



Erasmus+ Programme  
Grant agreement no.: 2019-1-CZ01-KA204-061329

## Third Country Nationals - Learning and Working In Lithuania



AUGUST 26, 2020  
SOCIAL INNOVATION FUND



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In Lithuania, there are almost 58,000 foreigners (having temporary or permanent residence permits), which is about 2% from general population. The data from Employment Service<sup>1</sup> indicate the majority of TCN come to Lithuania to work - chefs, wide profile builders, carpenters, drivers of international passenger transport vehicles. Other economical sectors in which TCN found employment are: wood processing & production; poultry manufacturing; beauty & hairstyling; food manufacturing; international service center; automotive; sewing & knitting. According to the data of the Department of Statistics, in 2019. 40.1 thousand immigrated to Lithuania. people - 11.2 thousand. (1.4 times) more than in 2018. Number of immigrants per 1 thousand. population increased from 10.3 (2018) to 14.3 (2019). Almost 17 thousand. migrants to our country came from Ukraine, 12 thousand each. - from Russia and Belarus<sup>2</sup>.

Education system in Lithuania is characterized by a certain uniqueness, which allows some representatives of national minorities to acquire a full education (from primary to higher) in their mother tongue. There are a total of 124 foreign language schools in Lithuania. Of these, 57 are Polish-language schools, 45 are Russian-language, 9 are mixed Polish-Russian schools, 6 are English, one is French, one -Belarusian and one is trilingual.

According to the Lithuanian Law on Education, national minorities have the right to establish Saturday and Sunday schools for national minorities, which are classified as non-formal education institutions established at the request of national minorities to develop national identity. Currently, there are about 40 Saturday and Sunday schools in Lithuania, including Armenians, Ukrainians, Belarusians, Poles, Armenians, Jews, Russians and other national minorities. The number of Saturday-Sunday schools of the Polish national minority is about 16, most of which are in the Vilnius area.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.ldb.lt/Informacija/Patarimai/PatarimaleskantiemsDarbo/Puslapiai/registracija\\_darbo\\_birzoje.aspx](https://www.ldb.lt/Informacija/Patarimai/PatarimaleskantiemsDarbo/Puslapiai/registracija_darbo_birzoje.aspx)

<sup>2</sup> [file:///C:/Users/labas/Downloads/VEIKSMU+PLANAS\\_projektas.pdf](file:///C:/Users/labas/Downloads/VEIKSMU+PLANAS_projektas.pdf)

In order to solve the problems of integration of foreigners, an Action plan for 2018–2020<sup>3</sup> was prepared, the National Minorities Policy for 2018–2027<sup>4</sup> operational strategy, which envisages the improvement of the system of integration of foreigners into the labor market and the results of their integration into the labor market, as well as the improvement of the integration of foreigners into the education system.

Despite political and business efforts, Covid 19 and the ongoing quarantine have affected the labor market: the number of unemployed has risen, the number of jobs on offer has fallen, and some companies have been forced to lay off dozens of workers. Some working foreigners returned home to their home countries. Due to the quarantine, both Lithuanian citizens and foreigners from third countries who work there were affected. The situation is better in the construction and transport services sector: Belarusians and Ukrainians have remained to work in construction, car repair shops, factories, and drive international freight vehicles. However, if companies have not suspended or ceased operations, TCN continue to work in them. Also, most foreign highly qualified employees remained to work in Lithuania: engineers, technologists, IT specialists.

In order to achieve a balanced and sustainable development of the country's regions, when Covid 19 goes by, Lithuania as a whole seeks and needs to return to TCN, creating opportunities, for example, through libraries, which have become not only cultural centers and community centers with a wide variety of services. opportunities, as well as implementing the planned initiatives as documents, creating online platforms in Municipalities, where it would be possible to find concentrated information on new business opportunities, the situation in the labor market and vacancies.

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<sup>3</sup> [file:///C:/Users/labas/Downloads/VEIKSMU+PLANAS\\_projektas.pdf](file:///C:/Users/labas/Downloads/VEIKSMU+PLANAS_projektas.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.eesc.lt/uploads/news/id1064/Tautines%20mazumos%20Lietuvoje\\_papildyta%20studija.pdf](http://www.eesc.lt/uploads/news/id1064/Tautines%20mazumos%20Lietuvoje_papildyta%20studija.pdf)

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