

Questionnaire for Contracting Parties to the 1961 Apostille Convention



Lithuania

Table of Contents

I.	Implementation of the e-APP.....	1
A.	First component: e-Apostille.....	1
B.	Second component: e-Register.....	2
II.	Technology and the e-APP (including the use of digital signatures)	3
III.	Issuance of e-Apostilles	4
IV.	Operation of an e-Register.....	6
V.	Issues with e-Apostilles.....	6
VI.	Education and training.....	7
VII.	Miscellaneous.....	8
VIII.	Additional information & supporting documents	8

Questionnaire for Contracting Parties to the 1961 Apostille Convention

Please note that not all questions require a response from all Contracting Parties; some are directed only at Contracting Parties that have not implemented one or both components of the e-APP. Likewise, other questions are addressed solely to those who have implemented and operate the e-APP.

I. Implementation of the e-APP

The questions below are intended to identify all Contracting Parties that have implemented one or both components of the e-APP (*i.e.*, those that issue e-Apostilles and/or operate an e-Register). Likewise, for Contracting Parties that have implemented neither component, the questions seek to clarify the stage they have reached in considering the e-APP, as well as the challenges that may be preventing its implementation.

A. First component: e-Apostille

1 Does your State issue e-Apostilles?

- Yes, e-Apostilles have been issued since [insert answer]
 No, e-Apostilles have not been implemented yet.

If not, please specify:

- We are studying the use of e-Apostilles and plan to implement the e-Apostille component. Please specify, if relevant: [Lithuania plans to implement the e-Apostille component as of 1 October 2026, based on Government Resolution No. 119 of 25 February 2026, which amended Government Resolution No. 1079 of 30 October 2006 "On the Approval of the Description of the Procedure for Legalisation and Certification by Apostille of Documents". This amendment establishes the legal basis for issuing e-Apostilles by notaries through the national electronic system "e.Notaras" <https://www.enotaras.lt/>]
 We are not currently planning to implement the e-Apostille component.

For Parties that answered "No, e-Apostilles have not been implemented yet", please answer question 1.1

1.1 What challenges is your State facing that may prevent it from implementing e-Apostilles?

More than one answer is possible.

- Internal law limitations.
 Judicial or administrative structure.
 Implementation challenges (e.g., lack of resources, lack of infrastructure).
 Cost.
 System interoperability / compatibility.
 Security concerns.
 Other – please specify: [insert answer]

If relevant, please explain any of the options above: [Lithuania is not facing fundamental legal obstacles to the implementation of e-Apostilles, as the necessary legal framework has already been established. The remaining challenges are primarily related to the practical implementation of the system, including technical and organisational arrangements.]

2 Regardless of whether your State currently issues e-Apostilles, are your receiving agencies equipped or able to accept and process incoming e-Apostilles (*i.e.*, e-Apostilles issued by other Contracting Parties)?

- Yes, all e-Apostilles can be processed.
- Yes, but on certain conditions – please specify: [insert answer]
- No – please explain why not: [insert answer]
- Unknown.

Please explain further any of the items above, if relevant: [Lithuania recognizes the legal validity of electronic apostilles issued by other Contracting Parties. Competent institutions have access to the e-Registers maintained by other States via the Apostille Section of the HCCH website and are instructed to verify e-Apostilles using the technical means provided. There have been no practical obstacles identified so far that would prevent the acceptance and processing of incoming e-Apostilles]

B. Second component: e-Register

3 Does your State maintain an e-Register?

- Yes, an e-Register has been implemented on [insert answer]
If yes, please indicate any specific features of your e-Register (e.g., whether your State maintains multiple e-Registers, different types of e-Registers for various Competent Authorities, or separate registers for paper and e-Apostilles, etc.): [insert answer]
- No, an e-Register has not been implemented yet.
If not, please specify:
 - We are studying the use of an e-Register and plan to implement the e-Register component. Please specify, if relevant: [Lithuania has adopted legal amendments (Government Resolution No. 119 of 25 February 2026) enabling the use of electronic Apostilles and establishing a centralized e-Register. The e-Register will be integrated into the “e. Notaras” system, managed by the Lithuanian Chamber of Notaries, and become operational on 1 October 2026.]
 - We are not currently planning to implement the e-Register component.

For Parties that answered “No, an e-Register has not been implemented yet”, please answer question 3.1:

3.1 What challenges is your State facing that may prevent it from implementing an e-Register?

More than one answer is possible.

- Internal law limitations.
- Judicial or administrative structure.
- Implementation challenges (e.g., lack of resources, lack of infrastructure).
- Cost.
- System interoperability / compatibility.
- Security concerns.
- Other – please specify: [Lithuania has already adopted the necessary legal framework for the implementation of an e-Register. The national e-Register for both electronic and paper Apostilles issued by notaries will become fully operational on 1 October 2026 under Government Resolution No. 1079 of 30 October 2006, as amended by Government Resolution No. 119 of 25 February 2026. This register will enable the verification of both electronic and paper Apostilles issued by notaries through the centralised “e.Notaras” system. Consular officers, who issue a limited number of paper Apostilles (approximately 370 per year), maintain a separate paper-based register, which will continue to operate independently. No obstacles are currently foreseen to the implementation of the e-Register as planned.]

If relevant, please explain any of the options above: [insert answer]

II. Technology and the e-APP (including the use of digital signatures)

The questions below are intended to further understand how Contracting Parties recognise and use electronic or digital signatures, and how electronic public documents interact with the Apostille process, particularly in cases where the e-Apostille component has not yet been implemented.

For the purposes of this questionnaire, an **electronic signature** is a name, initial, mark or symbol that is affixed to, or logically associated with, a document or other record in electronic form, to evidence the signing of that document or record. A **digital signature** is a special type of electronic signature which works with encryption technology and can be authenticated using a digital certificate.

4 Under your internal law, for your own domestic public documents, do you recognise electronic / digital signatures as functionally equivalent to handwritten (wet) signatures (i.e., allowing your public documents to be signed electronically)?

Yes, please specify (including whether there are any requirements or technical standards for using electronic / digital signatures): [Under Lithuanian law, electronic signatures are recognised as functionally equivalent to handwritten signatures, provided that they comply with the applicable legal and technical requirements. This follows, inter alia, from the Law on Documents and Archives of the Republic of Lithuania, Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 (eIDAS), the Rules for Document Preparation approved by Order No. V-117 of 4 July 2011 of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania, and the Specification for Electronically Signed Electronic Documents ADOC-V1.0 approved by Order No. V-60 of 7 September 2009 of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania.]

No.

Other – for example, electronic signatures are only permissible for certain categories of documents. Please specify: [insert answer]

Unknown.

For Parties that answered Q.4 affirmatively, please answer question 4.1:

4.1 For incoming electronic public documents (i.e., those issued by other Contracting Parties), does your State impose specific requirements or technical standards for accepting electronic / digital signatures?

Yes – please specify the applicable requirements or technical standards: [Lithuania requires that electronic signatures on incoming electronic public documents comply with Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 (eIDAS), as well as applicable national requirements, including the ADOC-V1.0 specification and the formats specified in Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/1506.]

No.

Other – please specify: [insert answer]

Unknown.

5 Under your internal law, do foreign electronic public documents have the same probative value as paper public documents?

Yes – Please specify (including whether your receiving agencies are able to accept and process incoming electronic public documents): [Foreign electronic public documents may have the same probative value as paper documents, provided that they comply with Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 (eIDAS) and applicable national requirements, and that their authenticity and integrity can be verified]

No.

It depends – please specify: [insert answer]

Other – please specify: [insert answer]

Unknown.

If relevant, please explain further any of the options above: [insert answer]

6 Under your internal law, are public documents executed, or able to be executed, in electronic form (whether or not they are to be used abroad under the 1961 Apostille Convention)?

- Yes, all public documents are executed or able to be executed in electronic form.
 Yes, certain categories of public documents are executed or able to be executed in electronic form.
 No, public documents are never executed in electronic form.

If relevant, please explain any of the options above: [Pursuant to Article 2(17) of the Law on Documents and Archives of the Republic of Lithuania, an official electronic document is an electronic document drawn up, approved or received by a State or municipal institution, agency or undertaking, or by a person authorised by the State, signed with an electronic signature and included in the official records. Public sector institutions prepare and exchange electronic documents in accordance with the Rules for Document Preparation, approved by Order No. V-117 of 4 July 2011 of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania, and the Specification for Electronically Signed Electronic Documents ADOC-V1.0, approved by Order No. V-60 of 7 September 2009. Electronic documents must comply with the requirements laid down in Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 (eIDAS), including those related to electronic signatures.]

For Parties that answered affirmatively and execute, or are able to execute, public documents in electronic form, please answer question 6.1:

6.1 Can electronic public documents issued in your State be verified by foreign receiving agencies?

- Yes – please specify how they can be verified: [Electronic public documents issued in Lithuania can be verified by foreign receiving agencies using publicly available verification tools. The authenticity and integrity of such documents, including the validity of electronic signatures, can be verified in accordance with the applicable national specifications (ADOC-V1.0) and the requirements of Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 (eIDAS), using dedicated verification services made available by Lithuanian authorities.]
 No.
 Other – please specify: [insert answer]
 Unknown.

6.2 If your State executes, or is able to execute, electronic public documents but has not implemented the e-Apostille component, how is an Apostille issued for such electronic documents?

- The public document must first be *executed* in paper format.
 A hard *copy* of the electronic public document is printed and a paper Apostille is issued and attached.
 Other – please specify: [insert answer]

III. Issuance of e-Apostilles

The questions below are intended to identify any requirements or conditions that Contracting Parties may impose for issuing e-Apostilles, as well as to understand the procedures followed by the Competent Authorities and how the underlying public document is treated.

7 Does your State have any requirements, conditions, or limitations for issuing e-Apostilles? If so, please describe them (e.g., requirements concerning the identity of the applicant; the use of specific platforms or digital solutions for applications; the nature or the form of the underlying public document; etc.).

- Yes – please specify: [Under Lithuanian law, e-Apostilles may be issued only for electronic documents that comply with the applicable legal and technical requirements, including the use of

qualified electronic signatures and/or seals, and subject to prior verification of their authenticity and integrity in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 (eIDAS). e-Apostilles are issued by notaries and are electronically linked to the underlying document in a secure and verifiable manner. Electronic apostilles cannot be affixed to documents originally issued in paper form and later digitized]

No.

Please explain further any of the items above, if relevant: [insert answer]

8 Under your internal law, which of the following formats of public documents are eligible for the issuance of e-Apostilles?

More than one answer is possible.

Electronic public documents.

Paper public documents that have been scanned by a public official.

Paper public documents that have been scanned by applicants.

If relevant, please explain any of the options above: [e-Apostilles may be issued only for electronic public documents. Electronic documents are eligible for the issuance of an e-Apostille provided that they comply with the applicable legal and technical requirements, including the use of a qualified electronic signature and/or a qualified electronic seal, and that their authenticity and integrity can be verified. Paper documents, including scanned copies, are not eligible for the issuance of e-Apostilles]

9 Does your State issue paper Apostilles alongside e-Apostilles?

Yes.

No, we only issue e-Apostilles.

9.1 If yes, please indicate the proportion of e-Apostilles issued in comparison to paper Apostilles. If known, provide any specific reasons that may explain the difference in proportions.

[Currently, e-Apostilles are not issued in Lithuania; therefore, all Apostilles are issued in paper form.]

9.2 If yes, what are the criteria for issuing paper Apostilles versus e-Apostilles (e.g., is the nature or the form of the underlying public document decisive, or can applicants choose between the two formats)?

[At present, Apostilles are issued only in paper form in Lithuania. Following the entry into force of the relevant legal amendments on 1 October 2026, the form of the Apostille will depend on the format of the underlying public document. Paper Apostilles will be issued for documents in paper form, while e-Apostilles will be issued for electronic public documents that meet the applicable legal and technical requirements. Paper documents are eligible for an Apostille where their authenticity is confirmed by the signature of the issuing authority and, where applicable, an official seal or stamp, and where the capacity of the signatory is indicated. Electronic public documents are eligible for an e-Apostille provided that they comply with the applicable requirements, including being signed with a qualified electronic signature and/or sealed with a qualified electronic seal, and that their authenticity and integrity can be verified using appropriate verification tools or validation services.]

9.3 If not, how does your State issue e-Apostilles for paper-based documents?

[insert answer]

10 When issuing e-Apostilles for electronic public documents, does your State preserve the electronic / digital signature of the underlying document?

Yes, the electronic / digital signature is preserved. Please explain how this is done: [The qualified electronic signature and/or seal of the underlying electronic document is preserved, and the e-Apostille is electronically linked to that document in a manner ensuring inseparability, integrity and verifiability.]

No, only the electronic / digital signature of the e-Apostille is preserved.

If relevant, please explain any of the options above: [insert answer]

11 When issuing e-Apostilles, how does your Competent Authority complete the standard informational items on the Certificate? Please indicate whether there are any differences compared with issuing paper Apostilles or authenticating paper public documents.

The Competent Authority completes all standard informational items in the same manner as when issuing paper Apostilles or authenticating paper public documents.

The Competent Authority completes the items differently as follows:

- Items 2-4: [insert answer]
- Items 7 and/or 10: [insert answer]

12 In addition to the digital signature, does your e-Apostille include any other security or technical features, such as QR codes, encryption, digital watermarks, or similar measures?

[In addition to the qualified electronic signature, the e-Apostille is electronically linked to the underlying document in a manner ensuring inseparability, integrity and verifiability. Apostille data are also made available for validity verification through the information technology platform of the Lithuanian Chamber of Notaries.]

IV. Operation of an e-Register

13 What particulars are contained in your e-Register?

More than one answer is possible.

- Number and date of the Apostille (required).
- Name and capacity of the person signing the document and / or the name of authority whose seal or stamp is affixed (required).
- Name and / or type of underlying document.
- Description of the contents of underlying document.
- Name of the applicant.
- State of destination.
- Copy of the Apostille.
- Copy of the underlying public document.
- Other – please specify: [Data necessary to verify the authenticity and validity of the Apostille, including data enabling the identification of the Apostille, the issuing notary, and the underlying document]

If relevant, please explain any of the options above: [insert answer]

V. Issues with e-Apostilles

The questions below are intended to assess the practical acceptance of e-Apostilles among Contracting Parties to the 1961 Apostille Convention. They aim to identify whether e-Apostilles issued or received by a Contracting Party have ever been refused, the reasons for any such refusals, and the actions taken in response.

14 Has an e-Apostille issued by your Competent Authority ever been refused by the authorities of another Contracting Party?

- Unknown.
 No.
 Yes, please provide any further information, in particular the reasons why the e-Apostille was refused, if known: [insert answer]

15 If an e-Apostille has been rejected, what actions were taken in response?

More than one answer is possible.

- A paper Apostille was issued instead.
 Contacted the receiving authority.
 Contacted the Competent Authority of the place of destination.
 Contacted nearest diplomatic mission of the place of destination.
 Contacted own diplomatic mission accredited to the place of destination.
 Contacted the Permanent Bureau.
 No action taken.
 Other, please specify: [insert answer]
 Unknown.

If relevant, please explain any of the options above: [Not applicable. Lithuania does not yet issue e-Apostilles.]

16 Has an e-Apostille received by your authorities ever been refused?

- Unknown.
 No.
 Yes, please provide any further information, in particular the reasons why the e-Apostille was refused, if known: [insert answer]

If relevant, please explain any of the options above: [To date, no cases have been identified where an incoming e-Apostille has been refused.]

VI. Education and training

17 Has your State implemented training activities or issued any guidelines on the operation of the e-APP for officers in the Competent Authority(ies)?

- No.
 Yes, please specify: [In preparation for the implementation of electronic apostille certification in Lithuania as of October 1, 2026, the Lithuanian Chamber of Notaries plans to develop training materials or a user guide for notaries.]

18 Has your State implemented training activities or issued any guidelines on the acceptance of e-Apostilles and the operation of e-Registers for receiving authorities?

- No.
 Yes, please specify: [insert answer]

If your State has issued guidelines or supporting documentation for receiving authorities, please indicate the format used, the type of information included, how the documents have been distributed, and how frequently they are issued, if known: [insert answer]

19 Is / Are your Competent Authority(ies) willing and able to meet with other Competent Authorities to discuss the implementation and operation of the e-APP and to exchange experiences?

- Yes, please specify: [In Lithuania, the implementation of the electronic apostille and electronic register project was carried out in cooperation between three institutions: the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania, the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, and the Lithuanian Chamber of Notaries. Although no meetings were held with

institutions from other countries, the project was implemented in accordance with best practices developed by the HCCH.

No, please specify: [insert answer].

Unknown.

VII. Miscellaneous

20 Do you have any suggestions that could assist in the promotion, implementation, and / or operation of the e-APP?

No.

Yes – please specify: [Continued exchange of best practices between Contracting Parties, as well as the development of practical guidance and technical standards at the international level, would further facilitate the consistent implementation and operation of the e-APP.]

21 Are there any specific topics or practical issues related to the e-APP that your State would like have discussed at the 14th International Forum on the e-APP?

No.

Yes – please specify: [Lithuania would welcome further discussion on interoperability, verification of e-Apostilles, and practical guidance for their implementation and use. It is also important to discuss practical issues related to the issuance of e-apostilles, including cases in which apostilles may not be accepted, as well as other related matters.]

22 Please confirm whether your responses to this questionnaire can be published on the HCCH website.

No.

Yes – please specify whether certain questions should not be published: [None]

VIII. Additional information & supporting documents

23 Please indicate any additional information or documentation to support your response. This may include resources for the general public or guidelines for Competent Authority staff, as well as any recent judicial decisions, legislative developments, books, articles, or published works relevant to the operation of the 1961 Apostille Convention.

[The legal framework governing the issuance of Apostilles and the use of electronic public documents in the Republic of Lithuania is established in national and European Union legislation. In particular, it includes the Government Resolution No. 1079 of 30 October 2006 “On the Approval of the Description of the Procedure for Legalisation and Certification by Apostille of Documents” (<https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/en/legalAct/71c4ce30163f11f1a552c76556910e9c>), the Law on Documents and Archives of the Republic of Lithuania (<https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/en/legalAct/TAR.1FEF229DA7C6/iHxgXXcDDA>), the Specification for Electronically Signed Electronic Documents ADOC-V1.0 approved by Order No. V-60 of 7 September 2009 of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania (<https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/en/legalAct/TAR.11EFBB8DA962/fKOVGtVoin>), and Order No. VE-14 of 28 April 2025 of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania on the application of electronic document specifications (<https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/en/legalAct/6209a231241f11f08fdabd4950271e2c>). It also includes Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 (eIDAS) and Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/1506.]

Please attach any relevant documents when submitting the questionnaire to secretariat@hcch.net.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.