

LITHUANIAN **MIGRATION** POLICY

2018

Emigration and return migration

Immigration of foreign nationals

Asylum

Fight against illegal migration

International cooperation

Institutional framework

EMIGRATION AND RETURN MIGRATION

LITHUANIA 1990–2019:

Lithuanian population:

1990 → 2019
3,7 → **2,8**
MILLION MILLION

Since 1990, the population of Lithuania has decreased by

899,500:



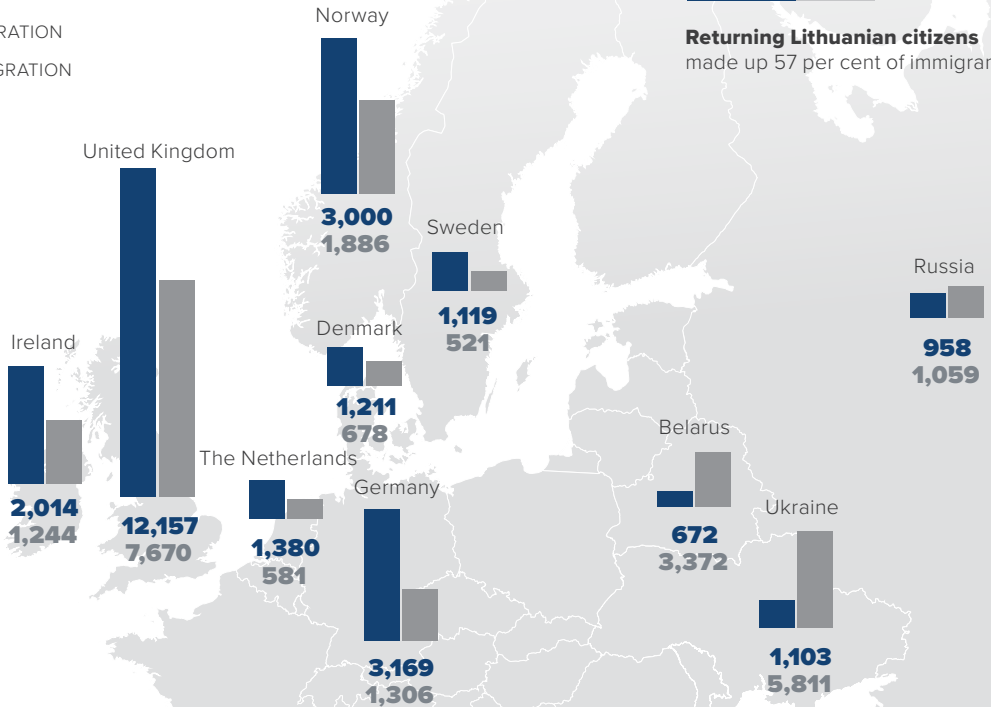
due to migration –
-710,000



due to natural increase –
-189,500

MAIN EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION COUNTRIES IN 2018

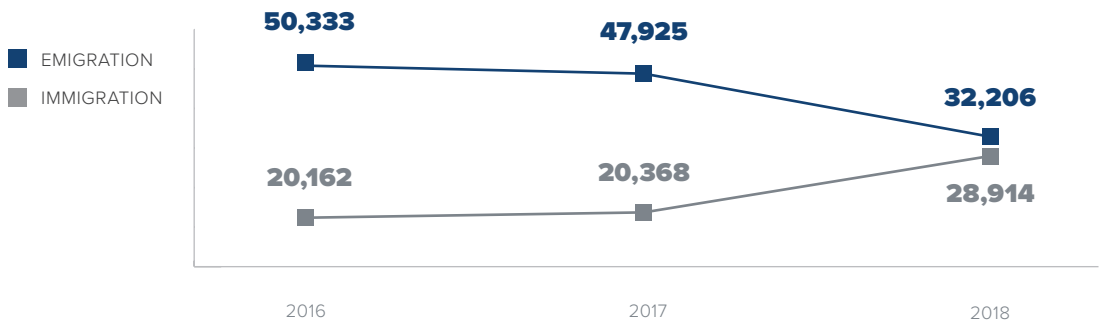
■ EMIGRATION
■ IMMIGRATION



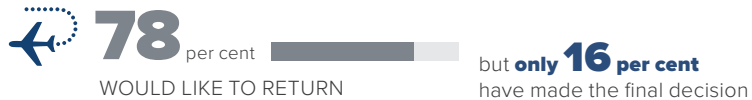
57%

Returning Lithuanian citizens
made up 57 per cent of immigrants

MIGRATION TRENDS



Survey of Lithuanians abroad:



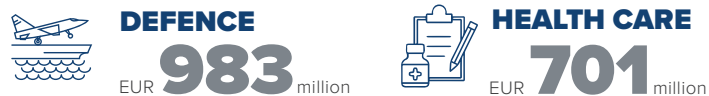
REMITTANCES TO LITHUANIA

2018



In comparison

it was allocated from the state budget for:

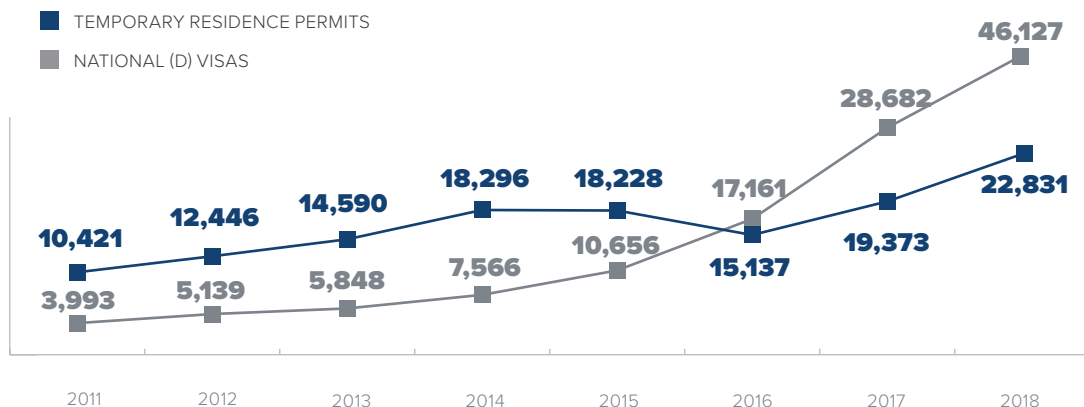


MAIN DIRECTIONS OF WORK AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The action plan for the *Strategy for the Demographic, Migration, and Integration Policy for 2018–2030* has been approved. One of the objectives is to reduce emigration and increase return migration.
- Coordinators have been appointed in municipalities to facilitate the integration of Lithuanian nationals returning from abroad.
- The “I Choose Lithuania” Migration Information Centre provided more than 2,000 consultations to returning Lithuanians, which is twice as many as in 2017. The www.renkuosilietuva.lt website had 150,573 visitors. Demand for other services (Lithuanian language, psychological counselling) has also increased.

IMMIGRATION AND INTEGRATION OF FOREIGN NATIONALS

ARRIVAL OF FOREIGNERS TO LITHUANIA, 2011–2018



In 2018
79%
of foreign arrivals were from
UKRAINE and **BELARUS**

GROUND S FOR ARRIVAL OF FOREIGNERS ACCORDING TO TRPs TO LITHUANIA, 2018



65 DAYS

is the average length of time to issue a temporary residence permit (TRP).



FAMILY

3,045



STUDIES

2,834

Another **3,152** came with a national (D) visa



582

foreigner nationals were provided services at integration centres in Vilnius, Kaunas and Klaipėda.



WORK

15,486

Another **36,586** came with a national (D) visa
 Another **391** – as highly qualified workers



LAWFUL ACTIVITIES

686

Another **93** came with a national (D) visa
 Another **28** – came under the start-up admission scheme



ASYLUM AND OTHER

168



OF LITHUANIAN DESCENT with the right to restore citizenship

193

PROFESSIONS UNDER DEMAND IN LITHUANIA, 2018







HIGHLY QUALIFIED
WORKERS







QUALIFIED
WORKERS

49 PROFESSIONS

-  IT specialists
-  Engineers
-  Aviation specialists
-  Other

13 PROFESSIONS

-  Drivers of international freight transport vehicle
-  Welders
-  Construction workers
-  Other

These workers are admitted under the facilitated procedure.



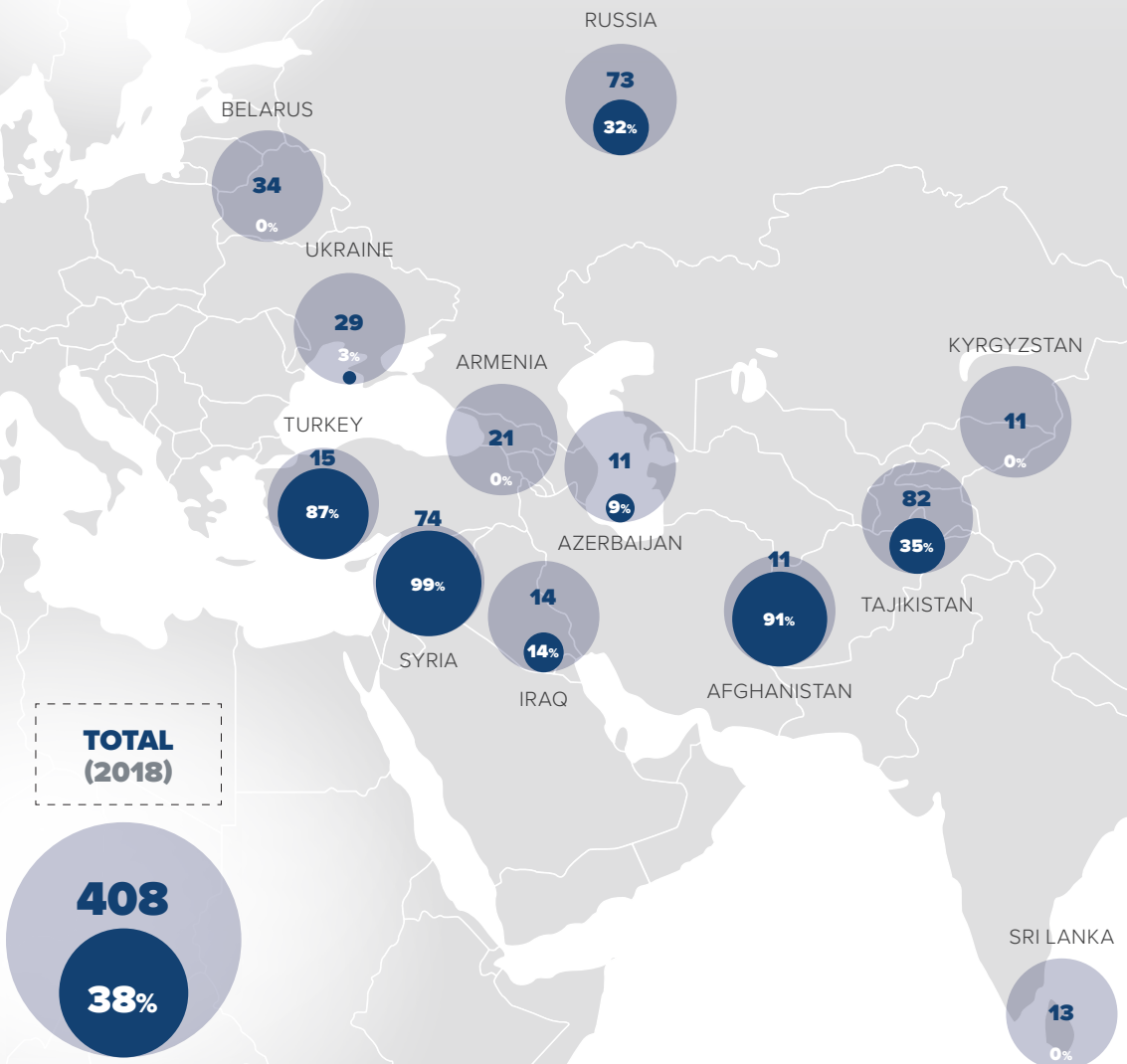
MAIN DIRECTIONS OF WORK AND ACCOMPLISHMENT

- Conditions for foreign students and researchers have improved (after graduation, students can stay for another 12 months and look for a job in Lithuania, doctoral students can immediately come with family members).
- Excess requirements have been reduced for foreigners (invitations no longer have to be approved) and for workers coming from non-EU countries (when employing a foreign national, employers no longer need to register the employment contract with the Employment Service, and incoming foreigners are allowed to change their employer without changing a residence permit).
- The procedure for compiling the Company Whitelist has been regulated, which makes it much simpler for non-EU workers to come to these companies.
- As of 2019, citizens of EU countries residing in Lithuania will receive a new type of certificate which will include their biometric data.
- The Action Plan for 2018–2020 on the Integration of Foreigners into Society, which provides 34 measures, has been approved.

3. ASYLUM

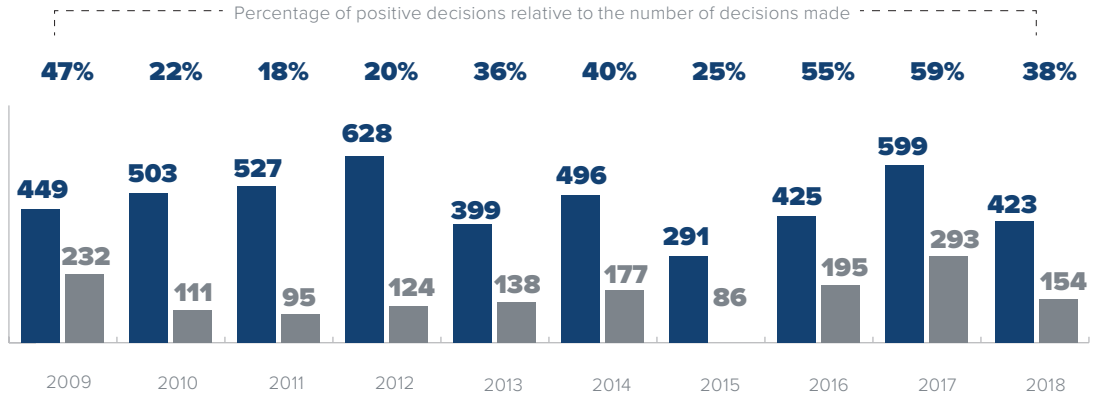
DECISIONS ON ASYLUM: MAIN CITIZENSHIPS, 2018

- NUMBER OF DECISIONS
- ASYLUM GRANTED (%)



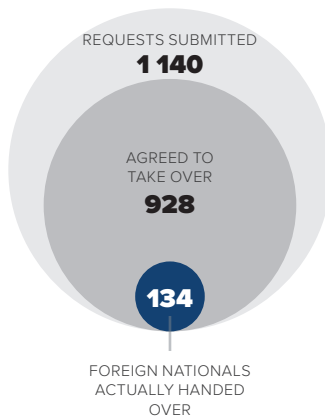
ASYLUM: 10-YEAR REVIEW

■ ASYLUM APPLICATIONS
■ ASYLUM GRANTED

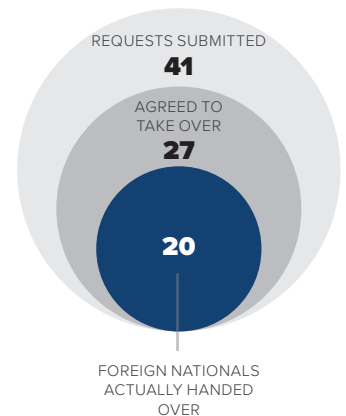


TRANSFERS UNDER THE DUBLIN REGULATION, 2018

Requests submitted to LITHUANIA
to take over the examination of an asylum application



Requests submitted by LITHUANIA
to other Member States to take over the examination of an asylum application



MAIN DIRECTIONS OF WORK AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Asylum seekers can also be accommodated in places other than the Foreigner Registration Centre (31 asylum seekers were accommodated by non-governmental organisations, and 150 were accommodated at the Refugee Reception Centre).
- A new building has been set up at the Foreigner Registration Centre for people with special needs.

FIGHT AGAINST IRREGULAR MIGRATION

FOREIGN NATIONALS DENIED ENTRY: FIVE MAIN CITIZENSHIPS

RUSSIA	1,992
BELARUS	1,872
UKRAINE	610
GEORGIA	246
KAZAKHSTAN	290
TOTAL	5,198

0,14%

The number of foreign nationals denied entry accounted for 0.14 per cent of all arrivals

REASONS FOR REFUSAL OF ENTRY



38%

due to threats to security and public order



24%

did not have a valid document



22%

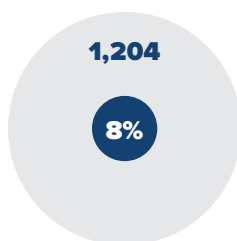
did not have documents justifying the purpose and conditions of the stay



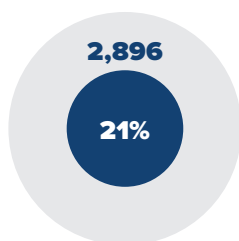
16%

other

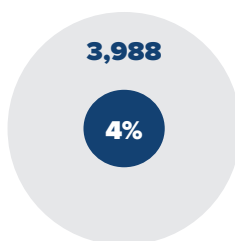
WITHDRAWALS OF TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMITS



2016



2017



2018

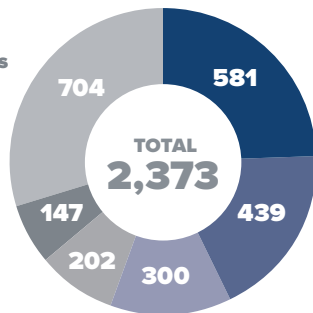
■ NUMBER OF TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMITS WITHDRAWN

■ NUMBER OF TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMITS WITHDRAWN UPON ESTABLISHING THAT THE COMPANY IS FICTITIOUS OR DOES NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW

RETURN AND EXPULSION OF FOREIGN NATIONALS

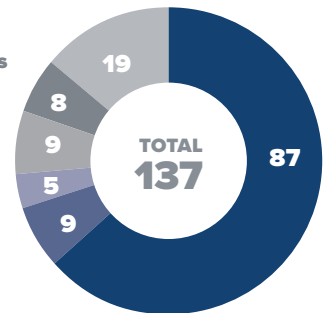
RETURN DECISIONS main citizenships

- Belarus
- Ukraine
- Russia
- Kyrgyzstan
- Kazakhstan
- Other



FOREIGNERS EXPELLED main citizenships

- Vietnam
- Russia
- Tajikistan
- Georgia
- Belarus
- Other



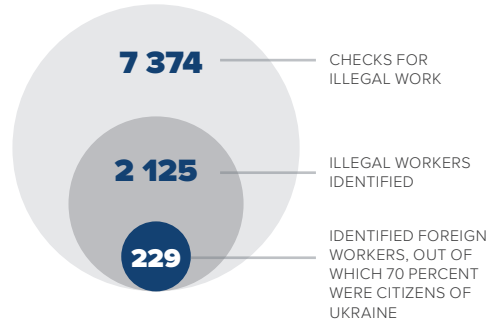
IN 2018,

117

foreigners voluntary returned with the assistance of the International organization for migration (IOM) Vilnius office



ILLEGAL WORK



MAIN DIRECTIONS OF WORK AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- A readmission protocol was signed between Lithuania and Ukraine (under the EU–Ukraine agreement).
- A readmission agreement was agreed between Lithuania and Vietnam.
- Stricter conditions were introduced for foreigners posted to Lithuania: the obligation to obtain a work permit was restored; they can no longer be employed by temporary employment agencies and/or transferred to other companies.
- Criteria and risk factors have been defined to assess the threat of illegal migration.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



MAIN DIRECTIONS OF WORK AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- In 2019, Lithuania takes over the Presidency of the Prague Process.
- The Ministerial Forum for Member States of the Schengen Area with External Land Borders was held in Vilnius on 17–18 May 2018 to establish common standards for the surveillance of the external EU border.
- A cooperation agreement was signed between Lithuania and Ukraine on employment and cooperation in the field of labour migration. The purpose of this agreement is to improve the protection of workers and combat illegal work and exploitation.



INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK



MAIN DIRECTIONS OF WORK AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Government Migration Commission was established, consisting of the Ministers of the Interior, Foreign Affairs, Social Security and Labour, and Economy and Innovation. The Commission helps make decisions on the management of migration processes and coordinates inter-institutional cooperation.
- The system for the management of migration processes is being reformed. Once the reform is complete, two institutions will be responsible for the organisation and control of the migration process: the Migration Department and the State Border Guard Service.
- Transfer of migration processes to the digital space and development of the MIGRIS system are nearing completion. The first e-services will begin to be offered in 2019.

This publication was prepared in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Vilnius office, and the European Migration Network (EMN) in Lithuania. The publication was prepared according to the 2018 Report on the Implementation of the Lithuanian Migration Policy Guidelines and Monitoring of Migration Processes. The Migration Policy Guidelines are the main strategic document establishing the goals, principles and directions of the migration and asylum policy in Lithuania.

EMN – is a network of EU Member States, Norway and the European Commission aimed at gathering, analyzing and sharing up-to-date, objective, comparable information on emerging issues relating to asylum and migration in Europe. According to the resolution of the Lithuanian Government, Lithuania is represented in the network by IOM Vilnius office which works in close cooperation with the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Lithuania and its institutions under the Ministry.

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MINISTERIJA



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