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Integration of Migrant Women in the EU and Norway: Policies and Measures

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EMN STUDY

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**Integration of
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VILNIUS, 2021

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SUMMARY

Legal framework. The policy of foreigners' integration in the Republic of Lithuania is formulated by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and is implemented by state institutions and agencies within their remit and in cooperation with municipalities and non-governmental organisations. An analysis of the key documents shaping the integration of foreigners in Lithuania, namely, the Lithuanian Migration Policy Guidelines and the Action Plan 2018-2021 for the Integration of Foreigners into Society (the 2018-2021 Action Plan), shows that:

- the integration of migrant women in Lithuania is not a political priority;
- the policy of foreigners' integration in the country is formulated and carried out in general, without disaggregating different groups of foreigners by sex.

While the 2018-2021 Action Plan stresses that women from third countries are more often excluded from economic migration, are more likely to be in lower-level jobs, and are at higher risk of verbal and psychological abuse and non-payment of wages, the challenges faced by migrant women and the ways to address these challenges are more often analysed in light of research and practice abroad. Lithuania has not yet developed a clear framework for the integration of migrant women, and there has been insufficient research, needs analyses and possible solutions to facilitate the integration of migrant women in the country.

Overview of the situation. Third-country migrant women arrive in Lithuania much less frequently than third-country migrant men: between 2016 and 2020, first residence permits in Lithuania were issued to 8,898 third-country national (TCN) migrant women and 64,252 third-country national (TCN) migrant men. The reasons for women's and men's coming to Lithuania differ, with women coming for various reasons like family reunification, education, or work, and men mostly for employment purposes. Due to the limited data available in the Eurostat database, it is not possible to provide a comprehensive analysis of migrant women's integration indicators, however it is possible to draw key conclusions with regard to the participation of migrant women in the labour market, education, housing and health care:

- The biggest part of third-country migrant women come to Lithuania for family reunification purposes - 35%. 25% of women come for education and for 24 % employment purposes, and the rest part of women come for other reasons.
- In 2019, the activity rate of TCN migrant women was almost 82 % but throughout that year, the share of activity rate of TCN migrant women was 8 % lower than for TCN migrant men. However, from 2016 to 2020, no generalised conclusions on the activity rate of TCN migrant

women are made due to the lack of available data.

- The overcrowding rate among TCN women recorded in 2019 was 44.5 % and was significantly higher compared to TCN men and non-migrant women. Throughout that year, the overcrowding rate among migrant women was 12.9 % higher than for migrant men, while in the same year the overcrowding rate among non-migrant women was 21.1 % lower than among migrant women. In 2020, the overcrowding rate among TCN women stood at 31.9 % and was 9.3 % higher than among non-migrant women.
- In 2019, 92 % of TCN migrant women reported that they were satisfied with the healthcare services provided in Lithuania. In the same period, 96 % of migrant men and 98.2 % of non-migrant women gave the same answer. In 2020, 100 % of migrant women aged 20-64 had no complaints about the health services provided in Lithuania. Despite these statistics, studies still show that migrants in Lithuania face difficulties when attempting to use medical services.

Dedicated integration measures. The main areas of national integration policy covering dedicated integration opportunities for migrant women: 1) labour market — career counselling; 2) education — learning support for children and parental involvement in educational processes; 3) women's rights, focusing on (a) preparation of information and organisation of seminars on women's and children's rights in Lithuania, on the possibilities of reconciling work and education with family needs, and on domestic violence and help; (b) training for employers on the principles of equal opportunities in the labour market. Some integration measures, such as ad-hoc projects, target migrant children and their parents, and examples of good practice show that it is migrant women who are most involved in activities addressing children and their parents. The scope of such integration measures is broad and covers a wide range of target groups, such as migrants, persons who have been granted asylum, TCN women and/or women from EU countries.

Future plans. Based on the draft national programme of Lithuania for support from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund for the period from 2021 to 2027, it can be presumed that, in the future, new integration measures will be developed in the country to enable migrant women to participate more actively in the labour market and improve the inclusion of migrant children in the education system. The draft draws attention to the fact that TCN migrant women are not able to fully participate in the labour market due to childcare responsibilities, as well as gender and other stereotypes. Therefore, it is planned to strengthen employment opportunities, additionally invest in a lifelong learning system, services of recognition and enhancement of qualifications, language training, as well as promote entrepreneurship among third-country nationals.

Responses to COVID-19. No special integration policy measures were implemented in Lithuania to counteract the negative consequences of COVID-19 in the context of migrant women's integration. There is no additional legislation that could provide information about Lithuania's plans with regard to the impact of COVID-19.

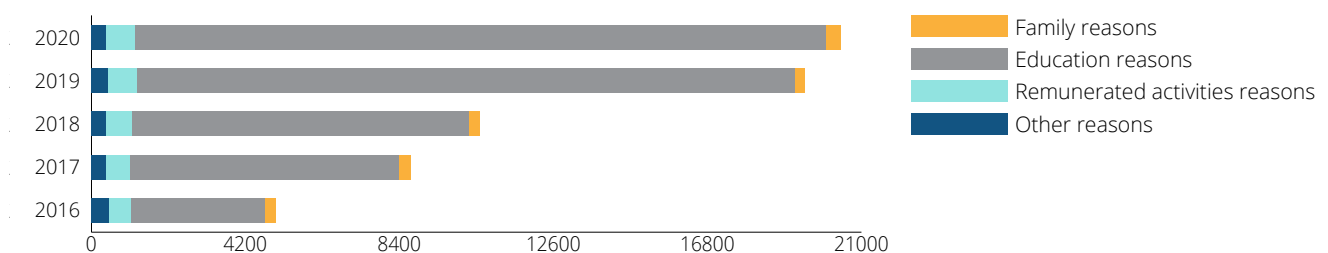
1.

Integration of
migrant women –
data and debates

Question (further – Q) 1. Analyse the data on first residence titles issued by reason in 2016–2020 in your country as extracted from Eurostat and describe the main forms of immigration used by third-country migrant women compared to third-country migrant men. What are the top 3 countries of citizenship in the period of 2016-2020? Did any significant changes occur in 2020 that might be related to COVID-19?

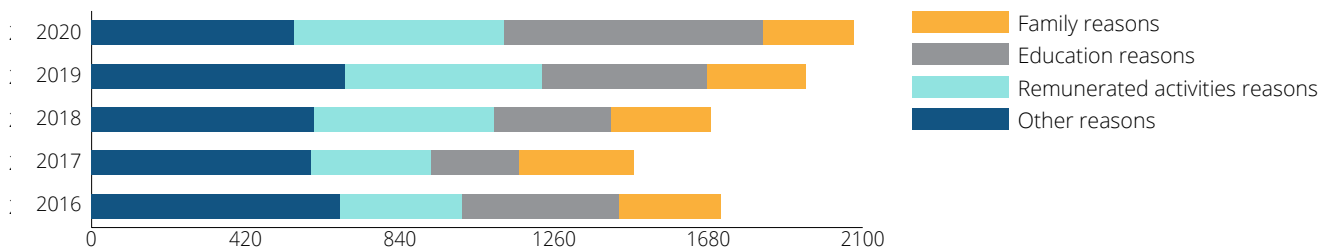
According to Eurostat statistics, between 2016 and 2020, the first residence permits in Lithuania were issued to 64,252 TCN migrant men and 8,898 TCN migrant women.

Chart 1. First permits by reason issued to men



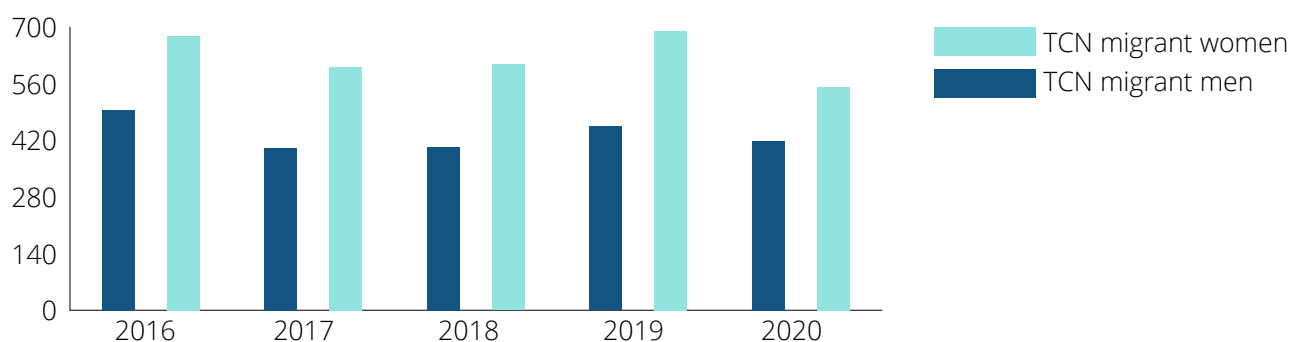
Source: Eurostat (*migr_resfas*)

Chart 2. First permits by reason issued to women



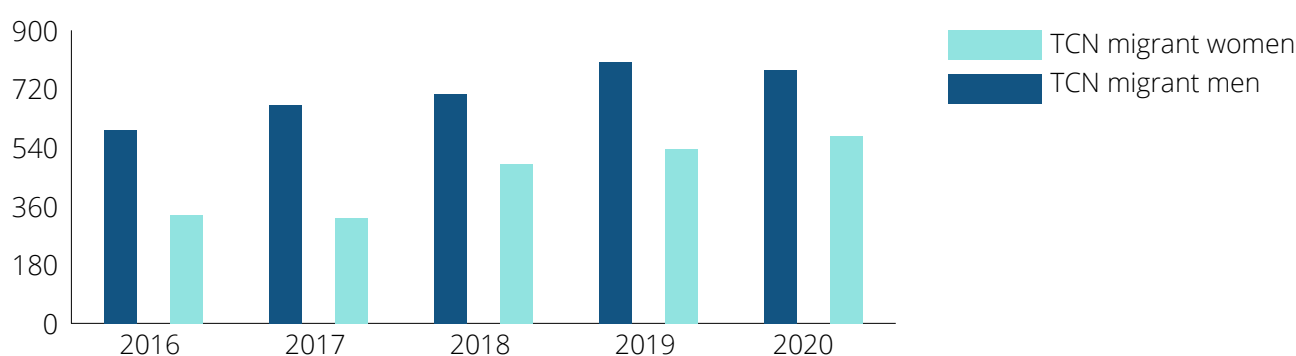
Source: Eurostat (*migr_resfas*)

- In 2016-2020, 3,126 TCN migrant women were issued residence permits for family reunification, with the largest number of such permits having been issued in 2019 – 690. Looking at the five-year period as a whole, TCN migrant men were issued residence permits in Lithuania for family reunification 2,173 times, which is 30 % less often than TCN migrant women. It should be noted that the number of residence permits issued in 2016-2020 for family reunification to TCN migrant women accounted for more than one third, or 35 %, of the total number of first residence permits in Lithuania issued to TCN migrant women. For TCN migrant men in this category, the figure is much lower, reaching only 3%.

Chart 3. Family reunification

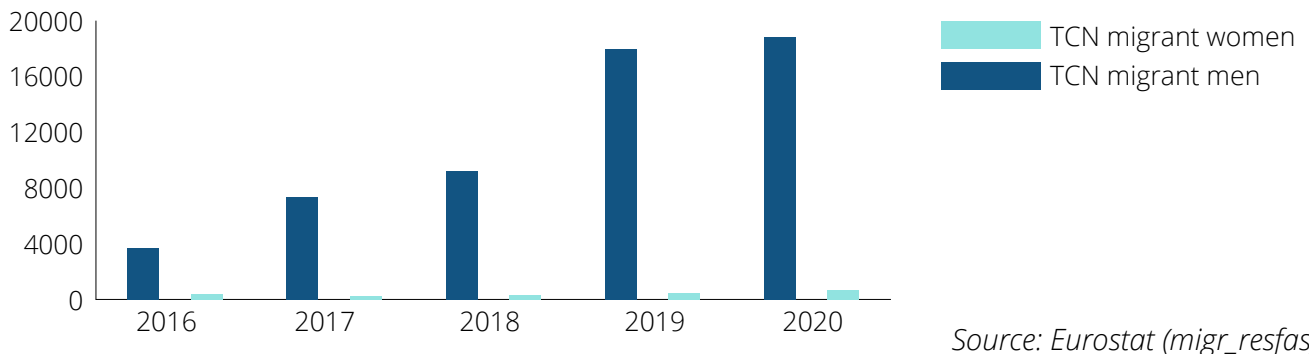
Source: Eurostat (*migr_resfas*)

- In 2016-2020, first residence permits for education/studies were issued to 2,257 TCN migrant women and 3,549 TCN migrant men. The share of permits issued to TCN migrant women for this reason in 2016-2020 accounts for 25 % of the total number of residence permits in Lithuania issued to TCN migrant women. Accordingly, the share of TCN migrant men in this category was 6 %. The data presented in Chart 4 indicates that, in 2016-2020, 36 % fewer residence permits in Lithuania were issued for education/studies to TCN migrant women than to TCN migrant men. Nevertheless, there was an increase in the number of TCN migrant women holding residence permits in Lithuania for this reason in 2017-2019, with this figure growing by 43 % in 2020 compared to 2017.

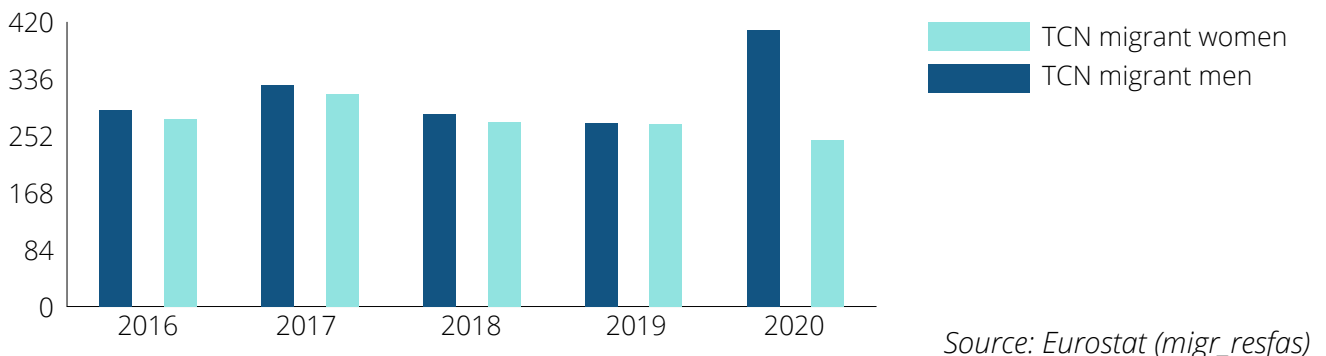
Chart 4. Education/studies

Source: Eurostat (*migr_resfas*)

- In 2016-2020, 2,138 TCN migrant women were issued first residence permits in Lithuania for employment. By way of comparison, 56,951 permits were issued for employment during this period to TCN migrant men, which is almost 27 times more often than to TCN migrant women. The largest number of first permits issued to TCN migrant women for employment was 704 in 2020, which is 36 % more than in 2019. However, the amount of first residence permits issued to TCN migrant women for employment purposes in 2020 represents only 4 % of the number of first residence permits issued for this reason in the same year to TCN migrant men.

Chart 5. Employment

- In 2016-2020, residence permits were issued for other reasons to 1,377 TCN migrant women, with the largest number recorded in 2017 – 313. The data presented in the chart show that, in 2016-2019, the number of residence permits in Lithuania issued for other reasons was similar in respect of both TCN migrant men and TCN migrant women. During this period, TCN migrant women were issued 3 % fewer residence permits for other reasons than TCN migrant men: 1,131 for migrant women and 1,171 for migrant men. Nevertheless, compared to TCN migrant women, an increase of 40 % in the number of residence permits in Lithuania issued for this reason to TCN migrant men was observed in 2020.

Chart 6. Other reasons

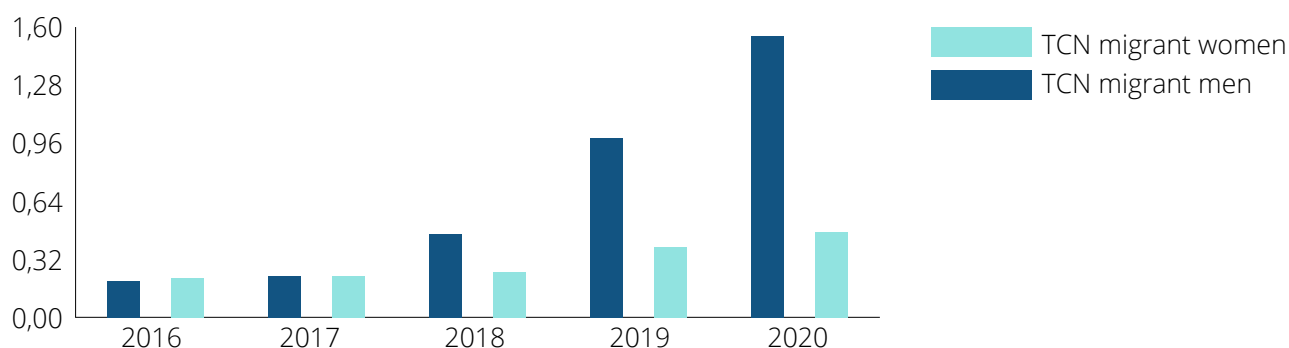
To sum up, it can be stated that, in 2016-2020, TCN migrant women were issued the largest number of first residence permits in Lithuania for family reunification and the smallest number of first residence permits for other reasons. Throughout this period, the number of first residence permits issued to TCN migrant women in Lithuania was seven times less than for TCN migrant men.

Data on the top three countries of origin for the main recipients of citizenship in 2016-2020 is not available in the Eurostat database.

Q2. Analyse the data on population in 2016–2020 as extracted from Eurostat and describe the share of third-country national migrant women among the total population compared to third-country national migrant men. Please include any evidence for changes related to COVID-19 if available.

The average total population of Lithuania was 2,826,727 in 2016-2020. On average, the share of TCN migrant women in the total Lithuanian population during this period was 0.32 %, while the share of TCN migrant men was more than twice as high (0.68 %).

Chart 7. Share of TCN migrant men and TCN migrant women in the total population of Lithuania (%)



Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

An analysis of Eurostat data indicates that the share of TCN migrant men in the total population of Lithuania in 2017-2020 was higher than that of TCN migrant women. Meanwhile, in 2016, the share of TCN migrant women in the total population was higher than that of TCN migrant men. However, in this case, the difference is marginal and amounts to 0.02 %.

Q3. Analyse the data on labour market, entrepreneurship, education, housing and health indicators in 2016–2020 as extracted from Eurostat and describe the main findings with specific focus on third-country national migrant women compared to third-country national migrant men and non-migrant women. Did any significant changes occur in 2020 that might be related to COVID-19?

Labour market. The Eurostat database only provides the activity rate of TCN migrant women for the third quarter of 2018 and for the whole of 2019. Therefore, for comparison purposes, the focus is on 2019. In this year, the activity rate of TCN migrant women aged 20-64 was 81.8 %. In the same year, the activity rate for TCN migrant women in this age group was 8.2 % lower than for TCN migrant men and 0.3 % lower than for non-migrant women in the same age group. However, due to the lack of available data, it is not possible to draw generalised and objective conclusions on the activity rate for TCN migrant women in the labour market.

Statistics on self-employment/entrepreneurship of TCN migrant women and TCN migrant men for the period of 2016-2020 are not available.

Education. In 2016-2019, TCN migrant women had the highest secondary and non-tertiary educational attainment rates, with an average of 53.3 %, followed by non-migrant women and TCN migrant men, with secondary and non-tertiary attainment rates of 49.6 % and 42.75 %, respectively (see Table 1).

Table 1. Secondary and non-tertiary education (%)

18-64 age group	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
TCN men	41.4	44.7	37.0	47.9	-
TCN women	57.3	53.2	49.9	52.8	-
Non-migrant women	50.9	50.6	49.3	47.6	47.8

Source: Eurostat (edat_lfs_9911)

On average, 44.4 % of TCN migrant women had tertiary education in 2016-2019. In this category, throughout the same time period, TCN migrant women only slightly surpassed the average rate for non-migrant women by 0.1 % and lagged behind TCN migrant men by 8.2 % (see Table 2). However, the data provided by Eurostat has low reliability. As a result, there is no possibility to make firm conclusions.

Table 2. Tertiary (university) education (%)

18-64 age group	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
TCN men	53.8	49.5	58.1	48.7	-
TCN women	38.2	43.6	49.0	46.6	-
Non-migrant women	42.9	43.3	44.6	46.5	46.8

Source: Eurostat (edat_lfs_9911)

Housing. In 2019, the overcrowding rate was the highest for TCN migrant women compared to TCN migrant men and non-migrant women, with the share of both groups being smaller at 12.9 % and 21.3 %, respectively. Meanwhile, the share of TCN migrant women in 2020 with regard to this rate was 9.3 % higher than that of non-migrant women (see Table 3).

A comparison of housing indicators for 2016-2018 is not possible as no statistical data is available.

Table 3. Housing (%)

18-64 age group	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
TCN men	-	-	34.3	31.6	-
TCN women	-	-	-	44.5	31.9
Non-migrant women	24.7	25.0	23.4	23.2	22.6

Source: Eurostat (ilc_lvho15)

Healthcare services. In 2019, 92 % of TCN migrant women reported that they were satisfied with the health services provided in Lithuania. In the same year, this answer was given by 96 % of TCN migrant men and 98.2 % of non-migrant women. Correspondingly, 8 % of TCN migrant women pointed out other reasons for their dissatisfaction with the health services provided in Lithuania. In 2019, neither migrant men nor non-migrant women gave this answer.

TCN migrant men and non-migrant women complained the most about long appointment wait times – 4 % and 0.9 %, respectively (see Table 4).

Table 4. Health (%)

20-64 age group	2019						
	Too expensive	Too far to travel	No time	No unmet needs to declare	Waiting list	Wanted to wait and see if problem got better on its own	Other
TCN men	-	-	-	96.0	4.0	-	-
TCN women	-	-	-	92.0	-	-	8.0
Non-migrant women	0.2	0.1	0.1	98.2	0.9	0.5	-

Source: Eurostat (hlth_silc_30)

In 2020, 100 % of TCN migrant women aged 20-64 had no complaints about health care services provided in Lithuania. No statistics on the health of TCN migrant women are available for 2016-2018.

Nevertheless, these statistics do not allow to draw firm conclusions since studies show that migrants in Lithuania face difficulties when attempting to use medical services.¹ According to the experts from non-governmental organisations, TCN migrant women tend to face challenges related to health insurance. In Lithuania, foreigners who come to the country as family members of the EU citizen and have never worked in Lithuania, are not insured with the compulsory health insurance. This is especially an issue for pregnant TCN migrant women who cannot be insured by the state.

Q4. What are the key opportunities and challenges for migrant women's integration as identified in national statistical sources (e.g. integration monitors, census, administrative data) or available research (e.g. surveys among migrant women)?

The aggregated information provided by national statistical sources is not disaggregated. As a result, it is not possible to identify on the basis of aggregated data either the main integration opportunities or challenges faced by TCN migrant women.

¹ http://hrmi.lt/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ZmogausTeisesLietuvoje_galutinis.pdf

Q5. Are more disaggregated data or research available at national level (compared to what is available through Eurostat), e.g. by resident status/reason for migration, by number of children in households or by first/second generation of migrants?

No more disaggregated data are available at national level. Only limited disaggregated data can be found on the website of Statistics Lithuania, such as monthly number of immigrants, total number of entries and immigration by sex, age, and the number of immigrant children by sex. The crude immigration rate is also provided. The main migration indicators can also be found in the Migration Yearbooks on the website of the Migration Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania; however, they are not disaggregated.²

Q6. What are the main public and policy debates regarding migrant women's integration (opportunities and challenges)?

There were no public and political debates on the integration of TCN migrant women during the period of 2016-2020. As irregular migration flows increased, it was only in 2021 that public debates started to focus on women and children with health issues as well as their educational opportunities in Lithuania.

² <https://migracija.lrv.lt/lt/statistika/pagrindiniai-migracijos-rodikliai-lietuvos-respublikoje>; <https://migracija.lrv.lt/lt/statistika/migracijos-metrasciai>

2.

National integration
policies

Q7. Describe your country's overall organisational approach with regard to integration policy: who are the competent authorities for integration policy? Is integration policy a national, regional, local or shared competency and which responsibilities come with that competency?

In Lithuania, the national integration policy of foreigners is carried out by the state institutions and agencies within their remit and in cooperation with municipalities and non-governmental organisations. By adopting the Lithuanian Migration Policy Guidelines³ on 22 January 2014, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania entrusted the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania with the task of formulating the foreigners' integration policy. Article 13.2 of the Lithuanian Migration Policy Guidelines stipulates that the Ministry of Social Security and Labour is responsible for the labour policy, foreigner employment issues, the provision of social guarantees and the formulation of policies on the social integration of foreigners, as well as the administration of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund in Lithuania. Until 2014, there was no specific institution responsible for the formulation of the integration policy for foreigners.

Other institutions working in the area of foreigners integration:

- The Ministry of the Interior has been assigned responsibility for issues of migration policy formulation. The Ministry coordinates and controls the implementation of state policy in the area of control of the stay and residence of foreigners in Lithuania in facilities under its authority.
- The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport is responsible for the development and improvement of legal regulation of Lithuanian education of foreigners of Lithuanian descent and Lithuanian emigrants, the training and studies of foreigners, as well as the work of foreign teachers and researchers in Lithuanian higher education and research institutions.
- The Ministry of the Economy and Innovation is responsible for analysing the demand and supply of human resources in the labour market, preparing/drawing up and managing the classification of occupations, coordinating in Lithuania the recognition of professional qualifications acquired abroad, drawing up and approving the List of Shortage Occupations Requiring Higher Professional Qualifications in the Republic of Lithuania and carrying out the procedures for determining the equivalence of professional experience of foreigners to higher education qualifications.
- Municipalities, acting in accordance with the Description of the Procedure for Providing State Support for the Integration of the Persons who have been Granted Asylum⁴, coordinate the provision of social assistance, healthcare and education services to persons who have been granted asylum residing within the territory of a municipality and participate in the process of provision of integration support within the territory of the municipality.
- At present, non-governmental organisations, namely, the Caritas of the Vilnius Archdiocese and the Lithuanian Red Cross Society, are involved in the process of the integration of foreigners. Day Center "House of Cultures" of the Caritas Vilnius Archdiocese aims to create a hospitable environment for migrants, third-country nationals and refugees by pursuing educational activities and helping foreigners build social relationships with local communities. Similarly, the Lithuanian Red Cross has two centers designed to ensure migrants' integration

³ <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAK/d5032f407e8611e396708cdccb584cb5?jfwid=18117litjs>

⁴ <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/34e8bf81913d11e68adcda1bb2f432d1/asr>

into Lithuania: one Refugee and Migrant Integration Center InLT in Kaunas and another Information Center for Migrants in Klaipėda. These centers help refugees and third-country nationals to solve integration challenges and gradually become independent members of Lithuanian society. Besides the Caritas of the Vilnius Archdiocese and the Lithuanian Red Cross Society, there are also other non-governmental organisations involved in the process of the integration of foreigners. Non-governmental organisations are often funded by Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).⁵

Q8. Is the integration of migrant women a policy priority in your country?

The main documents shaping the integration of foreigners in the Republic of Lithuania are the Lithuanian Migration Policy Guidelines and the 2018-2021 Action Plan.⁶ An analysis of these documents suggests that integration of migrant women is not seen as a political priority in Lithuania. Rather, the foreigners' integration policy is primarily focused on migrants in general without a special focus on gender. For example, the Lithuanian Migration Policy Guidelines, which aims to define Lithuanian migration policy, including foreigners' integration, does not address the integration of migrant women separately from men. The 2018-2021 Action Plan, which aims to improve the implementation of the integration of foreigners and to ensure their successful civic integration, makes a distinction for the integration of migrant women, albeit marginally and mostly in the light of researches conducted abroad. Based on the data and practices from other countries, the 2018-2021 Action Plan notes that childcare responsibilities, family traditions as well as stereotypes regarding gender and ethnicity, makes more difficult for migrant women to enter labour market. Also, based on the studies made in other countries, the 2018-2021 Action Plan identifies sexual harassment, violence, non-payment of wages, verbal and psychological abuse among the concerns faced by migrant women. The 2018-2021 Action Plan also stresses the importance of educational opportunities and courses in the state language, which significantly enhances integration opportunities for women with minor children entering the country.⁷

The analysis of legal acts and documents related to the integration of foreigners who have been granted asylum also suggests that the policy of foreigners' integration in Lithuania is formulated in general, without disaggregating different groups of foreigners by sex. Also, analysis suggests that the integration of women who have been granted asylum in Lithuania is also not a political priority. The Description of the Procedure for Providing State Support for the Integration of the Persons who have been Granted Asylum⁸ refers to the integration of persons who have been granted asylum in general terms, without distinguishing between migrant men and migrant women. In 2020, Lithuania approved an individual integration plan for persons who have been granted asylum and/or their family members⁹, which is drawn up taking into account their specific needs and risks, such as physical impairments, marital status, or the likelihood of being a victim of trafficking in human beings. The needs of women as a specific group are not singled out; however, when assessing the risk factors of persons who have been granted asylum, pregnancy is included in the list of high vulnerability factors.

⁵ <https://www.pmif.lt/projektai/igyvendinami-projektai>

⁶ <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/31d148100a1911e98a758703636ea610?jfwid=> ; <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TA-D/34e8bf81913d11e68adcda1bb2f432d1?jfwid=nq76mp2mz>

⁷ <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/4855cf550fe611ebbedbd456d2fb030d?jfwid=nq76mp2mz>

⁸ <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/34e8bf81913d11e68adcda1bb2f432d1?jfwid=nq76mp2mz>

⁹ <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/4855cf550fe611ebbedbd456d2fb030d?jfwid=nq76mp2mz>

Q9. Is gender mainstreamed in national integration policies? Is this approach also complemented by gender specific policies (dual approach to gender equality)?

Gender Gender is not distinctly mainstreamed in the national integration policies. However, in the 2018-2021 Action Plan integration of migrant women is distinguished in a segmented manner together with the integration measures targeting specifically migrant women. The 2018-2021 Action Plan indicates that the majority of women from third countries coming to Lithuania are in the reproductive age group of 20-39 years and enter the country for the purposes of family reunification. According to the 2018-2021 Action Plan, this circumstance increases the risk of their social isolation, which, together with gender stereotypes, prevailing social norms, attitudes, lack of the Lithuanian language skills or the age factor, hampers acculturation and increases the risk of discrimination that makes integration more difficult. In order to address these issues, the 2018-2021 Action Plan foresees integration measures envisaged to educate women about their rights as well as possibilities of reconciling work and education with family needs. Also, the 2018-2021 Action Plan foresees educational events for employers to disseminate information on foreigners' integration processes, taking into account the heterogeneity of the group of foreigners in terms of their gender, age, country of origin, and marital status. Both of these integration measures are the responsibility of the Employment Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour (the 'Employment Service').

Q10. Are migrant women specifically addressed in national integration policies (e.g. strategies, action plans, government programmes)?

Table 1. Policies addressing migrant women

Yes		No	N/A (no national integration policy available)
Third-country nationals	Migrants in general (that might also include EU citizens with migrant background and third-country nationals)	2017	2018
	Yes	X	

a) If migrant women are not specifically addressed in national integration policies, what is the reason or underlying approach (e.g. mainstreaming approach)?

National policy of foreigners' integration in Lithuania is formulated in general, without disaggregating different groups of foreigners by sex.

b) If no national integration policy is available in your country, are migrant women specifically addressed in national policies across different sectors relevant to integration?

Not applicable.

Q11. How are migrant women addressed with regard to the following sectors: labour market, entrepreneurship, education and vocational training, language training, housing, health, civic integration, other?

Table 2. Labour market integration

Labour market	Name of integration policy or sector specific policy	Issues: presumptions, concerns, challenges, needs
How are migrant women addressed with regard to labour market integration?	Career counselling is provided to an adult family member of a highly-skilled labour migrant. Career counselling in English and Russian is the responsibility of the Employment Service. This integration measure is particularly important for spouses of highly-skilled workers, who often move to another country without a specific job offer and attempt to integrate into the labour market on their own.	The Action Plan notes that migrant women, often than migrant men, come to Lithuania for the purposes of family reunification. Therefore, this measure helps women to find employment more quickly and to get all relevant information on career-related issues.
Are migrant women specifically targeted or are they addressed as part of a wider group?	<input type="checkbox"/> Specifically third-country national migrant women targeted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Third-country national migrant women addressed as part of a wider group of migrants (including also EU citizens with migrant background) <input type="checkbox"/> Migrant women addressed as part of a wider group of women	
Are specific categories of migrant women targeted (e.g. low-/highly-skilled labour migrants, students, family migrants, asylum seekers, etc.)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes The focus is on a family member of a highly-skilled worker. <input type="checkbox"/> No	
At what stage of the integration process does the policy start (e.g. recently arrived or no differentiation)?	There is no division into stages; on an as-needed basis.	

Table 3. Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship	Name of integration policy or sector specific policy	Issues: presumptions, concerns, challenges, needs
How are migrant women addressed with regard to entrepreneurship?	Not applicable.	
Are migrant women specifically targeted or are they addressed as part of a wider group?	<input type="checkbox"/> Specifically third-country national migrant women targeted <input type="checkbox"/> Third-country national migrant women addressed as part of a wider group of migrants (including also EU citizens with migrant background) <input type="checkbox"/> Migrant women addressed as part of a wider group of women	
Are specific categories of migrant women targeted (e.g. low-/highly-skilled labour migrants, students, family migrants, asylum seekers, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

At what stage of the integration process does the policy start (e.g. recently arrived or no differentiation)?		
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Table 4. Education and vocational training

Education and vocational training	Name of integration policy or sector specific policy	Issues: presumptions, concerns, challenges, needs
How are migrant women addressed with regard to education and vocational training?	<p>The Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Education stipulates that foreigners with the right of permanent or temporary residence in Lithuania have the right to study, acquire education and qualifications.</p> <p>There is no separate policy on education and vocational training for migrant women. However, the Action Plan includes a measure to encourage the involvement of migrant parents in their children's education:</p> <p>Measure: to promote the involvement of educational communities and encourage cultural cooperation among them, such as getting to know migrant children and promoting their social inclusion, to involve parents in their children's educational processes.</p> <p>Implementing body: Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.</p> <p>Policy objective: to improve the integration of migrant children and their parents into the education system. Although the target group is migrant children, their parents are also included.</p>	2018-2021 Action Plan notes that educational opportunities particularly enhance the integration of migrant women with minor children. Seeing their children's adaptation experiences gives them additional motivation to actively engage and participate in integration processes.
Are migrant women specifically targeted or are they addressed as part of a wider group?	<input type="checkbox"/> Specifically third-country national migrant women targeted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Third-country national migrant women addressed as part of a wider group of migrants (including also EU citizens with migrant background) <input type="checkbox"/> Migrant women addressed as part of a wider group of women	
Are specific categories of migrant women targeted (e.g. low-/highly-skilled labour migrants, students, family migrants, asylum seekers, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
At what stage of the integration process does the policy start (e.g. recently arrived or no differentiation)?	There is no division into stages; on an as-needed basis.	

Table 5. Language Training

Language training	Name of integration policy or sector specific policy	Issues: presumptions, concerns, challenges, needs
How are migrant women addressed with regard to language training?	Not applicable.	
Are migrant women specifically targeted or are they addressed as part of a wider group?	<input type="checkbox"/> Specifically third-country national migrant women targeted <input type="checkbox"/> Third-country national migrant women addressed as part of a wider group of migrants (including also EU citizens with migrant background) <input type="checkbox"/> Migrant women addressed as part of a wider group of women	
Are specific categories of migrant women targeted (e.g. low-/highly-skilled labour migrants, students, family migrants, asylum seekers, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
At what stage of the integration process does the policy start (e.g. recently arrived or no differentiation)?	Not applicable.	

Table 6. Housing

Housing	Name of integration policy or sector specific policy	Issues: presumptions, concerns, challenges, needs
How are migrant women addressed with regard to housing?	Not applicable.	
Are migrant women specifically targeted or are they addressed as part of a wider group?	<input type="checkbox"/> Specifically third-country national migrant women targeted <input type="checkbox"/> Third-country national migrant women addressed as part of a wider group of migrants (including also EU citizens with migrant background) <input type="checkbox"/> Migrant women addressed as part of a wider group of women	
Are specific categories of migrant women targeted (e.g. low-/highly-skilled labour migrants, students, family migrants, asylum seekers, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
At what stage of the integration process does the policy start (e.g. recently arrived or no differentiation)?	Not applicable.	

Table 7. Health

Health	Name of integration policy or sector specific policy	Issues: presumptions, concerns, challenges, needs
How are migrant women addressed with regard to health (including mental health)?	Not applicable.	
Are migrant women specifically targeted or are they addressed as part of a wider group?	<input type="checkbox"/> Specifically third-country national migrant women targeted <input type="checkbox"/> Third-country national migrant women addressed as part of a wider group of migrants (including also EU citizens with migrant background) <input type="checkbox"/> Migrant women addressed as part of a wider group of women	
Are specific categories of migrant women targeted (e.g. low-/highly-skilled labour migrants, students, family migrants, asylum seekers, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
At what stage of the integration process does the policy start (e.g. recently arrived or no differentiation)?	Not applicable.	

Table 8. Civic integration

Civil integration	Name of integration policy or sector specific policy	Issues: presumptions, concerns, challenges, needs
How are migrant women addressed with regard to civic integration?	Not applicable.	
Are migrant women specifically targeted or are they addressed as part of a wider group?	<input type="checkbox"/> Specifically third-country national migrant women targeted <input type="checkbox"/> Third-country national migrant women addressed as part of a wider group of migrants (including also EU citizens with migrant background) <input type="checkbox"/> Migrant women addressed as part of a wider group of women	
Are specific categories of migrant women targeted (e.g. low-/highly-skilled labour migrants, students, family migrants, asylum seekers, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
At what stage of the integration process does the policy start (e.g. recently arrived or no differentiation)?	Not applicable.	

Table 9. Other

Other	Name of integration policy or sector specific policy	Topics: concerns, challenges, presumptions
How are migrant women addressed with regard to other areas?	<p>Ensuring of migrant women's rights.</p> <p>1. Measure included in the 2018-2021 Action Plan: prepare information and organise educational training for migrant women in a language that they understand on women's and children's rights in Lithuania, the possibilities of reconciling work and education with family needs, and domestic violence and help.</p> <p>The measure was implemented in 2019 and 2020. In 2019, 4,000 leaflets for migrant women were published in Lithuanian, English, Russian and Arabic. The leaflets cover the topic of violence, its types and where to refer for help. The leaflets were distributed to the Refugee Reception Centre, non-governmental organisations, and the Lithuanian police. The leaflets were distributed on demand also in 2020.</p> <p>Implementing body: Ministry of Social Security and Labour.</p> <p>Policy objective: to improve the integration of migrant women by ensuring their rights.</p> <p>2. Measure included in the Action Plan: organise educational events for employers disseminating information on the processes of foreigners' integration, taking into account the heterogeneity of the group of foreigners in terms of their gender, age, country of origin and marital status.</p> <p>In 2019, 254 employers received training on the topic of integration and equal opportunities. Seminars on the topic "Principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination in the labour market" covered the following sub-topics: analysis of discrimination; examination of examples; situations creating preconditions for inequality of opportunity and discrimination; methods for avoiding similar situations; legislation ensuring the implementation of equal rights and possibilities for exercising such rights; detection of inequalities between women and men, sexual harassment; principles of the implementation of equality and methods for their application; applying the key measures in businesses to create an environment of equal opportunities and non-discrimination.</p>	<p>The Action Plan identifies among the concerns faced by migrant women sexual harassment, violence, non-payment of wages, verbal and psychological abuse.</p>

	<p>Implementing body: the Employment Service.</p> <p>Policy objective: to ensure equal opportunities and non-discrimination in the labour market.</p>	
<p>Are migrant women specifically targeted or are they addressed as part of a wider group?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Specifically third-country national migrant women targeted</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Third-country national migrant women addressed as part of a wider group of migrants (including also EU citizens with migrant background)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Migrant women addressed as part of a wider group of women</p>	
<p>Are specific categories of migrant women targeted (e.g. low-/highly-skilled labour migrants, students, family migrants, asylum seekers, etc.)?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
<p>At what stage of the integration process does the policy start (e.g. recently arrived or no differentiation)?</p>	<p>There is no division into stages; on an as-needed basis.</p>	

3.

Integration
measures

Q12. Is national funding available in your Member State for measures to support the integration of migrant women? Do structural funds/EU programmes fund integration measures targeting or addressing migrant women and if yes, to what extent (as a share of total funding)?

According to the data presented in the 2015-2017 Action Plan¹⁰ and the 2018-2021 Action Plan, a total of EUR 3,402,000 was allocated for the integration of foreigners from the state budget of the Republic of Lithuania from 2016 to 2020, with EUR 280,000 being co-financing funds and EUR 3,112,000 being EU and other international financial support funds, such as AMIF funds. Lithuania also provides national funding for the implementation of measures supporting the integration of migrant women. In 2019, co-financing funds in the amount of EUR 5,000 were allocated for the measure to prepare information and to organise educational training for migrant women in a language that they understand on women's and children's rights in Lithuania, on possibilities of reconciling work and education with family needs, on domestic violence and help. It should be noted that EUR 5,000 has also been allocated for the same measure for 2021.¹¹

It should be pointed out that the 2018-2021 Action Plan does not include funding from the Structural Funds or other EU programmes (Erasmus+, Nord PLUS, etc.), so it is not possible to provide objective information on the funding volumes from other programmes. It should also be noted that other EU programmes (Erasmus+, Nord PLUS, etc.) provide funding for integration measures targeting migrant women, i.e. support individual projects.

Q13. What integration measures (systematic initiatives, projects or legislative measures) are available in the Member State that specifically address migrant women and have been identified as "good practice"? Please provide, if possible, up to three examples from the period 2016-2020 and note why the example was selected.

Table 10.

Measure 1	
a) Overview	
Name	Multicultural Children's Day Care Centre PLUS
Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic initiatives (multi-year/long term) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Projects (ad-hoc) <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative (structural) measure
Area	<input type="checkbox"/> Labour market <input type="checkbox"/> Entrepreneurship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education and vocational training <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Language training <input type="checkbox"/> Housing <input type="checkbox"/> Health <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civic integration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other

¹⁰ <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/ee908ca090d211e4bb408baba2bddd3>

¹¹ <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/b4dca730722811eb9fc9c3970976dfa1?jfwid=>

Access	<input type="checkbox"/> Third-country nationals <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Migrants in general (not only third-country nationals, but also EU nationals)
Target group	<input type="checkbox"/> Tailor-made measure (only migrant women) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mainstream measure (migrant women are taken into account while the measure has a wider target group) Migrant women can participate in joint socialisation events with their children, take part in and help organise traditional fests, and go on educational tours with their children.
Stage of the integration process (e.g. recently arrived or no differentiation)	The project is aimed at children of migrants and migrant women who have arrived in Lithuania, regardless of their length of stay in Lithuania.
Coverage	<input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Regional <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local
Link	Not applicable.
Source and justification	NEW ACTIONS FOR MIGRANT WOMEN (NAME): Transnational Report and NAME transnational report: immigrant women in Europe mipas.lt. Both sources refer to this measure as a good integration practice.

b) Description

1. What is the objective of the measure and underlying integration opportunity/challenge to be addressed?

The aim of the Centre is to organise and provide day-care, social, educational, socio-cultural and healthy lifestyle services for children of migrants and other children in order to facilitate their integration into local communities

Challenges:

- language barrier, bilingualism concerns
- severe acculturation-related stress
- discrimination
- health (self-)education

This measure is also seen as a favourable practice for migrant women, as they were able to contribute to the project's activities, their implementation and spend time in a safe environment. In addition, the children's occupational services organised at the Centre enabled women to work while their children took part in activities.

2. When was the measure introduced and what was/is its duration? Is/was it a pilot measure? Is funding provided to ensure sustainability?

The measure was developed and implemented in the period 2017-2019. Funding was available to ensure sustainability; however, it was required to submit an application for project extension every year.

3. How and by whom (agency, government institution, NGOs, private sector, etc.) is/was the measure implemented?

The measure was implemented by the Social Educational Initiatives Centre PLUS. The Multicultural Children's Day Care Centre PLUS was established to provide services for children: language training, socio-cultural, educational and health wellness activities. Families were also invited to participate in the activities, with migrant women being the most involved in leading health activities, helping to organise joint traditional celebrations, and taking part in events with the children. They, together with their children, participated in educational tours, conducted health wellness activities, helped organise common traditional fests, participated in events together with their children.

4. How/by whom is/was the measure funded?

The measure was funded by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.

5. What strategies have been adopted to reach migrant women?

Not applicable.

6. Are evaluations of the measure available? If yes, did the measure meet the anticipated objectives in relation to migrant women? What are the main outcomes?

Not applicable.

7. Where there any obstacles during implementation and if yes, how were they overcome (i.e. what are the lessons learnt)?

Please see answer to the first point.

Measure 2**c) Overview**

Name	Improving the initial education of adult immigrants
Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic initiatives (multi-year/long term) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Projects (ad-hoc) <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative (structural) measure
Area	<input type="checkbox"/> Labour market <input type="checkbox"/> Entrepreneurship <input type="checkbox"/> Education and vocational training <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Language training <input type="checkbox"/> Housing <input type="checkbox"/> Health <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civic integration <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Access	<input type="checkbox"/> Third-country nationals <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Migrants in general (not only third-country nationals, but also EU nationals)
Target group	<input type="checkbox"/> Tailor-made measure (only migrant women) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mainstream measure (migrant women are taken into account while the measure has a wider target group) <p>The project has created an e-learning platform that provides information on job opportunities, schools, kindergartens, which are particularly important for migrant women, as they usually stay at home and take care of their children's education, look for suitable kindergartens and schools. In addition, migrant women are also more interested in the cultural life of the host country as well as socialisation opportunities, e.g. opportunities to learn the Lithuanian language (free courses).</p>
Stage of the integration process (e.g. recently arrived or no differentiation)	The project addresses migrants and migrant women who have recently arrived in Lithuania.
Coverage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Regional <input type="checkbox"/> Local
Link	https://mipas.lt/en/2018/12/17/improving-the-initial-education-of-adult-immigrants/

Source and justification

In 2019, the Education Exchanges Support Foundation awarded to Klaipėda University's project "Improving the initial education of adult immigrants" the title of the best quality project in the Erasmus+ adult education sector".

Source: <https://www.smpf.lt/lt/apdovanoti-kokybes-konkurso-2019-nugaletojai/>

d) Description

8. What is the objective of the measure and underlying integration opportunity/challenge to be addressed?

Migrant men and women often face a language barrier during their first year in a new country, making it difficult to offer them any educational programmes (other than language learning) and learning opportunities. In this context, a project was proposed to develop an intellectual product that would be more accessible and suitable for migrants.

The aim of the project was to develop and test innovative educational tools for migrant men and women (in their first year of arrival) that would help them acquire basic knowledge and understanding of the social and cultural life and history of the host country and assist in language learning.

The project included the development of an e-learning platform "Innovative educational tools for immigrants", the provision of educational materials in English and in the languages of the participating countries, pilot training and training for migrants in the use of the platform. The introduction of the training tool in various governmental and non-governmental organisations working with migrants has made it easier for migrants to adapt in the new country.

9. When was the measure introduced and what was/is its duration? Is/was it a pilot measure? Is funding provided to ensure sustainability?

The measure was developed in the period 2016-2018. There was no funding allocated to ensure sustainability.

10. How and by whom (agency, government institution, NGOs, private sector, etc.) is/was the measure implemented?

The project was initiated by Klaipėda University, and higher education institutions and NGOs from 5 countries, namely, Italy, Belgium, Romania, Bulgaria and Latvia, were invited to act as partners. During the development of the tool, the organisations carried out analyses and surveys in each partner country to find out what migrants' needs are and what information they lack when they arrive in a new country. Based on the findings, information packages (on the health system, kindergartens, schools, job opportunities, a country's history, culture, tourism, language) were prepared and fed into the e-learning platform being developed.

11. How/by whom is/was the measure funded?

The measure was funded by the Erasmus+ programme.

12. What strategies have been adopted to reach migrant women?

Enhancing the visibility of ongoing activities on the website, emailing information about the project and its activities to organisations. The results of the project were presented at the final conference, during which migrant men and women shared their experiences.

13. Are evaluations of the measure available? If yes, did the measure meet the anticipated objectives in relation to migrant women? What are the main outcomes?

Not applicable.

14. Where there any obstacles during implementation and if yes, how were they overcome (i.e. what are the lessons learnt)?

Not applicable.

4.

Responses to
COVID-19

Q14. Were integration policies or measures developed to counteract the negative consequences of COVID-19 specifically for migrant women's integration?

a) Integration (or sector specific) policies

There were no changes related to migrant integration policies as a response to COVID-19.

b) Integration measures

There were no changes related to migrant integration measures as a response to COVID-19.

5.

Plans and future
outlook

Q15. Provide information on planned policy developments as well as plans to introduce new measures, also in light of the impact of COVID-19:

a) Does your Member State plan to develop new or revise existing national integration policies that address challenges faced by migrant women?

In view of the adoption of the EU legislation governing the activities of the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund for 2021-2027, the presentation to the Monitoring Committee and submission to the European Commission for informal negotiations of the draft national programme of Lithuania for support from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund for the period from 2021 to 2027¹² and the supplementation of the Action Plan in 2021, it can be presumed that Lithuania is planning to review existing national integration policies in order to address the challenges faced by migrant women. The Action Plan, as supplemented in 2021, provides for a new measure to analyse the legal and practical issues related to the accessibility of support and services for children of foreigners and to improve the legal framework where necessary. The draft national programme of Lithuania for support from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund for the period from 2021 to 2027 points out that opportunities of women being nationals of third countries for active participation in the labour market are mostly limited by childcare responsibilities, family traditions that prohibit women from working if the husband is unemployed and stereotypes based on gender and ethnicity, which results in particularly high unemployment rates among women who have recently arrived or have resided in the country for less than 10 years. In the light of these challenges, it is planned to strengthen employment opportunities in the country, to additionally invest in a lifelong learning system, in services of recognition and enhancement of qualifications and in language training, as well as to promote entrepreneurship among third-country nationals. The draft also focuses on children's participation in the education system. It highlights the need for further investment in order to develop a system allowing to professionally assess the quality of a child's knowledge acquired abroad and effectively address the challenges of integration into the education system arising due to language and cultural barriers. Finally, the draft stresses the need to strengthen inter-institutional cooperation among educational institutions and non-governmental organisations working in the area of the integration of foreigners.

No legislation has been found to provide information about Lithuania's plans with regard to the impact of COVID-19.

b) Does your Member State plan to develop any new integration measures that address challenges faced by migrant women?

In view of the adoption of the EU legislation governing the activities of the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund for 2021-2027, the presentation to the Monitoring Committee and submission to the European Commission for informal negotiations of the draft national programme of Lithuania for support from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund for the period from 2021 to 2027 and the supplementation of the Action Plan in 2021, it can be said that Lithuania is planning to develop new integration measures to address the challenges faced by migrant women, however specific measures have not been identified. It can be presumed that the country will develop new integration measures to enable migrant women to participate more actively in the labour market and integration measures aimed at improving children's education system.

¹² The national programme 2021-2027 for AMIF is being developed | AMIF

6.

Conclusions

Q16. Synthesise the findings of your national report by drawing conclusions from your responses to Q1–Q15:

a) What are the main integration opportunities and challenges for migrant women identified in your country (Section 1)?

The number of first residence permits issued to TCN migrant women has been steadily increasing with the exception of the year 2017. TCN migrant women mostly come to Lithuania for family reunification purposes, however, the number of such residence permits is not steady and increases/decreases every year. First residence permits issued for education and employment make up around half of all the first residence permits issued to TCN migrant women and have been growing steadily in the past years.

Due to the lack of data available in the Eurostat database, it is difficult to provide a thorough quantitative analysis of TCN migrant women's integration indicators and identify the main integration challenges. The activity rate of TCN migrant men is only slightly higher compared to women, also, there are no major differences regarding education and healthcare indicators while comparing TCN migrant women, men and non-migrant women. However, according to experts from non-governmental organisations, TCN migrant women tend to face challenges related to health insurance. This is especially the case for pregnant TCN migrant women, who, in particular cases, cannot be insured by the compulsory health insurance. Also, according to the Eurostat data, TCN migrant women are more likely to live in overcrowded households compared to migrant men or non-migrant women.

Finally, according to the experts from migration information centers in Lithuania, TCN migrant women often make inquiries regarding social benefits, integration packages, free language trainings, and cultural orientation.

b) What are the key characteristics of the national integration policies (Section 2) and measures (Section 3) presented in terms of categories, focus area, stage of the integration process, etc.?

An analysis of legislation shows that in Lithuania, more attention is paid to the integration of foreigners in general (men and women), while migrant women are often not mentioned separately. However, it is possible to identify several key national integration policy areas covering integration opportunities for migrant women: 1) labour market — career counselling; 2) education — learning support for children and parental involvement in educational processes; 3) women's rights, focusing on (a) preparation of information and organisation of seminars on women's and children's rights in Lithuania, on possibilities of reconciling work and education with family needs, on domestic violence and help; (b) training for employers on the principles of equal opportunities in the labour market. Integration measures are not divided into stages and almost all are short-term measures, with the exception of the area of women's rights. The latter, namely, the organisation of training for migrant women and employers, is the only long-term measure reflected in the Action Plan. At the same time, only one integration policy area focuses on a specific category of migrant women, namely, career counselling in the area of the labour market, targeting a family member of a highly-skilled worker. Some integration measures target parents of migrant children, migrant women are not specifically singled out, though examples of good practice show that it is migrant women who are most involved in activities addressing migrant children and their parents. Although good practice instruments, namely, projects (ad hoc), are short-term measures, the scope of their implementation is broad and covers a wide range of target groups, such as migrants, persons who have been granted asylum, TCN women and/or women being EU citizens. These measures may be applied, as appropriate, at the stages of integration acceptance and/or inclusion.

c) How do special integration policies or measures developed to counteract the negative consequences of COVID-19 (Section 4) differ from those previously in place (Sections 2 and 3)?

There is neither data, nor legislation available to provide relevant information. It should be stressed that there are no special integration policies or measures in Lithuania to counteract the negative consequences of COVID-19 in the context of integration of migrant women.

d) How do planned new integration policies and measures (Section 5) link to the main opportunities and challenges identified (Section 1/Q16a) and/or responses to COVID-19 (Section 4)?

There is neither data, nor legislation available to provide relevant information.

EMN is a Network composed of migration experts which aims to collect, analyse and provide up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on migration and asylum. By the decree of the Government of Republic of Lithuania International Organization for Migration Vilnius Office acts as the national coordinator for the EMN activities in Lithuania.

The EMN National Contact Point (NCP) in Lithuania is composed of representatives from the Ministry of the Interior, the Migration Department, the State border guard service as well as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Vilnius office which acts the national coordinator for the EMN activities in Lithuania. EMN NCP in Lithuania also collaborates with other entities from governmental as well as non-governmental institutions working in the area of migration.
