

Nordplus Adult project
WISE. Wide incorporation of social-cultural education of adults from Nordic-Baltic peripheral areas. Creation of methodology.

REPORT ON SOCIO-CULTURAL SITUATION IN LITHUANIA

LITHUANIA, KLAIPEDA
2009

INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS

International Organization for Migration IOM (<http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/about-iom/lang/en>) states that the process of integration concerns all aspects of life in a society, and includes migrants as well as the host society. Migration patterns are producing increasingly diverse cultural influences in host societies. These influences can be used constructively while preserving social coherence and unity. Integration measures are generally intended to preserve or re-establish the smooth functioning of a society and to assist people who require support in order to become active participants in economic, social, and cultural life.

According to IOM there are several approaches to integration. No single set of “best practices” would be relevant for all States. Approaches to integration of migrants set goals that can be positioned on a continuum that ranges from unity (common values and cultural practices) at the one end to diversity (different values and practices) at the other.

International norms that guarantee migrants certain basic human rights are relevant to integration because they require policy makers to include these basic rights in their approaches to integration. International norms support the right of migrants to interact economically, socially, and culturally with a host society under the terms of applicable national legislation, while also allowing them to maintain a sense of their own cultural identity.

International Organization for Migration settles the challenge for policy makers to enable a balance between the original cultural identities of migrants and a sense of belonging that is based on an acceptance of the core values and institutions of the new society.

Lithuania is a member of International Organization of Migration since 1998.

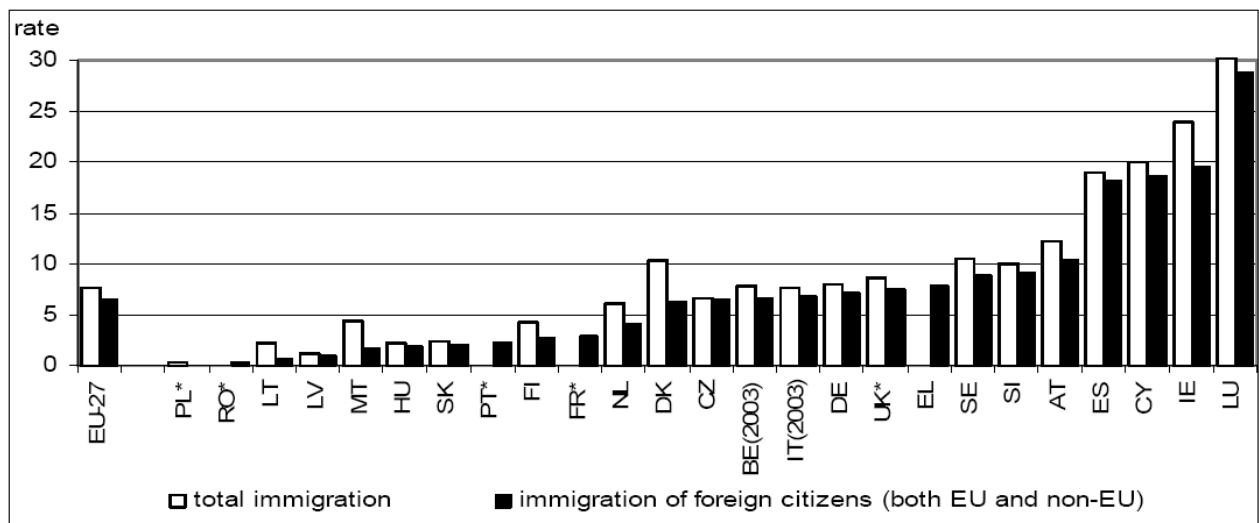
According to Eurostat database (Anne Herm. Demographic pattern of international immigration in the European Union. <http://iussp2009.princeton.edu/download.aspx?submissionId=92798>) in 2006, the biggest numbers of immigrants in the EU were recorded in Spain, Germany and United Kingdom. These three countries together received more than 2 million immigrants (including returning nationals). We could suppose that quite a big part of these immigrants were from Lithuania.

A.Herm states that even if vast majority of immigrants in the EU settled in few big Member States, the smaller countries had stronger immigration in relative terms. Among above mentioned countries only Spain had high immigration also in relative terms to its population size. The highest rate of immigration was recorded in Luxembourg followed by Ireland, Cyprus and Spain. These four countries had significantly higher rate compared to other Member States while for Germany and United Kingdom this rate was close to the average of immigrants to all Member States (Figure 2).

According to figure 2 we can see that Lithuania, Latvia are almost in last places by a number of immigrants. Denmark and Sweden have bigger (but not the biggest) rates by immigration.

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Figure 2. Immigration rates, EU-27, 2006 (1)



Source: Eurostat. Migration Statistics

(1) Immigration rates are calculated per 1000 inhabitants of the country at the beginning of 2006. EU – 27 includes available data from Member States: RO, PT and EL – excluding nationals; PL – excluding nationals and temporary immigrations; FR - excluding nationals and EU15 foreigners; UK- excluding flows from Ireland; BG and EE - data missing.

European Union (EU) Member States: Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE) and the United Kingdom (UK).

LITHUANIA

The migration situation in Lithuania differs from most of other Central-East European countries. R.Zukauskiene states that until the late 1980s, international migration in Lithuania was both intensive and stable. Since the end of World War II, Lithuania underwent rapid industrialisation, urbanisation and colonisation, related to the fact that in 1940 the Soviet Union occupied and annexed Lithuania. The migration of labour force formed the ethnic groups of the immigrants of the first generation. At that time, there were almost no migration relations with other foreign countries. Immigrants who arrived to Lithuania during the Soviet period currently are naturalized and consider themselves as Lithuanian citizens.

In 1989, as a result of political, social and economic changes in Lithuania, the migration situation started to change, with some migration flows even reversing their direction. Up to now, Lithuania has a negative migration balance. This trend has been prevailing in Lithuania for several years. The current flows of immigrants to Lithuania mainly consist of the following three categories of arriving persons:

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returning citizens (i.e., Lithuanians whose arrival is unlimited), reunion of family members (limited, although the priority is given to their arrivals) and migration on business (the number is not high). The majority of immigrants come from Russia and the CIS countries. The number of illegal transit migrants and refugees are relatively low (R.Zukauskiene. Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in Lithuania. <http://www.politis-europe.uni-oldenburg.de/download/Mapping3.pdf>).

Since its independence in the early 1990s, Lithuania has increasingly become an emigration country for regular (economic) migrants and a destination country for irregular migrants from the east, initially from South East Asia, and now mainly from neighboring countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Having become a member of the European Union and part of its eastern border, Lithuania has faced a number of important issues. The facilitated transit of Russian citizens from the Russian mainland to Kaliningrad also poses additional challenges for migration management. The integration of Lithuanian residents of non-Lithuanian ethnicity into Lithuanian society remains an important issue, especially in certain towns where industry is more developed.

FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT LITHUANIA

www.stat.gov.lt

Percentage of total population, % by ethnicity and year

	1979	1989	2001	2007	2008
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Lithuanian	80.0	79.6	83.5	84.6	84.3
Russian	8.9	9.4	6.3	5.1	5.0
Pole	7.3	7.0	6.7	6.3	6.2
Belarussian	1.7	1.7	1.2	1.1	1.1
Ukrainian	1.0	1.2	0.7	0.6	0.6
Jew	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1
Latvian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Tatar	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
German	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Romany	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Other ethnicities	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.2
Not indicated	0.9	1.5	2.1

M3020102: International migration

Comparing numbers of emigrants and immigrants (per 1000 population)

Emigrants per 1 000 population

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Republic of Lithuania	2.1	2.0	3.2	4.4	4.6	3.7	4.1	..

Immigrants per 1 000 population

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Republic of Lithuania	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.6	2.0	2.3	2.6	..

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Comparing numbers of emigrants and immigrants (by number of persons)

Emigrants - Persons

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Republic of Lithuania	7 253	7 086	11 032	15 165	15 571	12 602	13 853	17 015

Immigrants - Persons

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Republic of Lithuania	4 694	5 110	4 728	5 553	6 789	7 745	8 609	9 297

Numbers of emigrants are comparatively low because www.stat.gov.lt counts only officially declared emigration flows. In reality numbers are considerably higher.

If we will compare these numbers with numbers of immigrants it is obvious that immigration to Lithuania is at very low level. Maybe it is the reason why there are so few programmes for socio-cultural integration of migrants.

M3020113: Immigrants by country of last residence

Unit : Persons

Immigrants by country and year

	2001	2002	2007	2008
TOT Total by country	4 694	5 110	8 609	9 297
IE Ireland	2	8	884	961
BY Belarus	574	634	1 032	1 228
ES Spain	24	36	416	422
US United States	197	245	735	718
GB United Kingdom	63	73	1 792	1 993
RU Russia	1 535	1 640	888	805
UA Ukraine	599	687	500	577
DE Germany	150	189	592	563
VEP Other countries	1 550	1 598	1 719	2 010
PXX Not indicated	51	20

We see that in 2008 the biggest part of immigrants to Lithuania were from Belarus, United Kingdom, Ireland and Russia. According to previous research of R.Zukauskiene we could suggest that these immigrants are returning citizens of Lithuania. Immigrant from other countries in most cases could be citizens from Asia.

LEGAL BASIS (http://www.iom.lt/documents/brosiura_angl_1.pdf)

The issues related to the entry exit, and stay of aliens – including the issue of visas and facilitated transit documents to aliens – as well as residence – including the issue of residence permits of the Republic of Lithuania to aliens and granting the right to reside in the Republic of Lithuania for

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nationals of European Union Member States, granting of asylum, integration and naturalization, the procedure for appealing decisions on the legal status of aliens and other issues relating to the legal status of aliens in the Republic of Lithuania are set forward in key legislation: the Law on The Legal Status of Foreign Nationals of the Republic of Lithuania (State Gazette, 2004, Nr. 73-2539) and the Law on Implementing the Law on The Legal Status of Foreign Nationals (State Gazette, 2004, Nr.73-2540), whose provisions entered into force on April 30, 2004. Also, regulations of the European Union Council in the area of migration, whose provisions are not implemented in the national legislation, but are applied directly, are in force in the Republic of Lithuania.

RIGHTS OF ALIENS

In the Republic of Lithuania, aliens enjoy the rights and freedoms provided by the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, international agreements, laws of the Republic of Lithuania and legal acts of the European Union. In the Republic of Lithuania, they are equal before the law without distinction as to sex, race, nationality, language, religion, origin, social status, religion, convictions or views (http://www.iom.lt/documents/brosiura_angl_1.pdf).

THE OCCUPATIONAL INTEGRATION OF MIGRANT IN LITHUANIA

Inga Blaziene (Institute of Labour and Social Research) states that migrant in Lithuania should be divided into two blocks. The first one includes national minorities who have been living in Lithuania for many years and (in most cases) enjoying the Lithuanian citizenship. The second block could represent 'true' migrants, i.e., 'persons, arriving from another country with the intention to take up the usual residence in Republic of Lithuania perpetually or for more than six months period, including foreigners who have got temporary residence permits for one year and longer'. In addition to non-national Lithuanian citizens and persons arriving to Lithuania with the intention to live here perpetually, this group includes aliens who have been granted asylum in the Republic of Lithuania; employees holding permissions of the Lithuanian Labour Exchange to work in Lithuania; other immigrants (<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/ewco/studies/tn0807038s/lt0807039q.htm>).

Actually there is no research or any statistical data in Lithuania on the workplace promotion of any of aforementioned migrant workers. I.Blaziene supposes that such situation is determined by two basic conditions: firstly, by very few analyses of working conditions in Lithuania on the whole and, secondly, by irrelevance of the immigration problem in Lithuania.

A strategy for the development of the national minorities policy by 2015, as approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on 17 October 2007, entrenches a strategic objective to seek integration of national minorities into the Lithuanian society, i.e., to create proper conditions for them to live, work and study in Lithuania as well as to preserve their identity and ensure harmony of national relations.

But there is no special practical programme intended for promoting integration of migrants legally residing in Lithuania. The only exception in this regard would be social integration measures, such as Lithuanian language courses, held for foreigners taking refuge in Lithuania.

As already mentioned, the issue of workplace promotion of migrant workers is not surveyed in Lithuania at all. According to I.Blaziene there is a strong probability that such examples do not exist in Lithuania at all. This is determined by the established historical peculiarities, relatively very short (since 1990) entrepreneurship experience and low immigration scale in the country.

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MIGRANT INTEGRATION

Karolis Žibas (Centre of Ethnic Studies Institute for Social Research) presents migration trends in Lithuania: issues of monitoring and migrant integration.

Measures and policies of minority integration

1. Minority integration programmes (Sunday schools, non-governmental organizations of corresponding communities, etc.);
2. Education for children and adults: equalizing courses (special grades (or classes) for pupils and adults who come from different backgrounds and need certain time to adjust);
3. Schools with minority languages (network of secondary schools where teaching is carried out in minority languages – Russian and Polish);
4. The infrastructure of refugee social integration (language courses, vocational training, courses on Lithuanian culture and traditions as well as well developed infrastructure on implementing refugee social integration).

The infrastructure of refugee social integration

Main elements of social integration:

1. Language courses;
2. Vocational training;
3. Courses on Lithuanian culture and traditions, etc.

<http://www.latviaspb.ru/data/CBSS%202007-2008/Migration%20trends%20in%20Lithuania%20issues%20of%20monitoring%20and%20migrant%20integration.pps>

PROJECTS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION IN LITHUANIA

<http://www.iom.lt/en/active-projects>

ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION - GARANTY OF SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION

The aim of this project – better integration of third country nationals to Lithuanian society. Through better and targeted information of immigrants, including potential immigrants, the project seeks to decrease cases of unsuccessful migration and violation of immigrant's rights.

Main activities of the project are personal consultation/ counseling of third country nationals residing or seeking residence permit in Lithuania and information spreading about the rights of migrants. Also specialized information handbook for immigrants will be created, printed and disseminated.

In parallel this information will be spread among migration and other relevant specialist who are working directly with migrants, so they can refer them to the project. Special electronic newsletter will be prepared in which experience of other countries will be presented as well as recommendations for Lithuania how to organize integration process.

By improving knowledge of third country nationals on the labour, educational and other welfare systems, public and private services project seeks to facilitate their better access for relevant services thus creating better conditions for integration.

TOWARDS UNDERSTANDING

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The project "Towards Understanding" is committed to workers of Lithuanian public service sectors, in which they are directly serving and counselling third-country nationals.

The aim of the project is to improve diversity management knowledge, intercultural competence and to strengthen the capacity to provide services to third-country nationals of civil servants and service providers.

The project consists of the following main activities:

- specialised education programmes and pilot trainings for the officers, public servants to develop specific knowledge and skills needed to provide services for the third-country nationals;
- capacity building of the municipality workers by preparing and disseminating of "Integration implementation guide" in the whole territory of Lithuania.

The specialized Training Programme, will be developed together with project partners (University lecturers) and would be dedicated to deepening cultural diversity knowledge and strengthening diversity management skills of Lithuanian officials.

EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK

The European Commission co-ordinates the EMN, in co-operation with National Contact Points (EMN NCPs) appointed in each Member State, who, in turn, develop a national network consisting of a widerange of entities representing all relevant stakeholders. EMN NCPs, which have been designated by their Member State government, consist primarily of Ministries of Interior and of Justice; plus Research Institutes; Non-Governmental Organisations; and a national office of an International Organisation.

IOM Vilnius has been appointed to represent Lithuania in EMN.

Objective: To meet the information needs of Community institutions and of Member States' authorities and institutions by providing up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on migration and asylum, with a view to supporting policymaking in the European Union in these areas. The EMN also serves to provide the general public with such information.

Activities:

- EMN responds to information needs through specific Reports, Studies and Ad-Hoc Queries.
- EMN collects and documents information in a comparative manner.
- EMN has the task of establishing a multi-level network to aid its activities.

EMN was established as a fully functioning EU level network in 2008.

REGULATING MIGRATION

IOM Vilnius actively combats human trafficking. One of its major projects is an anti-trafficking information campaign for the youth in the Kaliningrad oblast. The aim of this project is to sensitize youth in the Kaliningrad oblast about risks related to trafficking in persons and to empower them to make informed and safe decisions in situations of high trafficking risk. The project seeks not only to warn about trafficking dangers, but also to provide young people with more information about finding safer options to move away from home, including information about legal opportunities to study or work abroad or in other regions of Russia, and to distinguish between legitimate and fraudulent job offers. A specialized teacher's manual has been developed and will be available in all schools of the region. An inter-active project website is also available. IOM will train 300 teachers on how to use the manual and inform students about migration risks and opportunities.

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Another project, implemented by IOM Vilnius and IOM Moscow, aims to prevent and curtail trafficking in human beings through enhanced understanding of trafficking to, in, through, and from the Kaliningrad Oblast of the Russian Federation, and through the increased cooperation between law enforcement officials, legal practitioners, government officials, social workers, and NGOs in combating the crime. IOM published a manual in Russian on combating human trafficking and disseminated it among main stakeholders in the Kaliningrad Oblast. To facilitate regional cooperation, a delegation of government and NGO representatives from the Kaliningrad Oblast participated in a regional counter-trafficking conference in Vilnius.

IOM also organized training seminars for youth leaders to involve young people in counter-trafficking activities and to support their local counter-trafficking initiatives. During the training students developed three small counter-trafficking projects which IOM supported.

MIGRATION POLICY AND RESEARCH

IOM's other initiatives include research on the gender aspects of migrant family separation, the establishment of an independent migration information centre, and support to the government in implementing a state programme on counter-trafficking.

IOM and its partners are researching the gender aspects of migrant family separation in Lithuania to identify the main problems experienced by women, men, boys, and girls who come from families separated due to the migration of one or more family members from Lithuania. Recommendations from the research will be shared with relevant counterparts and agencies in order to develop appropriate responses to the identified problems. Awareness-raising on the topic will be carried out through a national seminar and the production of a documentary on the topic showing specific case examples.

The establishment of an independent migration information centre in Lithuania aims to sensitize potential migrants, especially the youth and vulnerable groups, about the risks related to trafficking in persons, and to empower them to make informed and safe decisions when moving abroad in situations that present a high risk of trafficking. The project seeks not only to warn about the dangers of trafficking, but also to provide people with more information about finding safer options to move away from home, including information about legal opportunities to study or work abroad, as well as how and where to seek assistance in case of fraud, slave-like conditions and trafficking. The independent migration information centre serves as a reference point for immigrants to Lithuania, including unsuccessful and defrauded immigrants, and returning victims of trafficking. Through better and targeted information of migrants, including potential migrants, the project seeks to decrease cases of cross-border criminality, particularly trafficking, and to increase safety in the region.

PROJECT OF LITHUANIAN LABOUR EXCHANGE

<http://www.ldb.lt>

ETHNIC MINORITY INTEGRATION TO LABOUR MARKET - SUPPORT TOOL CREATION AND TESTING

Project results:

- Language courses for 80 ethnic minority representatives.
- Vocational courses for 180 unemployed.
- Vocational counseling for 180 unemployed.

Project aims:

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- Equal possibilities for ethnic minority representatives to get an occupation and to take part in labour market.
- Decreasing of social isolation.
- Better legislation of integration of ethnic minorities to Lithuanian labour market.

EXPERTS' SUGGESTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES TO DEAL WITH THE CHALLENGES OF INTEGRATION:

N.Romanovskaja presents The immigration and integration policy of Germany: integration problems of immigrants and administration of these problems. (http://vddb.library.lt/obj/LT-eLABa-0001:E.02~2009~D_20090209_150240-55566).

We could use these suggestions in this project. They could be helpful for creating a Methodology of socio-cultural integration of migrants in Nordic - Baltic countries:

1. Language courses for immigrants living in Lithuania (improving their skills) and especially newly arrived immigrants;
2. Pre-language education and the promotion of children's nursery facilities;
3. The chance alignment of schools and to education;
4. Individual professional advice for young immigrants;
5. Assistance in finding jobs;
6. Additional job creation in enterprises immigrants;
7. Self-promotion;
8. Participation in the promotion of public events;
9. Increased promotion of community relations (communication with the neighbors).

Those recommendations could be used to improve the problems connected with the integration of immigrants.