

# LIVING AND WORKING IN LITHUANIA

## FACTS ABOUT LITHUANIA / GENERAL INFORMATION /

Capital – Vilnius

System – Parliamentary Republic

Population – 2,8 million

Area – 65 300 km<sup>2</sup>

National language – Lithuanian

Currency – EURO (EUR)

Telephone's code: +370

## RESIDENCE PERMIT

Foreigners who are nationals of another EU, EEA Member States and Switzerland (hereinafter Member States) may enter Lithuania and stay for up to three months from the first day of arrival. Member States nationals and their family members who stay in Lithuania for longer than three months within a six-month period must obtain a certificate attesting to their right to stay in Lithuania. Such a certificate is issued by migration office of the area in which the foreigner intends to reside.

Temporary residence permits are issued to foreigners who are not nationals of Member States. Foreigners must submit initial applications for a temporary residence permit and other documents to the diplomatic mission or consular body of the Republic of Lithuania in the country concerned, whilst foreigners who are legally staying in Lithuania must submit them to the migration office of the area in which the foreigner intends to reside. A temporary residence permit is usually issued for a year, though it may also be issued for a shorter period. A permanent residence permit is issued to a foreigner for five years. At the end of this period, the permit is renewed.

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## USEFUL LINKS

<i>Department of Migration under the Ministry of the Interior</i>	<a href="http://www.migracija.lt">www.migracija.lt</a>
<i>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i>	<a href="http://www.urm.lt">www.urm.lt</a>
<i>Services of declaration of place of residence (internet declaration of departure from Lithuania, arrival to Lithuania and changing of the place of residence).</i>	<a href="http://www.epaslaugos.lt">www.epaslaugos.lt</a>
<i>Information on state-guaranteed legal aid</i>	<a href="http://www.teisinepagalba.lt">www.teisinepagalba.lt</a>

## **BANK ACCOUNT**

To open a bank account you have to come to any bank's customer service office and sign a bank account agreement. All natural persons, citizens of the Republic of Lithuania, foreign citizens and persons without a citizenship can open a bank account, if they present any of the below listed documents to prove their identity:

- Passport
- ID of a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania
- Temporary (permanent) residence permit in the Republic of Lithuania
- ID of a citizen of the European Union
- Passport of a foreign citizen

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## **USEFUL LINKS**

*Banks [www.bankai.lt](http://www.bankai.lt)*

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## **FINDING A JOB IN LITHUANIA**

Member States nationals and their family members intending to work in Lithuania under an employment contract do not need to obtain a work permit. These persons may take part in recruitment procedures and find jobs under the same conditions as Lithuanian nationals.

For a job search it is recommended to use the Lithuanian Labour Exchange database, which provides a comprehensive range of services: *LDB / Lithuanian Labour Exchange [www.ldb.lt](http://www.ldb.lt)*.

The third country nationals who intend to work in Lithuania must obtain a work permit before entering the country. A work permit may be issued to the third country national if there is no specialist in Lithuania meeting the employer's qualification requirements.

*For further information, please contact Lithuanian Labour Exchange [info@ldb.lt](mailto:info@ldb.lt)*

*[www.ldb.lt](http://www.ldb.lt) → En → Services → Employment of foreigners in Lithuania*

## **EURES and EURES advisers**

EURES is a co-operation network between the European Commission and the Public Employment Services of the Member States and other partner organisations. The joint resources of EURES member and partner organisations provide a solid basis for EURES network to offer high quality services for both workers and employers.

EURES advisers of Lithuania will give you information about living and working conditions in Lithuania: information on the labour market, employment opportunities, social legislation, taxation, housing, living expenses, education, training opportunities, recognition of qualifications etc.

*For further information, please contact Lithuanian Labour exchange [eures@ldb.lt](mailto:eures@ldb.lt)*

*[www.ldb.lt](http://www.ldb.lt) → En → Services → EURES*

## **USEFUL LINKS OF THE JOB SEARCH ON THE INTERNET:**

*[www.lrytas.lt](http://www.lrytas.lt), [www.alio.lt](http://www.alio.lt), [www.ekontaktas.lt](http://www.ekontaktas.lt), [www.geltoni.lt](http://www.geltoni.lt), [www.darbo.lt](http://www.darbo.lt), [www.skelbiu.lt](http://www.skelbiu.lt),  
[www.isidarbink.lt](http://www.isidarbink.lt), [www.cv.lt](http://www.cv.lt), [www.cvonline.lt](http://www.cvonline.lt), [www.cvmarket.lt](http://www.cvmarket.lt), [www.cvbankas.lt](http://www.cvbankas.lt),  
[www.personalogrupe.lt](http://www.personalogrupe.lt), [www.manager.lt](http://www.manager.lt), [www.novalux.lt](http://www.novalux.lt), [www.minta.lt](http://www.minta.lt), [www.preile.lt](http://www.preile.lt), [www.itc.lt](http://www.itc.lt),  
[www.afr.lt](http://www.afr.lt).*

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## **ASSESSMENT OF QUALIFICATION**

Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (SKVC) is an independent public agency assessing quality of higher education and qualifications concerning higher education and providing information on higher education systems and qualifications recognition. Persons who have obtained their general education abroad and are willing to enter institutions of higher education are obligated to contact the Centre and submit notarized certificates which confirm their educational accomplishments.

*For further information please contact Centre of Quality Assessment in Higher Education / [www.skvc.lt](http://www.skvc.lt) / Qualification Recognition*

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## **WORKING CONDITIONS**

All jobs must be based on a formal employment contract. In every employment contract, the parties must agree on the essential conditions of the contract: the employee's place of work (enterprise, establishment, organisation, structural subdivision, etc.), and job functions, i.e. on work of a certain profession, speciality, qualification, or specific duties. In every employment contract, the parties must agree on the conditions of remuneration for work (system of remuneration for work, amount of wages, payment procedure, etc.). Other conditions of an employment contract may be established by the agreement between the parties unless labour laws, other regulatory acts or the collective agreement prohibit doing so (trial, combination of professions, liability, etc.).

### **Types of the employment contract:**

- Non-term employment contract
- Fixed-fee employment contract
- Temporary work employment contract
- Zero-hour employment contract
- Employment contract for project work
- Job-sharing employment contract
- Employment contract with several employers
- Apprenticeship employment contract
- Seasonal work employment contract

### **Working time**

In Lithuania, working time cannot exceed 40 hours per week. Working time includes the following:

- Time spent actually working, being on duty at work or at home
- Time spent on official business trips or official trips to another location
- Time needed to prepare and organise the workplace, work equipment and security measures
- Breaks at work which standard laws count as part of working time
- Time spent undergoing compulsory medical examinations
- Probation, enhancing qualifications in the workplace or at learning centres
- Time spent suspended from work, if the employee who is suspended has to observe the rules of the workplace
- Idle time
- Other periods defined in standard laws

Working hours should not exceed eight hours per day. The maximum number of working hours over seven days, including overtime, should not exceed 48 hours (which may be extended up to 60 hours per week for employees working in several positions), and twelve working hours per day. A five-day working week is standard, but it may be extended to a six-day working week. Overtime must not exceed 12 hours in seven consecutive days and 180 hours per year.

For certain categories of workers, including doctors, nurses, carers, workers in children's homes, energy and other services who are on duty without a break, working hours can be up to 24 hours a day and the time off between working days cannot be shorter than 24 hours.

For workers whose job involves significant mental or emotional stress, the procedure for the shortening of working time is determined by the Government.

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### **USEFUL LINKS:**

*State Labour Inspectorate of the Republic of Lithuania under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour* [www.vdi.lt](http://www.vdi.lt).

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### **SOCIAL SECURITY**

The social insurance system is based on the pay-as-you-go principle. The employer's and employee's contributions are calculated as a percentage of the salary paid to the employee. Persons employed under employment contracts are covered by State mandatory social insurance. Wages and salaries are generally paid into the employee's bank account. Payslips are not obligatory.

#### ***Sickness insurance – Beneficiaries and conditions for entitlement***

Individuals covered by the sickness and maternity social insurance are entitled to receive sickness benefit. The sickness benefit for the first 2 calendar days of sickness overlapping with the work schedule of an employee (except for the benefit for nursing a family member) is covered by the employer. The sickness benefit covered by the employer may not be lower than 80% and higher than 100% of the average salary. From the third day sickness benefit equal to 80% of the reimbursed salary and is paid from the State Social Insurance Fund Budget.

### ***Minimum income guarantee – Beneficiaries and conditions for entitlement***

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania sets a minimum hourly rate and a minimum monthly salary according to the Labour Remuneration Act of the Republic of Lithuania. The hourly rate and monthly salary paid to the employee cannot be lower than the minimum hourly rate and the minimum monthly salary set by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. This same law also regulates other conditions of labour payment.

The minimum salary can be paid only to non-qualified employees, and qualified employees have to be offered higher salary.

### **USEFUL LINKS**

<i>State Social Insurance Fund Board of the Republic of Lithuania under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour</i>	<a href="http://www.sodra.lt">www.sodra.lt</a>
<i>Ministry of Social Security and Labour of Republic of Lithuania</i>	<a href="http://www.socmin.lt">www.socmin.lt</a>

### **ACCOMODATION**

In Lithuania you can stay at a hotel, rent a house, apartment or cottage or buy a cottage, apartment or house. When buying or renting a home, it is important to complete all the right legal paperwork. You can seek help from a real estate agency or a firm of lawyers (notaries). Private contacts, help from friends, colleagues, acquaintances, relatives or business partners are just some of the ways of looking for accommodation. Alternatively, you can post your own ad stating what sort of accommodation you are looking for. Flats and houses for rent are usually advertised in the local and national newspapers, e.g. “Alio reklama”. The largest newspapers also have internet websites: [www.alioreklama.lt](http://www.alioreklama.lt), [www.lrytas.lt](http://www.lrytas.lt), [www.ekontaktas.lt](http://www.ekontaktas.lt). Advertisements on internet can be found: [www.skelbiu.lt](http://www.skelbiu.lt), [www.bustonuoma.lt](http://www.bustonuoma.lt).

Estate agencies can be found in the yellow pages (<http://imones.lrytas.lt/en>) or on the internet: [www.domo.plius.lt](http://www.domo.plius.lt), [www.aruodas.lt](http://www.aruodas.lt), [www.ober-haus.lt](http://www.ober-haus.lt), [www.remax.lt](http://www.remax.lt), etc. Estate agencies charge a certain percentage of the price in commission.

### **CHECKLIST BEFORE MOVING TO LITHUANIA**

*Upon arrival in Lithuania, make sure you have the following:*

- A valid passport or identity card
- Your curriculum vitae (CV), preferably in Lithuanian
- Copies of diplomas and certificates attesting to your qualifications along with translations into Lithuanian
- References from your former employers (if any), with translations into Lithuanian
- European Health Insurance Card
- A copy of your marriage certificate with a translation into Lithuanian
- Copies of your children's birth certificates with translations into Lithuanian

*Prior to arrival in Lithuania, it is recommended:*

- To contact local and social security services and tax offices to find out how moving to Lithuania will affect your tax and benefit situation, and obtain appropriate documents
- To obtain U1 document from Public Employment Services
- If you are receiving unemployment benefit, export it with U2 document
- Having sufficient funds to live on for at least one month
- Having at least basic comprehension and speaking skills in Lithuanian
- Having accommodation for at least the first few days after your arrival in Lithuania
- To inform your relatives of the address where you intend to stay in Lithuania
- To order the international call service (roaming) if you use mobile phone

#### **USEFUL LINKS:**

*Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Lithuania*  
<http://sumin.lrv.lt/>

*Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania* <http://www.smm.lt/>

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania* <http://www.urm.lt/>

*Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania* <http://sam.lrv.lt/>

*The emergency telephone number in Lithuania is 112*

*Free consultations on taxes and general information are provided by the Tax Information Division of the State Tax Inspectorate by the short telephone number 1882. More useful information can be found on website <http://www.vmi.lt/>*

*Enterprise Lithuania* <https://www.enterpriselithuania.com/en/>