the education of Ukrainian kids during school year 2022-2023](#) (*Dėl ukrainiečių vaikų ugdymo 2022–2023 mokslo metais*), No. SR-2534, 30 June 2022.

speak Lithuanian.²⁰⁷ Such groups can operate for a limited period, no more than until August 31 of the following.²⁰⁸

School education

Students from Ukraine can study in one of three forms of education: in a Lithuanian school according to the Lithuanian curriculum, remotely in a Ukrainian school according to the Ukrainian curriculum and in an educational institution registered in Lithuania according to the Ukrainian curriculum.

Education in a Lithuanian school according to the Lithuanian curriculum

The Ministry recommends that all school students be taught in a daily education group learning form following Lithuanian general education programs.²⁰⁹ Children from Ukraine can study in schools where classes are held in Lithuanian or the language of national minorities - Russian, Polish, Belarusian.²¹⁰

The education of students from Ukraine can be organised:²¹¹

- In general classes
- In compensatory classes
- In compensatory mobile groups

Compensatory classes and mobile groups can be established not in all schools in the municipality territory but in several, combining students from neighbouring schools.²¹² In 2020-2023, such classes were found in 13 municipalities, but there were no such classes in the two biggest cities – Kaunas and Klaipėda.²¹³ In addition, the Ministry

²⁰⁷ Lithuania, Seimas (1991), The Law on Education (Lietuvos Respublikos švietimo įstatymas), No I-1489, 25 June 1991, last amendment No XIV-1729, 22 December 2022, Article 48.

²⁰⁸ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2022), [Circular Regarding the education of Ukrainian children in the 2022-2023 academic year](#) (Raštas Dėl ukrainiečių vaikų ugdymo 2022–2023 mokslo metais), No SR 2534, 30 June 2022.

²⁰⁹ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2023), [Circular regarding the education of Ukrainian children in the 2023-2024 academic year](#) (Aplinkraštis Dėl ukrainiečių vaikų ugdymo 2023–2024 mokslo metais), No SR 2180, 5 June 2023.

²¹⁰ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2022), [Circular Regarding the education of Ukrainian children in the 2022-2023 academic year](#) (Raštas Dėl ukrainiečių vaikų ugdymo 2022–2023 mokslo metais), No SR 2534, 30 June 2022.

²¹¹ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2022), [Circular Regarding the education of Ukrainian children in the 2022-2023 academic year](#) (Raštas Dėl ukrainiečių vaikų ugdymo 2022–2023 mokslo metais), No SR 2534, 30 June 2022

²¹² Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2022), [Circular Regarding the education of Ukrainian children in the 2022-2023 academic year](#) (Raštas Dėl ukrainiečių vaikų ugdymo 2022–2023 mokslo metais), No SR 2534, 30 June 2022.

²¹³ Lithuania, National Audit Office (2023) [Pagalba pabėgėliams, jų socialinė integracija \(Support to refugees and their social integration\)](#). Preliminary studies. Report in Lithuanian, No ITE-1, 8 June 2023, p. para 52.

recommends providing the help of a teacher's assistant to each incoming student (up to 3 months).²¹⁴

An individual education plan is drawn up for each student from Ukraine, and it is adapted to the student's abilities and needs; it helps to set goals and achieve them.²¹⁵ The student and the teachers prepare an individual education plan with the help of parents (guardians). Municipalities noted that it is difficult to draw up individual learning plans because there are significant differences between the curriculums of Lithuania and Ukraine.²¹⁶

The Ministry's circular notes that it is very important to monitor every student. The School's Child Welfare Commission, in cooperation with the class teacher, must assess whether the student faces learning difficulties and has special educational needs; they determine the student's need for educational support and services. When organising the educational process, the class teacher must constantly contact the student and his parents. For students with higher knowledge than their classmates, additional tasks for improvement must be prepared so they do not lose motivation to learn.²¹⁷

Students in the last grade of high school who wish to obtain a certificate of secondary education in Lithuania in 2024 will be required to have satisfactory annual grades/credits in the subjects of study and to pass the mandatory Lithuanian language and literature exam (school or state) and pass at least one other exam in the chosen subject. In 2024, a student can take the Lithuanian language and literature exam if he has a satisfactory annual grade in the subject and passes the Lithuanian language and literature credit. Suppose a student has a yearly fine grade in Lithuanian language and literature but does not pass this subject's state or school exam in the main session. In that case, they can retake the school exam in the Lithuanian language and literature in the additional session in the same year.²¹⁸

When, at the end of the school year, a student has subjects with an unsatisfactory final grade. In that case, he can reach a satisfactory level of achievement by completing

²¹⁴ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2022), [Circular Regarding the education of Ukrainian children in the 2022-2023 academic year](#) (Raštas Dėl ukrainiečių vaikų ugdymo 2022–2023 mokslo metais), No SR 2534, 30 June 2022.

²¹⁵ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2022), [Circular Regarding the education of Ukrainian children in the 2022-2023 academic year](#) (Raštas Dėl ukrainiečių vaikų ugdymo 2022–2023 mokslo metais), No SR 2534, 30 June 2022.

²¹⁶ Lithuania, National Audit Office (2023) [Pagalba pabėgėliams, jų socialinė integracija \(Support to refugees and their social integration\)](#). Preliminary studies. Report in Lithuanian, No ITE-1, 8 June 2023, p. 22.

²¹⁷ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2022), [Circular Regarding the education of Ukrainian children in the 2022-2023 academic year](#) (Raštas Dėl ukrainiečių vaikų ugdymo 2022–2023 mokslo metais), No SR 2534, 30 June 2022.

²¹⁸ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2023), [Circular regarding the education of Ukrainian children in the 2023-2024 academic year](#) (Aplinkraštis Dėl ukrainiečių vaikų ugdymo 2023–2024 mokslo metais), No SR 2180, 5 June 2023.

additional work assigned by teachers and receiving assistance.²¹⁹ When the student does not reach a sufficient level of achievement after the extra work. In that case, they can study a separate subject of the secondary education program in the forms of learning determined by the Minister of Education, Science and Sport in the next academic year.²²⁰

Remote education in a Ukrainian school according to the Ukrainian curriculum

Students who plan to stay in Lithuania for up to one year can study remotely according to Ukrainian educational programs in the Ukrainian language at distance learning schools recognised by the Ministry of Education of Ukraine. Such students are registered in Lithuanian schools as learning in the individual education form. All schools in Lithuania are required to ensure distance learning. There is no special registration for such education. Such education may last no longer than one academic year.²²¹ Those students who live in Lithuania and studied remotely in distance learning schools in the 2022-2023 academic year must take lessons in the 2023-2024 academic year in a daily education group learning form in schools in Lithuania, in classrooms, together with other students.²²²

Education in the institution registered in Lithuania according to the Ukrainian curriculum

Schools that have received the consent of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of Lithuania can teach in groups, daily, in Ukrainian according to the general education programs of Ukraine.²²³

About 20 per cent of children study in schools where the Russian language is taught. Their parents think it is easier for the children because the languages are similar, and they hope to return home soon.

²¹⁹ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2023), [Circular regarding the education of Ukrainian children in the 2023-2024 academic year](#) (*Aplinkraštis Dėl ukrainiečių vaikų ugdymo 2023–2024 mokslo metais*), No SR 2180, 5 June 2023.

²²⁰ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2012) [Regarding the approval of the description of the forms and training organization procedure for learning according to formal education programs \(except for higher education study programs\)](#) (*Dėl Mokymosi pagal formaliojo švietimo programas (išskyrus aukštojo mokslo studijų programas) formų ir mokymo organizavimo tvarkos aprašo patvirtinimo*), No. V-1049, 28 June 2012.

²²¹ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2022), [Circular Regarding the education of Ukrainian children in the 2022-2023 academic year](#) (*Raštas Dėl ukrainiečių vaikų ugdymo 2022–2023 mokslo metais*), No SR 2534, 30 June 2022.

²²² Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2023), [Circular regarding the education of Ukrainian children in the 2023-2024 academic year](#) (*Aplinkraštis Dėl ukrainiečių vaikų ugdymo 2023–2024 mokslo metais*), No SR 2180, 5 June 2023.

²²³ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2022), [Circular Regarding the education of Ukrainian children in the 2022-2023 academic year](#) (*Raštas Dėl ukrainiečių vaikų ugdymo 2022–2023 mokslo metais*), No SR 2534, 30 June 2022.

In cities with capacities, children from Ukraine can study in Ukrainian. Now, about 15 per cent of children from Ukraine study in Ukrainian. Five schools have approvals from the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport to run Ukrainian programs.²²⁴

Integration

Regardless of the chosen form of learning, all students from Ukraine who are registered in Lithuanian schools must learn the Lithuanian language according to language proficiency levels (A1–B2).²²⁵ Students are taught the Lithuanian language according to their abilities.²²⁶ Children can study the Ukrainian language if the educational institution has the capacity.²²⁷

All children, regardless of their origin, can communicate freely with each other and participate in non-formal education activities organised by the educational institution. They are provided with the necessary educational and learning support. The Lithuanian school must maintain constant contact with the child, the family and the Ukrainian school where the child is studying remotely.²²⁸

The National Agency for Education has prepared recommendations for school communities about the measures that must be implemented to prevent bullying and conflicts based on nationality and the need to avoid unconstructive conversations and discussions that incite discord or cause anxiety and panic.²²⁹ The agency also prepared recommendations for educators on how to talk to students about the ongoing tension due to the war in Ukraine.²³⁰

²²⁴ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Press release "Another school received approval to work under the Ukrainian education program" ([Pranešimas spaudai "Sutikimą dirbti pagal Ukrainos švietimo programą gavo dar viena mokykla"](#)), 27 December 2022.

²²⁵ Lithuania, National Education Agency (2021) [Lithuanian language general program according to language proficiency levels \(A1–B2\)](#). (*Lietuvių kalbos pagal kalbos mokėjimo lygius (A1–B2) bendroji programa*).

²²⁶ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2023), [Circular regarding the education of Ukrainian children in the 2023–2024 academic year](#) (*Aplinkraštis Dėl ukrainiečių vaikų ugdymo 2023–2024 mokslo metais*), No SR 2180, 5 June 2023.

²²⁷ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2022), [Circular Regarding the education of Ukrainian children in the 2022–2023 academic year](#) (*Raštas Dėl ukrainiečių vaikų ugdymo 2022–2023 mokslo metais*), No SR 2534, 30 June 2022.

²²⁸ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2023), [Circular regarding the education of Ukrainian children in the 2023–2024 academic year](#) (*Aplinkraštis Dėl ukrainiečių vaikų ugdymo 2023–2024 mokslo metais*), No SR 2180, 5 June 2023.

²²⁹ Lithuania, National agency for Education (2022), [Recommendations: Let's not allow discord to flare up in the school community](#) (*Rekomendacijos: Neleiskime įsipliekti nesantaikai mokyklos bendruomenėje*)

²³⁰ Lithuania, National agency for Education (2022), [Recommendations for educators How to talk to students about the ongoing tension due to the war in Ukraine](#) (*Rekomendacijos pedagogams Kaip kalbėtis mokiniais apie tvyrančią įtampą dėl karo Ukrainoje*)

The Ministry of Health has prepared a memo on How to talk to children and teenagers about the war in Ukraine in Lithuanian,²³¹ Russian²³² and Polish.²³³ Also, on the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport website, a training record is available to all teachers on the topic "How to talk to students about the war in Ukraine?"²³⁴

Psychologists of the Children Support Centre have prepared recommendations: "Ukrainian children near us: how to respond to their feelings and behaviour,"²³⁵ "How to welcome the children from Ukraine at the children's or teenagers' teams?"²³⁶ "How to talk to someone after major disasters and catastrophic experiences?"²³⁷

The non-formal education for children has been developed: Ukrainian children can be enrolled in municipal music, art, sports, or other schools; all municipalities have decided not to charge education fees. A mechanism for financing and organising children's summer camps has also been established. The summer camps with an equal participation of children from Lithuania and Ukraine have been financed to help children develop social-emotional competencies.²³⁸

Recognition of Lithuanian education in Ukraine

All students who came from Ukraine and are studying in Lithuanian formal education institutions will be enrolled in Ukrainian formal education institutions upon their return to Ukraine (to those where they were educated before their forced departure from Ukraine or to other Ukrainian formal education institutions). Enrolment in a Ukrainian formal education institution will be carried out based on a request submitted by one of the child's parents. Transfer to the next academic year (to a higher class) will be carried

²³¹ Lithuania, Ministry of Health (2022), [Memo on How to talk to children and teenagers about the war in Ukraine \(in Lithuanian\)](#) (*Kaip kalbėtis su vaikais ir paaugliais kalbėtis apie karą Ukrainoje - LT*)

²³² Lithuania, Ministry of Health (2022), [Memo on How to talk to children and teenagers about the war \(in Russian\)](#) (*КАК ГОВОРИТЬ С ДЕТЬМИ И ПОДРОСТКАМИ О ВОЙНЕ В УКРАИНЕ?- RU*).

²³³ Lithuania, Ministry of Health (2022), [Memo on How to talk to children and teenagers about the war \(in Polish\)](#) (*W JAKI SPOSÓB Z DZIEĆMI I NASTOLATKAMI ROZMAWIAĆ O WOJNIE NA UKRAINIE?*).

²³⁴ Lithuania, the website of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, [Naudingos nuorodos Lietuvos mokykloms: Atviros pamokos](#) (Useful links for Lithuanian schools: open lessons), [„Kaip su mokiniais kalbėtis apie karą Ukrainoje?“](#) (How to talk to students about the war in Ukraine?)

²³⁵ Lithuania, Children Support Centre (2022), Recommendations "Ukrainian children near us: how to respond to their feelings and behavior" ([Ukrainos vaikai šalia mūsų: kaip reaguoti į jų jausmus ir elgesį](#)).

²³⁶ Lithuania, Children Support Centre (2022), Recommendations "How to welcome the Ukrainians who have arrived in the children's and teenagers' collective?" ([Kaip į vaiky ir paauglių kolektyvą priimti atvykusius ukrainiečius?](#)).

²³⁷ Lithuania, Children Support Centre (2022), Recommendations "How to talk to a person after major disasters and catastrophic experiences?" ([Kaip kalbėtis su žmogumi po didelių nelaimių ir katastrofiškų patirčių](#)).

²³⁸ Lithuania, Ombudsperson for the Rights of the Child (2023). [Annual Report of 2022](#). No. 4-2, 31 March 2023, p. 115-116.

out by the decision of the Ukrainian education institution's Pedagogic Council, considering the students' annual grades.²³⁹

Vocational education

All students from Ukraine can study in the Lithuanian language at vocational training institutions registered in Lithuania. If a child from Ukraine does not have a document proving his education, the educational institution assesses his readiness to study according to the chosen vocational training program. If the preparation is sufficient, the child is admitted to study for free.²⁴⁰ Children forced to stop vocational training in Ukraine can continue it in Lithuania in the relevant training program. They are admitted to educational institutions at any time during the academic year.²⁴¹ Students can study in other languages if the educational institution has the capacity. All students from Ukraine can learn Lithuanian and receive educational support.²⁴² Children from Ukraine can get vocational training at the state and municipal education institutions on the same conditions as Lithuanian children. Free vocational training is available to children with good study results.

Teaching children with special needs (with disabilities)

When a child is educated in a special-purpose educational institution (preschool or general education school) in Ukraine, he can choose to continue his education in an ordinary or special-purpose educational institution (special school, special education centre) in Lithuania. When admitting a child with special educational needs or disabilities to school, the information provided by parents, persons accompanying him or the child himself is considered without requiring documents proving his special educational needs if the person cannot provide them. In such a case, the child's educational needs must be assessed within one year of education in a Lithuanian special school. The child's special educational needs are determined by the Pedagogical

²³⁹ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2023), [Circular regarding the education of Ukrainian children in the 2023-2024 academic year](#) (*Aplinkraštis Dėl ukrainiečių vaikų ugdymo 2023–2024 mokslo metais*), No SR 2180, 5 June 2023.

²⁴⁰ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2017), Regarding the approval of the description of the procedure for the general admission of persons who wish to study according to initial or continuing vocational training programs to a state or municipal or non-state vocational training institution ([Dėl Asmenu, pageidaujančių mokytis pagal pirminio arba testinio profesinio mokymo programų, bendrojo priėmimo į valstybinę ar savivaldybės arba nevalstybinę profesinio mokymo įstaigų tvarkos aprašo patvirtinimo](#)), No V-373, 17 May 2017, last amendment No V-873, 31 May 2022, Articles 6, 31 and 32.

²⁴¹ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2017), Regarding the approval of the description of the procedure for the general admission of persons who wish to study according to initial or continuing vocational training programs to a state or municipal or non-state vocational training institution ([Dėl Asmenu, pageidaujančių mokytis pagal pirminio arba testinio profesinio mokymo programų, bendrojo priėmimo į valstybinę ar savivaldybės arba nevalstybinę profesinio mokymo įstaigų tvarkos aprašo patvirtinimo](#)), No V-373, 17 May 2017, last amendment No V-873, 31 May 2022, Article 23.

²⁴² Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2022), [Circular Regarding the education of Ukrainian children in the 2022-2023 academic year](#) (*Raštas Dėl ukrainiečių vaikų ugdymo 2022–2023 mokslo metais*), No SR 2534, 30 June 2022.

Psychological Services or Educational Support Services (hereinafter - PPT) established by the municipalities. If the child has a hearing impairment, his evaluation is carried out by the specialists of the Centre for Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Lithuania, together with PPT specialists. If the child has a visual impairment, the child is evaluated by the specialists of the Lithuanian Blind and Visually Impaired Education Centre together with PPT specialists.²⁴³ The level of special educational needs is determined based on the child's health examination documents prepared by the medical institution, the conclusions of the child welfare commission of the school where the child studies, and other documents. In cooperation with the school's child welfare commission representatives and parents (guardians, carers), PPT specialists discuss the child's educational situation and the need for educational assistance. When the parents (guardians, carers) disagree with the decision of the PPT, at their request, the Centre for Special Pedagogy and Psychology conducts the assessment of the child.²⁴⁴ Legal acts do not provide for a requirement to ensure translation into Ukrainian during the child's assessment. Until the evaluation, the child studies in the chosen educational institution.²⁴⁵

A child can only continue his education in a special educational institution if diagnosed with high or very high special educational needs.²⁴⁶ The level of the child's educational needs is determined following the description of the procedure approved by three ministers.²⁴⁷

Information about the procedure for studying in Lithuanian educational institutions and other information

²⁴³ Lithuania, Minister of Education, Science and Sport (2017), Order Regarding the evaluation of the Pupil's special educational needs (except those resulting from exceptional talents) in pedagogical, psychological, medical and social pedagogical aspects and the approval of the description of the special education appointment procedure ([Isakymas Dėl Mokinio specialiųjų ugdymosi poreikių \(išskyrus atsirandančius dėl išskirtinių gabumų\) pedagoqinių, psicholoqinių, medicininiu ir socialiniu pedagoqiniu aspektais įvertinimo ir specialiojo ugdymosi paskyrimo tvarkos aprašo patvirtinimo](#)), No V-1775, 30 September 2011, last amendment No V-680, 22 July 2013, Articles 7 and 8.

²⁴⁴ Lithuania, Minister of Education, Science and Sport (2017), Order on the approval of the description of the work organization procedure of the Pedagogical Psychological Services ([Isakymas dėl Pedagoqinių psicholoqinių tarnybų darbo organizavimo tvarkos aprašo patvirtinimo](#)), No V-662, 30 August 2017, last amendment No V-1292, 27 August 2020.

²⁴⁵ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2022), Information for municipal education departments, education support specialists Educational assistance for war refugees from Ukraine ([Informacija savivaldybių švietimo padaliniams, švietimo pagalbos specialistams. Švietimo pagalba karo pabėgėliams iš Ukrainos](#)).

²⁴⁶ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2022), Information for municipal education departments, education support specialists Educational assistance for war refugees from Ukraine ([Informacija savivaldybių švietimo padaliniams, švietimo pagalbos specialistams. Švietimo pagalba karo pabėgėliams iš Ukrainos](#)).

²⁴⁷ Lithuania, Minister of Education, Science and Sport, Minister of Health, Minister of Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2011), Order On the approval of the description of the procedure for determining the groups of pupils with special educational needs and dividing their special educational needs into levels ([Isakymas Dėl mokinių, turinčių specialiųjų ugdymosi poreikių, grupių nustatymo ir jų specialiųjų ugdymosi poreikių skirstymo į lygius tvarkos aprašo patvirtinimo](#)), No V-1265/V-685/A1-317, 13 July 2011, last amendment No V-718/V-762/A1-433, 26 July 2013.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport website provides answers to the most frequently asked questions and contacts of persons who can be contacted for consultations to enrol a child in a kindergarten or school or to receive other education-related consultations.²⁴⁸ Each municipality has designated coordinators who can be contacted to help register a child in kindergarten or school. Coordinators and contact persons do not speak Ukrainian. They can speak Russian, which most of the people who came from Ukraine know.

The Ministry's website also provides educational resources in Ukrainian - printed text and audiobooks for those who cannot read a regular printed text.²⁴⁹

Challenges of practical implementation

The Ombudsperson for the Rights of the Child has noted in her 2022 annual report the following issues:

Ukrainian asylum seekers complained about the lack of places in kindergartens and schools.²⁵⁰

The issue of ensuring children's rights to education remained relevant, as not all children of school age were registered in Lithuanian educational institutions (some of the children may have been studying remotely in Ukraine, have reached the age of 16, have moved away, etc.). Children learning remotely in Ukraine were encouraged to register in Lithuanian educational institutions to receive Lithuanian language, non-formal education and educational assistance. Children must interact with other children; the Lithuanian school must maintain constant contact with the child, the family, and the distance education school in Ukraine. The issues of school non-attendance of Ukrainian children in Lithuania have been addressed in various ways: by raising parents' awareness through directly available contacts, by organising meetings, by NGOs, by municipal staff individually contacting families and by finding out the reasons for non-attendance.²⁵¹

Surveys of parents show that in 2022, less than half of children are emotionally stable. Children have gaps in education because of the war. They have difficulties in learning the Lithuanian language. Parents think their children need extra classes and additional support in socialisation. More than 50% of children from Ukraine have not participated

²⁴⁸ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2023) [Contacts for consultations](#).

²⁴⁹ Lithuania, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (2023), [Educational Resources](#).

²⁵⁰ Lithuania, Ombudsperson for the Rights of the Child (2023). [Annual Report of 2022](#). No. 4-2, 31 March 2023, p. 115-116.

²⁵¹ Lithuania, Ombudsperson for the Rights of the Child (2023). [Annual Report of 2022](#). No. 4-2, 31 March 2023, p. 116.

in extracurricular activities due to low parental income or lack of adequate extracurricular activities.²⁵²

In 2022, teachers expressed difficulties in teaching children from Ukraine due to a lack of methodologies and guidance, work experience, language barriers, the need to combine school lessons with distance learning in Ukraine, lack of time to prepare bilingual material, low motivation of pupils, etc.²⁵³ The study found that as many as 88% of all teachers have no experience working with refugees and migrants, and only 1.2% studied the methods of working with refugees and/or migrant students during their pedagogical studies.²⁵⁴

Problems with the teaching of the Lithuanian language identified in 2022: Teachers do not have enough practical skills to teach foreign children the Lithuanian language, even though many of them had training from the Vilnius Lithuanian House (*Vilniaus lietuvių namai*) and apply the House's recommendations in practice; children from Ukraine find it challenging to learn in a classroom with Lithuanian children, who have been learning Lithuanian since childhood; however, the extra classes are very helpful; not all children want to have additional courses; some of them are not motivated because they are not going to stay in Lithuania; the workload of Lithuanian language teachers is heavy; it is challenging to present the student with all the teaching material during the lesson.²⁵⁵

The study "Challenges of integration of Ukrainian families, expectations, social-emotional well-being", conducted by the International Migration Organization in Lithuania and Vytautas Magnus University at the end of the year 2022, highlighted such problematic issues:²⁵⁶

- When learning Lithuanian, 53.3% of students from Ukraine complain about complicated grammar and vocabulary, and 33.3% of schoolchildren from Ukraine claim that they do not receive additional help. This affects their learning outcomes and can lead to difficulties in participating in classes, communicating, and learning, so new ways to deal with this problem are necessary.

²⁵² Lithuania, Ombudsperson for the Rights of the Child (2023). [Annual Report of 2022](#). No. 4-2, 31 March 2023, p. 116.

²⁵³ Lithuania, Ombudsperson for the Rights of the Child (2023). [Annual Report of 2022](#). No. 4-2, 31 March 2023, p. 116.

²⁵⁴ Lithuania, Academy of Education of Vytautas Magnus University, [Ukrainiečių pabėgėlių mokinių potencialo atskleidimas Lietuvos mokyklose: iššūkiai ir galimybės atviresnei visuomenei](#) (*Uncovering the potential of Ukrainian refugee students in Lithuanian schools: challenges and opportunities for a more open society*), dated 22 December 2022.

²⁵⁵ Lithuania, Ombudsperson for the Rights of the Child (2023). [Annual Report of 2022](#). No. 4-2, 31 March 2023, p. 118.

²⁵⁶ Lithuania, Academy of Education of Vytautas Magnus University, [Ukrainiečių pabėgėlių mokinių potencialo atskleidimas Lietuvos mokyklose: iššūkiai ir galimybės atviresnei visuomenei](#) (*Uncovering the potential of Ukrainian refugee students in Lithuanian schools: challenges and opportunities for a more open society*), dated 22 December 2022.

- The teaching methods used in Lithuanian schools differ from those used in Ukrainian schools, so children may be confused and not understand what they are learning. When children from Ukraine leave their country and start studying again in another one, they face a break in education and must adapt to the changed situation. The study revealed that the children from Ukraine did not have adequate help in education in Lithuania. The study found that 55.8% of children did not have a learning assistant, 79.3% did not have a mentor, and about 90% did not have a peer mentor. This allows us to assume that migrants from Ukraine may have had difficulties fitting in at schools, using the schools' educational resources and participating in non-formal education activities.
- Even 45% of children from Ukraine were not included/did not participate in school events or celebrations, and more than 50% of schoolchildren from Ukraine did not participate in extracurricular activities due to their parents' low income or insufficient supply of free non-formal educational activities.

The State Audit Office noted that in Lithuania, there is no legal requirement to assess the educational achievements of refugee children, according to which educational services are planned and provided. It is not ensured that the evaluation is carried out with a translation into a language the child understands. There are no guidelines on how the educational institution should act in situations where no documents confirm the child's education. There is no system for assessing the quality of knowledge acquired abroad. However, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport believes the situation is sufficiently regulated, and additional instruments are unnecessary. The general educational plans provide how the abilities of students from abroad should be assessed.²⁵⁷ In 2022, 42% of surveyed education institutions indicated no monitoring of non-Lithuanian-speaking children's progress and achievements.²⁵⁸

3.2.3. Data on drop outs and NEETs (not in education, employment, or training)

Number of children from Ukraine aged 6 – 16 not attending education institutions – 7633. The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport informed that an attempt was made

²⁵⁷ Lithuania, National Audit Office (2023) [Pagalba pabėgėliams, jų socialinė integracija \(Support to refugees and their social integration\)](#). Preliminary studies. Report in Lithuanian, No ITE-1, 8 June 2023, p. 23.

²⁵⁸ Lithuania, National Audit Office (2023) [Pagalba pabėgėliams, jų socialinė integracija \(Support to refugees and their social integration\)](#). Preliminary studies. Report in Lithuanian, No ITE-1, 8 June 2023, p. 23.

to contact 6121 children to find out the reasons for not attending the educational institution and to encourage them to study in Lithuanian schools.²⁵⁹

3.3. Access to social welfare – forms of social assistance related to children

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania, by Resolution No. 224 of March 16, 2022, *On granting temporary protection in the Republic of Lithuania to foreigners granted temporary protection in the Republic of Lithuania to adults and children who arrived from Ukraine, as well as children born to persons who have already left Ukraine due to military operations.*²⁶⁰ It should be noted that all the Ukrainian children living in Lithuania are granted temporary residence permits due to the granting of temporary protection status; there are no asylum seekers or refugee children from Ukraine.²⁶¹ Therefore, the analysis of that status was not carried out.

According to the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners, all persons from Ukraine, including children, have the following rights **until a decision is made** regarding the granting (non-granting) of temporary protection:²⁶²

- 1) To live free of charge in the accommodation places of state and municipal institutions, as well as in the accommodation places voluntarily offered by private individuals or legal entities; *Costs related to the free accommodation of foreigners who have the right to receive temporary protection or who have been granted temporary protection in accommodation places offered by the state or municipal institutions are covered by the state budget funds.*²⁶³
- 2) To receive all necessary information about their legal status in the Republic of Lithuania in their native language or in a language they understand.
- 3) To receive state-guaranteed (free) health care specified in the Law on the Health System and, considering the state budget's capacity, to obtain prescription

²⁵⁹ Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 23 June 2023.

²⁶⁰ Lithuania, Government (2022), Resolution on granting temporary protection in the Republic of Lithuania to foreigners (*Dėl laikinosios apsaugos Lietuvos Respublikoje užsieniečiams suteikimo*), No. 224, 16 March 2022, last amendment No. 439, 7 June 2023.

²⁶¹ In order to get temporary residence permits, the persons coming from Ukraine have to register with the territorial offices of the Migration Department.

²⁶² Lithuania, Seimas (2004), Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners (*Lietuvos Respublikos įstatymas dėl užsieniečių teisinės padėties*). No. IX-2206, 29 April 2004, last amendment No. XIV-1889, 20 April 2023, Article 94 (1) and (2).

²⁶³ Lithuania, Seimas (2004), Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners (*Lietuvos Respublikos įstatymas dėl užsieniečių teisinės padėties*). No. IX-2206, 29 April 2004, last amendment No. XIV-1889, 20 April 2023, Article 94 (5).

medicines in the cases, conditions and procedures determined by the Minister of Health.

- 4) To receive social services, the conditions for awarding and the financing procedure are determined by the Minister of Social Security and Labour.
- 5) To study according to the program(s) of general education or formal vocational training following the procedure established by the Minister of Education, Science and Sport.
- 6) To exercise other rights guaranteed to them according to the Republic of Lithuania's international treaties, laws and other legal acts.

Children (parents of children) **who have been granted temporary protection** during the period of temporary protection additionally have the following rights related to ensuring the child's rights:²⁶⁴

- 1) To receive monetary social support for needy residents²⁶⁵, benefits for children, funeral allowance, targeted compensation for nursing and care (assistance) costs, allowance payment; *State and municipal institutions and bodies assign and pay social support to foreigners without requiring them and/or the institutions of foreign countries to provide information, data and/or other documents necessary to determine the foreigner's right to receive social support, when the foreigner is not able to provide them.*²⁶⁶ *A one-time payment for a child and/or payment for a child is granted if one of the child's parents (adoptive parents), guardian (caregiver) or the child has been granted temporary protection.*²⁶⁷
- 2) To receive a one-time payment to settle in a place of residence in the territory of the municipality (to purchase the most necessary furniture and household items, to cover the costs of travel and/or luggage transportation to the place of residence) (the Minister of Social Security and Labour determines the procedure for allocation and financing).²⁶⁸

²⁶⁴ Lithuania, Seimas (2004), Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners (*Lietuvos Respublikos įstatymas dėl užsieniečių teisinės padėties*). No. IX-2206, 29 April 2004, last amendment No. XIV-1889, 20 April 2023, Article 94 (3) and 108 (1).

²⁶⁵ The monetary support is given to persons whose income falls below the level of poverty indicated by the government. Presently, income for one person is 157 Eur. It is calculated by adding the income of all household members and dividing by the number of household inhabitants. Some types of income (child benefits, unemployment benefits etc.) are not calculated into this amount. Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2023) [Frequently asked questions](#).

²⁶⁶ Lithuania, Seimas (2004), Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners (*Lietuvos Respublikos įstatymas dėl užsieniečių teisinės padėties*). No. IX-2206, 29 April 2004, last amendment No. XIV-1889, 20 April 2023, Article 94 (6).

²⁶⁷ Lithuania, Seimas (2004), Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners (*Lietuvos Respublikos įstatymas dėl užsieniečių teisinės padėties*). No. IX-2206, 29 April 2004, last amendment No. XIV-1889, 20 April 2023, Article 94 (7).

²⁶⁸ It is calculated using the state supported income level, which then is multiplied by 4 to 8 times (depending on the size of the family). Presently it is from 628 Eur to 1727 Eur. Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2022) [Regarding the approval of the description of the procedure for the allocation and financing of the one-time allowance for settling in a place of residence in the territory of the municipality and/or monthly compensation for the payment of the education provider for the maintenance of a child educated according to pre-school or pre-school education programs, given to foreigners who have been granted temporary](#)

- 3) To receive monthly compensation for the salary of the education provider for the maintenance of a child educated according to kindergarten and pre-school education programs (the procedure for allocation and funding is determined by the Minister of Social Security and Labour). Compensation is paid no more than 6 months after kindergarten or preschool education institution attendance starts. *State and municipal institutions and bodies assign and pay social support to foreigners without requiring them and/or the institutions of foreign countries to provide information, data and/or other documents necessary to determine the foreigner's right to receive social support when the foreigner is not able to provide it.*²⁶⁹
- 4) To receive support for the purchase or rental of housing following the procedure established by the Law of the Republic of Lithuania On support for the purchase or rental of housing.
- 5) To exercise other rights guaranteed to them according to the international treaties, laws, and other legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania.

For the implementation of the rights of foreigners established by law, state funds of the Republic of Lithuania, international organisations, European Union funds, European Union structural funds, humanitarian aid funds established by natural and legal persons of the Republic of Lithuania, non-governmental organisations are allocated to the extent that the foreigner does not have the funds himself.²⁷⁰

The Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners foresees that **all unaccompanied foreign children**, regardless of the legality of their presence on the territory of Lithuania, have the following rights:²⁷¹

1. To be provided with living space and subsistence free of charge.
2. To study according to the kindergarten, preschool, and general school education or formal vocational training programs. The right to study must be ensured no later than by the end of 3rd month after the discovery of a child.
3. To receive free health care and free medicines.

[protection](#) (Dėl Vienkartinės išmokos įsikurti gyvenamojoje vietoje savivaldybės teritorijoje ir (ar) mėnesinės kompensacijos atlyginimui švietimo teikėjui už vaiko, ugdomo pagal ikimokyklinio ar priešmokyklinio ugdymo programas, išlaikymą apmokėti, skiriamų užsieniečiams, kuriems suteikta laikinoji apsauga, skyrimo ir finansavimo tvarkos aprašo patvirtinimo), No. A1-780, 24 November 2022, last amendment A1-105, 15 February 2023.

²⁶⁹ Lithuania, Seimas (2004), Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners (*Lietuvos Respublikos įstatymas dėl užsieniečių teisinės padėties*). No. IX-2206, 29 April 2004, last amendment No. XIV-1889, 20 April 2023, Article 94 (6).

²⁷⁰ Lithuania, Seimas (2004), Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners (*Lietuvos Respublikos įstatymas dėl užsieniečių teisinės padėties*). No. IX-2206, 29 April 2004, last amendment No. XIV-1889, 20 April 2023, Article 94 (10).

²⁷¹ Lithuania, Seimas (2004), Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners (*Lietuvos Respublikos įstatymas dėl užsieniečių teisinės padėties*). No. IX-2206, 29 April 2004, last amendment No. XIV-1889, 20 April 2023, Article 32(4).

4. To receive social services free of charge.
5. To receive free legal aid.
6. To contact national or international NGOs.

The list of rights is not exhaustive. The Law states that unaccompanied children have other rights guaranteed under international treaties or other national laws.

The Migration Department, upon receiving information about an unaccompanied foreign child, must immediately organise a search for the child's family members and, within 2 days, issue a Certificate on the person's registration.²⁷² This duty is also established in the Law on Fundamental of Protection of the Rights of the Child²⁷³. Article 22 stipulates that a child granted additional protection or an unaccompanied foreign child has the right to assistance and protection. The authorities must search for the parents, relatives, or other natural or legal persons of an unaccompanied foreign minor to whom they can be transferred. The search for relatives is carried out considering the child's best interests and the child's protection; protection of a child's rights must be ensured. The State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service is the child's legal representative until a temporary guardian (curator) is appointed.²⁷⁴

The Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners considers all children vulnerable.²⁷⁵

The measures of social support related to children (and families having children) who **hold a temporary residence permit** not mentioned above are: the right to work and undertake the individual activity; the right to receive labour market services; the right to receive social support for school students (free meals and assistance in purchasing school supplies); the right to have social insurance guarantees identical to those applied for Lithuanian residents; the right to receive child benefits; the right to receive monetary social support (social allowance, compensation for heating, drinking water and hot water); the right to receive social support pensions; the right to get social services; the right to get disability determination, assistance, benefits and services for people with disabilities; support in case of the loss of a family members (funeral allowance).²⁷⁶

²⁷² Lithuania, Seimas (2004), Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners (*Lietuvos Respublikos įstatymas dėl užsieniečių teisinės padėties*). No. IX-2206, 29 April 2004, last amendment No. XIV-1889, 20 April 2023, Article 32 (6).

²⁷³ Lithuania, Seimas (1996). Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vaiko teisių apsaugos pagrindų įstatymas*), No. I-1234, 14 March 1996, last amendment No. XIV-1839, 28 March 2023.

²⁷⁴ Lithuania, Seimas (2000). Civil Code (*Lietuvos Respublikos civilinis kodeksas*), No. VIII-1864, 18 July 2000, last amendment No. XIV-1838, 28 March 2023, Article 3.250(4).

²⁷⁵ Lithuania, Seimas (2004), Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners (*Lietuvos Respublikos įstatymas dėl užsieniečių teisinės padėties*). No. IX-2206, 29 April 2004, last amendment No. XIV-1889, 20 April 2023, Article 2 (18²).

²⁷⁶ Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2023) [Support of Ukrainian war refugees by personal status](#).

In addition to that, the following child benefits are available to people from **Ukraine who are granted temporary protection** (identical to those applied to Lithuanian citizens and residents): child benefit (child money); one-time child benefit; one-time pregnant woman benefit; benefit for the birth of twins, triplets, etc.; childcare allowance for a school student; care allowance; targeted supplement to the care allowance.²⁷⁷

²⁷⁷ Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2023) [Support of Ukrainian war refugees by personal status](#).

4. Additional legal and practical barriers and challenges

4.1. General challenges

The Parties in the Cooperation agreement have agreed that Interstate and national adoption procedures for children shall not be carried out in any country of the world for the duration of martial law in Ukraine without due regard to the legislation of Ukraine or pending the approval of the Ukrainian authorities.²⁷⁸ The Lithuanian granting of any status to children cannot be a basis for the procedure on interstate or national adoption of children from Ukraine without due regard to the legislation of Ukraine governing this legal procedure and relations.²⁷⁹

Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania ensures that Children born in Ukraine who have not been issued a birth certificate or other identity document in Ukraine for arrival in the Republic of Lithuania are not granted citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania.²⁸⁰

The Ombudsperson for the Rights of the Child surveyed in 2022²⁸¹ whether the issues of children's departure are coordinated with the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service, other state institutions, and the authorities in Ukraine, whether there is an approved algorithm of action, whether information is requested and received from the responsible Ukrainian authorities that the children are returning to safe conditions, etc.; whether the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service inquired and has feedback on the safe return of children returning to Ukraine, their placement, etc.

²⁷⁸ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 3 (4).

²⁷⁹ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 3 (5).

²⁸⁰ Kyiv, (2022) Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, [Agreement on Cooperation in the field of protection of children affected by the war in Ukraine due to the Russian Federation's armed aggression](#), 11 April 2022, Article 4 (3.8).

²⁸¹ Lithuania, Ombudsperson for the Rights of the Child (2023). [Annual Report of 2022](#). No. 4-2, 31 March 2023, p. 115

The State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service has stated in its report of 2022 that in 2022, a large number of unaccompanied children were returned to their parents to Ukraine or left Lithuania with their appointed guardians to Ukraine or other foreign countries (931 children), following the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners. Some have reached the age of majority (265 children in 2022).²⁸²

Information about groups of children who should return to Ukraine the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service receives from the central authority of Ukraine. In addition, a military base in which the territory the children are going to stay must submit a document confirming that the territory is safe and there is no danger to the safety or life of the children. In carrying out the return of groups of children to their country of origin, the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service cooperates with the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the Migration Department, the Consul of Ukraine in Lithuania and other competent Ukrainian authorities.²⁸³

The transfer from Lithuania, a group of children with parents who lived with them in Ukraine before arriving in Lithuania, is directly coordinated with their parents (parents must submit written consent and request that children return to Ukraine).²⁸⁴

The State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service forward the information to the central authority of Ukraine and/or to the competent authority of the foreign country where the child goes with the guardian or legal representatives:

- when the situation of the child needed case management in Lithuania,
- when services were provided to the child in Lithuania,
- when the report on possible child rights violations was prepared in Lithuania.

In practice, there are many cases when parents come to Lithuania to pick up a child in care and leave for Ukraine or another foreign country without informing the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service or other responsible Lithuanian authorities. In such situations the Service and its territorial units receive information about child who left Lithuania from the Migration Department, foster care centres or through foster care supervision.²⁸⁵

²⁸² Lithuania, State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2023). [Report of 2022](#). No. 5-1, 31 March 2023, p. 116.

²⁸³ Lithuania, Ombudsperson for the Rights of the Child (2023). [Annual Report of 2022](#). No. 4-2, 31 March 2023, p. 116.

²⁸⁴ Lithuania, State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2023) Reply to the request of Lithuanian FRANET partner, dated 27 April 2023.

²⁸⁵ Lithuania, State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (2023). [Report of 2022](#). No. 5-1, 31 March 2023, p. 116-117.

4.2. Challenges for children at multiple risk/disadvantage

5. Policies in place

5.1. Dedicated action plan and/or integrated measures

Lithuania does not have a dedicated action plan for children from Ukraine.

Lithuanian Government has adopted the State Emergency Management Plan.²⁸⁶ Article 15.5 of Annex 2 of the Plan indicates that in the event of a massive influx of foreigners, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour must organise the provision of social support for foreigners classified as vulnerable groups (including children) and mobilise the material and human resources necessary to accommodate these persons and organise the Lithuanian Red Cross Society and other NGOs to provide social services to foreigners. Article 15.5 specifies that the Ministry of Education, Science, and Sport must coordinate the education of foreigners according to the kindergarten, preschool, and general school education programs or vocational training programs.

2023-2025 Strategic plan of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania²⁸⁷ indicates that the Ministry of Social Security and Labour envisages, among other activities, the guarantee for institutional social care for unaccompanied foreign children or children left without parental care who arrived from a foreign country affected by a humanitarian crisis, to provide support for the integration of foreigners, to create conditions for the activities of the Refugee Reception Centre, and to implement the measures indicated in the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund Program.²⁸⁸

²⁸⁶ Lithuania, Government (2010), [Resolution on the approval of the State emergency management plan](#) (*Nutarimas dėl valstybinio ekstremaliųjų situacijų valdymo plano patvirtinimo*), No. 1503, 10 October 2010, last amendment No. 583, 28 July 2021.

²⁸⁷ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2022), [Order on the approval of the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania](#) (*Įsakymas dėl Lietuvos Respublikos Socialinės apsaugos ir darbo ministerijos 2023–2025 metų strateginio veiklos plano patvirtinimo*), No. A1-32, 24 January 2023.

²⁸⁸ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour (2022), [Order on the approval of the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania](#) (*Įsakymas dėl Lietuvos Respublikos Socialinės apsaugos ir darbo ministerijos 2023–2025 metų strateginio veiklos plano patvirtinimo*), No. A1-32, 24 January 2023, Article 6 of the Progress task No. 2.2. of the Programme 09-003.

5.2. European Child Guarantee

The Ministry of Social Security and Labour, with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, has adopted the National Child Guarantee plan to implement the National Child Guarantee System in Lithuania in 2023-2030.²⁸⁹

The analysis in preparing the National Child Guarantee plan identified children in migration as one of the most vulnerable groups of children in Lithuania.²⁹⁰ It also mentions explicitly the challenges in preschool education regarding migrant children – that there is a lack of preschool teachers who can work with children in different languages. The system also lacks teachers who would be methodically prepared to work with migrant children and teaching materials and methods to work with migrant children. There is a need also for psychologists who would help children to adapt to a new culture and learning system.²⁹¹ As for the actions to be taken in this field, the plan foresees that methodological recommendations will foresee how to work with children in migration. Furthermore, the mandatory Lithuanian lessons for at least 5 hours a week will ensure each child’s equal starting position at school.²⁹²

The action plan also indicates school education problems for migrant children. The migrant children do not have sufficient psychological support, and teachers are not sufficiently trained to work with migrant children. Schools without the experience and tools to work with migrant children may also hesitate to admit such children, leading to discrimination against them. Teachers are not sufficiently prepared to work with migrant children. Teachers also lack adequate teaching materials and learning support

²⁸⁹ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and Ministry of Health (2023), [Regarding the approval of the action plan for the implementation of the Child Guarantee System in 2023-2030 in Lithuania](#) (Dėl Vaiko garantijų sistemos įgyvendinimo 2023–2030 metais Lietuvoje veiksmų plano patvirtinimo), No. A1-388/V-678/V-821, 13 June 2023.

²⁹⁰ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and Ministry of Health (2023), [Regarding the approval of the action plan for the implementation of the Child Guarantee System in 2023-2030 in Lithuania](#) (Dėl Vaiko garantijų sistemos įgyvendinimo 2023–2030 metais Lietuvoje veiksmų plano patvirtinimo), No. A1-388/V-678/V-821, 13 June 2023, para. 20.

²⁹¹ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and Ministry of Health (2023), [Regarding the approval of the action plan for the implementation of the Child Guarantee System in 2023-2030 in Lithuania](#) (Dėl Vaiko garantijų sistemos įgyvendinimo 2023–2030 metais Lietuvoje veiksmų plano patvirtinimo), No. A1-388/V-678/V-821, 13 June 2023, para. 20.

²⁹² Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and Ministry of Health (2023), [Regarding the approval of the action plan for the implementation of the Child Guarantee System in 2023-2030 in Lithuania](#) (Dėl Vaiko garantijų sistemos įgyvendinimo 2023–2030 metais Lietuvoje veiksmų plano patvirtinimo), No. A1-388/V-678/V-821, 13 June 2023, para. 33.

specialists.²⁹³ Although problems have been identified, measures to solve these problems are not yet provided in the plan.

Regarding access to housing, the plan indicates that children of newly arrived migrants and refugees in Lithuania also face common risks related to housing affordability and lack of sufficiently accessible housing. They are disproportionately exposed to specific risks associated with the private rental market, where they are often discriminated against and, therefore, have more difficulty accessing housing.²⁹⁴ Although problems have been identified, measures to solve these problems are not yet provided in the plan.

The National Child Guarantee plan indicates that "Children in migration/children of migrant origin/children of national minorities" are among the five target groups in the plan.

Paragraph 26 of the Annex to the National Child Guarantee plan, placed under the section "Children in migration/children of migrant origin/children of national minorities", envisages the development of assistance measures for children in migration and children of migrant origin.²⁹⁵ The National Child Guarantee plan explains the objectives of the planned measures. It states that, *considering the fact that Lithuania has faced new challenges in recent years, which have increased the number of unaccompanied minors and, in general, the number of children in migration in the country, the aim will be to create and develop measures to ensure the implementation and protection of the rights and legitimate interests of these children, promote social integration, other. The measure is planned to cover children in illegal migration, Ukrainian children fleeing the Russian-led war against Ukraine.* However, it should be noted that the content of the measures, the implementation period, the indicators to be achieved, the funding sources of the measures, and the monitoring process have not yet been specified. The plan states that information about this measure is still being prepared, and the implementation will be carried out by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour and UN Child Fund Europe and Middle Asia regional bureau.

²⁹³ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and Ministry of Health (2023), [Regarding the approval of the action plan for the implementation of the Child Guarantee System in 2023-2030 in Lithuania](#) (Dėl Vaiko garantijų sistemos įgyvendinimo 2023–2030 metais Lietuvoje veiksmų plano patvirtinimo), No. A1-388/V-678/V-821, 13 June 2023, para. 33.

²⁹⁴ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and Ministry of Health (2023), [Regarding the approval of the action plan for the implementation of the Child Guarantee System in 2023-2030 in Lithuania](#) (Dėl Vaiko garantijų sistemos įgyvendinimo 2023–2030 metais Lietuvoje veiksmų plano patvirtinimo), No. A1-388/V-678/V-821, 13 June 2023, para. 78.

²⁹⁵ Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and Ministry of Health (2023), [Regarding the approval of the action plan for the implementation of the Child Guarantee System in 2023-2030 in Lithuania](#) (Dėl Vaiko garantijų sistemos įgyvendinimo 2023–2030 metais Lietuvoje veiksmų plano patvirtinimo), No. A1-388/V-678/V-821, 13 June 2023, Annex, para. 26.

5.3. Budget

Lithuania does not have a specific budget allocated for displaced children from Ukraine in the current or future annual budgets (2023, 2024).

Annex 1 – Research and data

Table 6 – Research on experiences of children fleeing Ukraine

Surveys or research studies on experiences of children fleeing Ukraine	
Name/title	Daiva Jakavonytė – Staškuvienė “Models for Organising the Education of Ukrainian Children Who Have Fled the War in Lithuanian Municipalities: Psychological, Material, and Linguistic Support”
Main findings (max. 1000 chars)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The psychological safety of pupils was the first aspect most participants took care of. The study confirms the outcomes of other studies highlighting the importance of psychological support to children escaping the war: talking to these children, encouraging them to speak out, and listening to their experiences. • The study discovered that the peers (children) of the country that hosted children fleeing war tend to be well-meaning and supportive. Lithuanian classmates as volunteers and Ukrainian teachers help the children from Ukraine when they have problems. • The model where children are integrated into mainstream classrooms was the most common in municipalities at the time of the research (April 2023). Another model was applied, where the Lithuanian education institutions employed Ukrainian teachers. • Children from Ukraine did not welcome teaching in the Russian language, even though such an option is available in Lithuania. The children prefer studying in Lithuanian; some aspects of the subject can be explained in Russian.
Highlight any findings re. Gender, age, disability and diverse characteristics	Not in the research.
Methodology (for surveys/polls, indicate sample size and sample method)	Semi-structured group interviews (n = 12) were carried out with municipal education department staff, the staff of pedagogical qualification centres, and school managers (n = 206) who have worked on integrating children from Ukraine into their municipality. The interviews were analysed using thematic content analysis. The results were divided into the following groups: (1) the psychological needs of the children, (2) the physical needs of the children, (3) the chosen model of

	Lithuanian language education, and (4) support measures for the integration of the children.
Source	https://www.mdpi.com/2076-0760/12/6/334

Table 7 – Research on experiences of children fleeing Ukraine

Surveys or research studies on experiences of children fleeing Ukraine	
Name/title	"Inclusive school - how to manage culture shock?"
Main findings (max. 1000 chars)	According to the research, more than 70% of Ukrainian mothers said their children arrived in Lithuania after experiencing significant stress, fear, and disappointment; 40% of the respondents noted that their children had learning gaps due to the war. Even 60% of those who participated in the study believe their children should attend extra-curricular activities to close learning gaps. Most children from Ukraine need psychological, social, and other pedagogical support. Teachers' assistance is also very important in socialising children from Ukraine. They organise class meetings after school and leisure activities, which make children feel integrated into the class and help them find a common language with classmates.
Highlight any findings re. gender, age, disability and diverse characteristics.	Not in the research.
Methodology (for surveys/polls indicate sample size and sample method)	The study was conducted in August-September 2022. Respondents: 215 mothers of children from Ukraine, 45 children from Ukraine aged 14-18, and 301 teachers working with children from Ukraine. Most of the respondents were from Vilnius, Kaunas, Šiauliai, Panevėžys, Klaipėda, Marijampolė, Alytus, Telšiai, Tauragė, Utena counties.
Source	https://lithuania.iom.int/news/iom-lithuania-inclusion-ukrainians-lithuanian-education-challenges-become-opportunities A scientific publication has been prepared on the basis of the research, which has been submitted for review.

Annex 2 - Promising practices

Table 8 – Promising practice # 1

Promising programme / practices aimed at providing protection and support to displaced children fleeing the war in Ukraine	
Name/title	Ukrainiankids.lt Camps and activities for Ukrainian children
Implementing body (public authority, CSO etc)	VšĮ "Piliietinė medija" (NGO)
Funding body	Private sponsors (the project was financed solely by private donations and help from businesses)
Reference in EN and original language (incl. URL, where available)	www.ukrainiankids.lt (in Lithuanian and Ukrainian languages)
Start / end date or ongoing	The first activity was carried out on 5 March 2022, and the project ended in December 2022.
Main target group	Children fleeing Ukraine
Scope (local/regional/national)	National (the activities were carried out in Vilnius, Kaunas, and Klaipėda)
Objectives and outputs	To provide information about leisure time activities for children fleeing war in Ukraine Outputs: Camps, educational activities
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	<p>The platform ukrainiankids.lt provides information about available leisure time activities for children fleeing war in Ukraine. The platform ukrainiankids.lt was created, and the information became known to the first people who arrived at the immigration centres.</p> <p>The weekend camps started from almost the first week of the war. The number of children grew from one hundred (in the first week) to 5,000 children who came every weekend. Free meals, pizzas, burgers, sweets, concerts, amusement parks, educational lectures, and excursions were available for them in the camps. In addition, classes for mothers were organised. Lithuanian people donated thousands of gifts. In the summer, when the campaign "Summer on Wheels" was announced, the people of Lithuania donated 3,500 bicycles to children fleeing war in Ukraine.</p>

<p>Highlight key elements of the programme/practice which makes it promising (sustainability, measurable impact etc) (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>It was a private initiative sustained by the donations of private individuals (persons and companies). It concentrated the available activities for children fleeing war in Ukraine in one place and allowed everyone to contribute to a systematically organised project.</p> <p>The project was essential to the children’s emotional well-being in the first year of the war. Children could forget about the war during leisure time activities.</p>
<p>Monitoring and evaluation and the bodies involved</p>	<p>As a private initiative, the monitoring was not carried out by public bodies. On the other hand, all the activities were publicly announced and were open to everyone. Therefore, monitoring could be carried out by the participants and the public.</p>

Table 9 – Promising practice # 2

Promising programme / practices aimed at providing protection and support to displaced children fleeing the war in Ukraine	
<p>Name/title</p>	<p>The response of the “Save the Children” Lithuania to the crisis of people fleeing Ukraine</p>
<p>Implementing body (public authority, CSO etc)</p>	<p>„Gelbėkit vaikus“ Lietuva (“Save the Children” Lithuania)</p> <p>Founded in 1991, the organisation has a distinctive footprint in the country through 44 daycare centres (DCCs) and one Child and Family Centre. It implements projects in child rights, positive parenting, poverty reduction, education, reduction of domestic violence and provision of social services to children and their caretakers.</p>
<p>Funding body</p>	<p>Save the Children Humanitarian Fund, local fundraising campaigns, Lithuanian Government, Save the Children USA.</p>
<p>Reference in EN and original language (incl. URL, where available)</p>	<p>https://gelbekitvaikus.lt/ https://gelbekitvaikus.lt/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/2022-m.-veiklos-ataskaita.pdf Ukraine Response One Year On: Impact report Save the Children’s Resource Centre</p>
<p>Start / end date or ongoing</p>	<p>February 2022 - ongoing</p>

Main target group	families with children fleeing war in Ukraine of all ages and pregnant women
Scope (local/regional/national)	National
Objectives and outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect and promote the physical and emotional well-being of people fleeing Ukraine, primarily children, through humanitarian assistance. • Provide them targeted protection, mental health services, and psychosocial support (MHPSS) during arrival, integration, and return. • To inform pregnant and lactating women fleeing the war in Ukraine about proper infant and toddler feeding practices that affect children's health and development. • To help vulnerable people fleeing the war in Ukraine meet their basic needs through cash support and commodity vouchers.
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	<p>By May 2023, support and services have been provided to 25058 people, including 21471 children and 593 pregnant women.</p> <p>Activities: Child-friendly spaces have been installed in the Registration Centres. Social support and non-food items are distributed through a nationwide network of family support coordinators. Group and individual MHPSS services are provided. Services for children in daycare centres are provided. Psychosocial support activities are carried out. Food products and non-food items are distributed to children from Ukraine who are in institutional care in Lithuania. Consultations of pregnant and lactating women are carried out. Lectures are given on the benefits of infants and young children breastfeeding and feeding practices. The early education program "Building Brains" is being implemented for parents with children. Financial support is provided.</p>
Highlight key elements of the programme/practice which makes it promising (sustainability, measurable impact etc) (max. 500 chars)	<p>Assistance is provided from arrival at the Registration Centre and continues during the integration in Lithuania and during the return to Ukraine.</p> <p>The measures promote social cohesion between Lithuanian children and children from Ukraine. For example, children from Ukraine attend daycare centres together with Lithuanian children.</p> <p>The program was launched in 2022 as an emergency aid but was later developed strategically.</p>

	<p>The program's implementation is coordinated with the programs the Government and other NGOs implemented.</p> <p>Out of 595 recipients of monetary support (December 2022 - March 2023), 300 (50.4%) filled out the feedback questionnaire. 94.33% of beneficiaries felt less stressed and anxious after receiving monetary support. The level of children's well-being and safety has also improved.</p>
<p>Monitoring and evaluation and the bodies involved</p>	<p>Monitoring and evaluation are carried out using the Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) approach. MEAL consists of tracking the progress of programs, making adjustments and assessing the outcomes. The information is used to foster change within the organisation.</p> <p>A Feedback and Reporting Mechanism (FRM) is in place.</p> <p>The required services were determined in 2022 after conducting an overview survey of needs throughout Lithuania.</p> <p>Continuous monitoring of the situation is underway. The response team also uses data from secondary sources, such as government announcements and reports.</p>