



## Lithuania

### National developments in 2024



The implementation of legislative and policy changes continued in Lithuania in 2024, with the objective to make the asylum and reception systems more resilient following a surge in asylum applicants in previous years.

The Migration Department obtained more funding to increase its staff and provide higher salaries for current employees as a measure to retain more colleagues and decrease high turnover.<sup>1</sup> Nonetheless, the organisation remained understaffed in 2024, while the impact of the new measures is expected to be seen in the long term.

The parliament approved an amendment to reorganise the reception system.<sup>2</sup> To this end, restructuring started in 2024 so that the new Reception and Integration Agency could start its operations in January 2025.<sup>3</sup> It was clarified that interpretation in reception and during the lodging of the application would be the responsibility of the new agency, while interpretation during the asylum interview remains the responsibility of the Migration Department. State-guaranteed legal aid became the responsibility of the new agency, instead of the Migration Department.<sup>4</sup> EUR 10 million of AMIF support was granted to improve the infrastructure of existing reception facilities and expand capacity with the involvement of municipalities.<sup>5</sup>

With an important increase in asylum appeals cases,<sup>6</sup> changes to the legal structure are expected to decrease pressure. One Regional Administrative Court was established in Vilnius, replacing regional administrative courts with branches across the country.<sup>7</sup>

The Supreme Administrative Court ruled on legal uncertainties, for example, noting that a minor may automatically receive international protection without the need for an individual assessment when the parents had already been granted protection.<sup>8</sup> It referred a question to the CJEU for a preliminary ruling on exclusion from international protection and the impact of a sentence already served or pardon or amnesty granted to the person.<sup>9</sup>

The state of emergency was maintained along the border with Belarus, and based on the law amendment in 2023, border guards could return migrants crossing into Lithuanian territory irregularly.<sup>10</sup> Litigation related to this practice was ongoing both at the national level<sup>11</sup> and in front of the ECtHR.<sup>12</sup> During a state of emergency, specific restrictions may be applied on the freedom of movement of migrants, and the Supreme Administrative Court clarified that restricting the freedom of movement within a reception facility should be considered as detention and not an alternative to detention.<sup>13</sup>

Preparations for the implementation of the Pact have started with the establishment of an inter-agency working group, which will assess capacity, gaps and needs to implement the legislative package.

**More input from civil society:**

- [Lithuanian Red Cross Society | Lietuvos Raudonojo Kryžiaus](#)
- [Refugee Council of Lithuania | Pabėgėlių Taryba](#)

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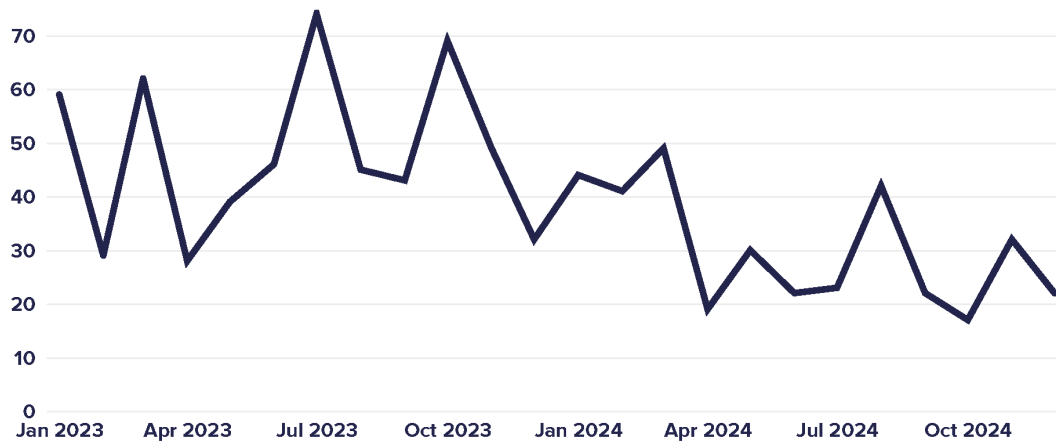
## Key indicators for 2024



Rank by number of asylum applications <b>27</b>	Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants) <b>26</b>	Share of applications in EU+ <b>0.0%</b>	Recognition rate <b>46%</b>
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Indicator	2024	2023	% change	Top 3 countries of origin
Asylum applications	363	575 ↓	-37%	Belarus (39%), Russia (13%), Ukraine (6%)
Pending cases (Dec '24)	219	346 ↓	-37%	Belarus (46%), Russia (19%), Ukraine (5%)
First instance decisions	380	582 ↓	-35%	Belarus (46%), Russia (14%), Tajikistan (6%)
Refugee status	163	403 ↓	-60%	Belarus (67%), Russia (15%), Tajikistan (5%)
Subsidiary protection	12	1 ↑	1100%	Syria (50%), Mali (17%), South Sudan (17%)
Negative	205	178 ↑	15%	Belarus (33%), Russia (14%), Iraq (7%)

Evolution of asylum applications, 2023-2024



For more developments, please consult the [Asylum Report 2025](#) and the [National Asylum Developments Database](#).





## Sources

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- <sup>1</sup> Migration Department | Migracijos Departamentas. (2024, January 10). [Didesnis atlyginimų fondas ir reformos teigiamai įtakos Migracijos departamento veiklą, pagerins klientų aptarnavimą, leis pritraukti naujų specialistų](#) [A larger salary fund and reforms will positively affect the Migration Department's activities, improve customer service, and attract new specialists].
- <sup>2</sup> Ministry of the Interior | Lietuvos Respublikos vidaus reikalų ministerija. (2024, May 30). [Migrantų priėmimu ir apgyvendinimu rūpinsis speciali agentūra](#) [A special agency will take care of the reception and accommodation of migrants].
- <sup>3</sup> Ministry of Social Security and Labor of the Republic of Lithuania | Lietuvos Respublikos socialinės apsaugos ir darbo ministerija. (2024, October 3). [Paskelbtas konkursas į Priėmimo ir integracijos agentūros direktoriaus \(-ės\) pareigas](#) [Competition for the post of Director of the Reception and Integration Agency has been announced].
- <sup>4</sup> Lietuvos Respublikos valstybės garantuojamos teisinės pagalbos įstatymo Nr. VIII-1591 1 straipsnio pakeitimo įstatymas [Law on Amendment of Article 1 of the Law No VIII-1591 on State-Guaranteed Legal Aid of the Republic of Lithuania], 30 May 2024.
- <sup>5</sup> Ministry of Social Security and Labor of the Republic of Lithuania | Lietuvos Respublikos socialinės apsaugos ir darbo ministerija. (2024, January 8). [Europos Komisija skyrė beveik 10 mln. eurų Lietuvos pabėgėlių priėmimo sistemai stiprinti](#) [The European Commission allocated almost 10 million euros to strengthen the Lithuanian refugee reception system].
- <sup>6</sup> Regional Administrative Court | Regionų Administracinis Teismas. (2024, June 14). [Regionų administraciniame teisme vis dar jaučiamas migracijos bylų antplūdis](#) [The Regional Administrative Court is still experiencing an influx of migration cases].
- <sup>7</sup> Lietuvos Respublikos administracinių teismų reorganizavimo įstatymas, XIV-1574 [Law on the Reorganisation of Administrative Courts of the Republic of Lithuania, XIV-1574], 24 November 2022.
- <sup>8</sup> Lithuania, Supreme Administrative Court of Lithuania [Lietuvos vyriausiasis administracinis teismas], [ARCH, AOCH v Migration Department of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania](#), No. AB-11565-3-61-3-01247-2024-5, 7 August 2024. Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database.
- <sup>9</sup> Lithuania, Supreme Administrative Court of Lithuania [Lietuvos vyriausiasis administracinis teismas], [K.L. v Migration Department of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania](#), eA-429-556/2024, 24 January 2024. Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database.
- <sup>10</sup> European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA). (June 2024). [Asylum Report 2024](#).
- <sup>11</sup> Human Rights Monitoring Institute | Žmogaus teisių stebėjimo institutas. (2024, March 12). [Vyksta bylinėjimasis, susijęs su Lietuvos Respublikoje įgyvendinama migrantų apgręžimo politika ir jiems taikytais laisvės apribojimais](#) [Litigation concerning the pushback policy of migrants and the restrictions of their liberty implemented in the Republic of Lithuania].
- <sup>12</sup> European Court of Human Rights. (2024, April 17). [Grand Chamber to examine case concerning Cuban nationals' allegations of "pushbacks" from Lithuania to Belarus](#).
- <sup>13</sup> Lithuania, Supreme Administrative Court of Lithuania [Lietuvos vyriausiasis administracinis teismas], [MK v Aliens Registration Centre of the State Border Guard Service under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania](#), No. AB-4807-4-44-3-00011-2024-5, 20 March 2024. Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database.