

Name of State:	LITHUANIA
Information for follow-up purposes	
Name and title of contact person:	Giedre Mikalauskiene, legal adviser, Adoptions and Guardianship Division
Name of Authority / Office	State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour
Telephone number:	+370 645 17318
E-mail address:	giedre.mikalauskiene@vaikoteises.lt

1. POST-ADOPTION MATTERS

1.1. Preservation of, and access to, information

Both States of origin and receiving States

1.1.1. Preservation of information and use of data

1.	<p>Has your State centralised, in a public facility, information concerning the child's origins and the adoption of the child?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify where the information is centralised:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour (hereinafter - the Service), which was established in accordance with the Article 2 of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Ratification of the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, started operating from the 1st of August, 2000. Since then the Service keeps all information regarding adopted children. Information concerning the child's origins is limited to data, existing in adoption files. If the fact that a person was adopted is confirmed by the Service, according to the provisions of Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania, a person should apply to the court that examined the adoption case for permission to get acquainted with all the facts of the adoption case and request permission to receive information in accordance with Chapter XXXIV of the Code of Civil Procedure of the Republic of Lithuania. In accordance with Article 3.221 of the Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania, information about the adoption may be provided with the permission of the court if this information is necessary for the health of the child, his/her close relative or other important reasons, so the person should base his/her request to the court on important grounds.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No. Please specify where the information is stored:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Please insert text here</p>
2.	<p>Has your State encountered situations where personal data obtained during the intercountry adoption process has been misused (see Art. 31 of the Convention)?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please provide details of the types of situations your State encountered and the action(s) taken in response:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p>

1.1.2. Search for origins

3.	<p>Is there a specialised programme or section in the Central Authority which deals with the search for the origins of an adoptee?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please provide its name and explain the services provided:</p> <p>Adoptions and Guardianship Division is responsible for the search for adopted children, their biological parents, siblings and other relatives. In 2019 (as well as in 2018) the Service received requests from 40 families (persons) asking to help them to find relatives of their adopted children, to provide information about the adoption of their relatives, to mediate in establishing a connection between a family of foreigners who have adopted a child from the Republic of Lithuania and their brothers, sisters or other relatives in Lithuania. For further information please see answer No 8 below.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No. Please specify how the search for the origins is handled:</p> <p>Please insert text here</p>
4.	<p>Has your State developed any good practices to ensure that Recommendation No 21¹ of the 2015 Special Commission is implemented?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the good practices developed in that regard:</p> <p>One of the tasks of adoptive parents in raising a child deprived of parental care is to provide knowledge about the child's past, to pass on all known information about the child's biological parents, siblings, grandparents or other relatives in order to fill gaps in the knowledge of the child 's origin. The Service, performing the functions indicated above in answer No 3, provides professional support in such cases and provides comprehensive information as far as it's competence and legal provisions allow.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No. Please specify any reasons:</p> <p>Please insert text here</p>
5.	<p>If your State allows for the use of DNA testing to search for origins, please specify:</p> <p>(a) which body is in charge of the DNA testing (e.g., government, private companies, NGOs); N/A</p> <p>(b) where the data is stored, and whether it is stored by a public or private entity; N/A</p> <p>(c) the average cost of a DNA test in your State and whether any subsidy is available; N/A</p> <p>(d) details of any challenges and / or good practices your State may have developed with respect to the issues identified in this question and DNA testing in general. N/A</p>
6.	<p>What is your State's practice when the background information of an adoption is incomplete or non-existent? How does your State support adoptees in such situations?</p> <p>Please see answer No 1 above. If it's impossible to determine the court which has examined adoption case (especially in old times, when the Service didn't exist) the person is provided with the information, in which archive his/her documents may be stored, normally Lithuanian</p>

¹ [“Conclusions and Recommendations adopted by the Fourth Meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1993 Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention \(8-12 June 2015\)”](#), C&R No 21 (hereinafter, “C&R of the 2015 SC”):

“The SC recommended that the possibility of a child searching for his or her origins be **included** in the **counselling and preparation** of the prospective adoptive parents. When an adopted child or an adult adoptee undertakes such a search, **professional support** at all stages is recommended” [emphasis added].

	Central Archive is that institution which may help in such case and then the person is advised which court to apply with regards to the provisions of the Civil Code indicated above.
7.	What is the procedure in your State when illicit practices are discovered during a search for origins? Please provide details of any challenges and / or good practices. N/A
8.	If statistics are available in your State regarding the number of adoptees who are searching / have searched for their origins, please specify: (a) how many of these searches were successful (e.g., the adoptee found his birth family); The Service doesn't have such successful/unsuccessful statistics. Please be informed that summarizing the content of the received inquiries in 2019, 50% of applicants were adopted children or their adoptive families, 38% - siblings, grandparents or other relatives of adopted children. 92% of the requests were intentions to find out the possibilities of mutual communication. It should be noted that 70% of these applications consist of applications from children adopted abroad or their adoptive parents. In 2019, 5 requests from birth parents for information on their adopted children were received. Birth parents expressed their wish regarding the possibilities of mutual communication - restoration and maintenance of mutual communication in the future. Considering that according to Lithuanian legislation (Article 3.227(2) of the Civil Code) adoptive parents are treated as child's parents under the law from the day on which the court judgement on adoption enters into force, adoptive parents, acting as the child's representatives in accordance with the law, have the right to make decisions that best meet the interests of the children. When dealing with such inquiries, the Service contacts the representative of the family (accredited body) of adopted children in accordance with the law, forwards the request of the biological family, who personally decides on the possibilities of communication. Analyzing any inquiries related to biological searches of adopted children, the Service has an important role to play in ensuring that pending requests for communication do not harm the legitimate interests of any of the parties. (b) how many were not successful and what were the reasons. N/A
9.	Has your State encountered any challenges with regard to access to information due to the confidentiality of the identity of the birth parents ? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the challenges and how your State addressed them: Please insert text here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.
10.	Does your State make a distinction between the disclosure of identifying versus non-identifying information? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please explain your response: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> No. Please explain your response: N/A
11.	What is the procedure in your State for processing requests from the birth family to receive information concerning the adoption of their child? Does your State have a specific programme / database to handle such requests? Please see answer No 8 above.

1.1.3. Guidelines and good practices

12.	<p>Has your State developed any guidelines (e.g., procedures, manuals) and / or good practices regarding preservation of information and search for origins?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please provide a link or attach a copy with your response: Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
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1.2. Post-adoption services²

Both States of origin and receiving States

13.	<p>Has your State developed any good practices to ensure that Recommendation No 18³ of the 2015 Special Commission is implemented?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the good practices developed in that regard: Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. Please specify any reasons: As Lithuania is a country of origin, after the judgement on adoption adoptive families and their adopted children are no longer under jurisdiction of Lithuania, except the obligation to provide the Service with a feedback on the adopted children. With regards to national adoptions, Lithuania has developed post-adoption services for domestic adopters and their adoptees.</p>
14.	<p>If your State provides specialised post-adoption services, please specify:</p> <p>(a) the type of services provided and to whom they are provided (e.g., child and adult adoptees, birth families, adoptive families); N/A</p> <p>(b) who provides the services (e.g., social welfare administration, school, health personnel); N/A</p> <p>(c) whether the professionals involved in the post-adoption services are the same as those involved in the preparation of the prospective adoptive parents (PAPs); N/A</p> <p>(d) how, if there are different services, these various services are coordinated; N/A</p> <p>(e) how the post-adoption services are financed (e.g., the government funds its own services, the government funds Adoption Accredited Bodies (AAB) services, adoptees and their families pay for the services themselves, other); N/A</p> <p>(f) the length of time this support is available. N/A</p>

² Post-adoption services may be provided to adoptees, birth families and adoptive families.

³ C&R No 18 of the 2015 SC:

“The SC recognised that post-adoption services are essential and should take into account the **lifelong nature** of adoption. States are encouraged to develop **specialised post-adoption services**, in addition to the general services already in place” [emphasis added].

15.	Please provide details of any good practices in your State which ensure that adoptees, adoptive families and birth families are adequately informed about, and can easily access , post-adoption services. Please see answer No 13.
16.	In setting up post-adoption services in your State, were the voices of adoptees considered? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify in what way their voices were considered: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> No.
17.	Has research been carried out in your State in the past five years assessing post-adoption services? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please provide a link or attach a copy with your response: Please insert text here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.

Receiving States only

18.	Please specify any challenges your State encounters in ensuring that adequate support is in place for adoptees and the adoptive family following an intercountry adoption, including where parents have adopted a child with special needs . Please also share any good practices your State has developed to overcome such challenges. ⁴ Please insert text here
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1.3. Post-adoption reports

Receiving States only

19.	Does the preparation of PAPs in your State include the provision of information on post-adoption report requirements of the State where the PAPs (would like to) adopt? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please explain your response: Please insert text here <input type="checkbox"/> No. Please specify when and how PAPs are otherwise informed: Please insert text here
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Both States of origin and receiving States

20.	Has your State encountered situations where the adopted child refused or objected to the obligation to comply with the post-adoption report requirements? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the types of situations and what action your State has taken to address this type of situation: Please insert text here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.
21.	What has been your State's recent experience regarding post-adoption reports? Please provide details of any challenges and / or good practices in this regard.

⁴ If applicable, you may wish to refer to your State's response to Question 17 of "[Prel. Doc. No 2 of October 2014 - Questionnaire No 2 on the practical operation of the 1993 Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention](#)" (hereinafter "[2014 Questionnaire](#)").

In these latter years the Service has received over 200 reports on feedback every year, submitted by the authorized institutions of foreign states as well as central adoption institutions. The Service gets letters from the families after adoption, they send photos, drawings of children as well. The authorized institutions of foreign states shall furnish the Service with the feedback on the adopted children during the first 2 years following the adoption – every six months, during the next 2 years – once a year, in 4 years following the adoption – upon the Service’s request, consisting of notices of the prescribed form of the integration in the family, living conditions, development, health, and photo/video material of the adopted child. Usually the children are active, agile, smart, fond of sports and staying outside. Their physical development is good and they do not have major health problems. After a while the children become social, in good mood, though for quite some time they still need the parents to help and comfort them as regards to the problems relevant to anger, anxiety, alienation, fear of abandonment and new environment. Children are taught to accept certain rules and stick to them consistently with a view to ensure stable routine. Some of the children undergo crises, which prevent from smooth process of adaptation to a new family. Often the parents have to consult the psychiatrists or psychologists, in some cases, the medicines are prescribed for children. From the feedback we see that the adoptive families face the emotional and social problems of the children more than the health problems. According to the adoptive parents, the peace comes slowly thanks to tremendous effort of both the parents and of the children. It is indicated in the reports that as a matter of fact the adopted children have no problems to have harmonious communication with their cousins, aunts, uncles, and other relatives, whereas such communication with the parents is usually missing for quite a few months. It should be noted that the children, adopted at an older age, usually remember, in their opinion, neglect in foster home or foster family. After a while such adopted children gradually adapt to new environment, learn the language, make friends etc. Almost all adoptive parents (approximately 70%, as it was indicated above) wish to establish or maintain relations with the Lithuanian culture, especially some time later in the future. They communicate (or intend to communicate) with the foster home, where the adopted children used to live, biological family and relatives, who stayed in the homeland of the adopted children, they speak about Lithuania, life in Lithuania, as well as engage in the activities of the Lithuanian community. Rather often in the beginning the children deny and repudiate the connection to Lithuania, later they grow up, but the mother-tongue is already forgotten. Then the adopted children often start telling their memories from their life in Lithuania, they want to visit their home country, socialize with their relatives, etc. The Service provides professional support at all stages according to the need.

One of the recent challenges in Service's experience regarding post-adoption reports was situation, when the Service identified that post-adoption reports were prepared and signed by adoptive families themselves, not by representatives of accredited body or social services of that foreign country. Accredited body was just forwarding such reports to the Service without verification of information provided and without visiting the family. Such practice was considered inappropriate by the Service and indicated as improper when the matter on prolongation of the activities of that accredited body to act in Lithuania in the field of inter-country adoptions was under consideration. Since then the accredited body committed to provide post-adoption reports properly.

1.4. Adoption breakdowns

Both States of origin and receiving States

22. If your State has had any experience regarding **intercountry adoptions which have broken down**, please specify:⁵
- (a) what have been the main **causes** of the breakdowns;⁶
- (b) how your State **has addressed** these situations and whether your State has any good practices to share in this regard;⁷
- (c) what **support** is available for the adoptee and the adoptive family to prevent and / or respond to the breakdown of intercountry adoptions;
- (d) whether your State has developed any good practices to ensure that **Recommendation No 19**⁸ of the 2015 Special Commission is implemented:
- Yes. Please specify any good practices developed in this regard:
- [The Service puts the biggest efforts to select the family best suited to the child's interests and special needs in order to avoid such breakdowns and as the practice shows they are really rare.](#)
- No. Please specify any reasons:
- [Please insert text here](#)
- (e) whether your State has experienced breakdown cases in which it was determined that it was in the child's best interests to **return** to the State of origin, and if so, what the situations were and how they were handled;
- (f) **how many** cases of breakdown in intercountry adoptions have been reported in your State between 2015 and the present date;
- (g) how many of these cases included a **new placement** (*e.g.*, foster care, new adoption) for the child;
- (h) how many cases of breakdowns were intercountry adoptions done (a) under the **1993 Adoption Convention** ; and (b) outside of the Convention (*i.e.*, prior to the entry into force of the Convention in your State or with non-State Party);

⁵ If the Central Authority in your State is not informed about this information because it relates to a child protection measure which is a different department / institution than the Central Authority, we would be grateful if you could request this information from the relevant authorities in your State.

⁶ If applicable, you may wish to refer to your State's response to Question 18(a) of the [2014 Questionnaire](#).

⁷ If applicable, you may wish to refer to your State's response to Question 18(b) of the [2014 Questionnaire](#).

⁸ C&R No 19 of the 2015 SC:

"The SC recognised that appropriate evaluations, preparation, reports, matching and post-adoption support, in relation to both the child and prospective adoptive parents, will reduce the risk of the breakdown of intercountry adoptions."

- (i) in line with **Recommendation No 20**⁹ of the 2015 Special Commission, whether your State has applied the **1996 Child Protection Convention** to enhance cooperation between States of origin and receiving States in cases of breakdown, and if so, please explain.

Yes, in one of the recent cases the Service applied to the CA of receiving country on the grounds of 1996 Child Protection Convention and we are still cooperating regarding this matter.

Receiving States only

23.	<p>Is your State's Central Authority informed and involved / consulted when an intercountry adoption breaks down?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please explain your response: Please insert text here</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No. Please specify whether the staff of the child protection services include workers specialised in adoption: Please insert text here</p>
24.	<p>Do your State's authorities consult with the Central Authority of the child's State of origin:</p> <p>(a) if an adoption breaks down?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please describe the type of cooperation: Please insert text here</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p> <p>(b) before determining a new placement for the child?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please describe the type of cooperation: Please insert text here</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p>

States of origin only

25.	<p>Is your State's Central Authority (or other competent authority) informed or involved / consulted by the competent authorities of the child's receiving State:</p> <p>(a) if an adoption breaks down?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please describe the type of cooperation: As adoption to foreign states from Lithuania is available only through accredited bodies (with exception when adopters or one of them is the citizen of Lithuania and they apply through CA of receiving country) of those states, if any troubles occur, these bodies inform the Service, later on the Service contacts the CA of that state in order to clarify the situation and find out about what measures are taken in order to ensure child's best interests.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
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⁹ C&R No 20 of the 2015 SC:

"The SC encouraged States to consider ratification of, or accession to, the *Hague Convention of 19 October 1996 on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Cooperation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children* (hereinafter, "the 1996 Hague Convention") in view of its relevance in enhancing cooperation to protect children in many different situations, including following the breakdown of intercountry adoptions."

	<p>(b) before determining a new placement for the child?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please describe the type of cooperation: Please insert text here</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
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1.5. Other post-adoption matters

States of origin only

26.	<p>Are adoptees, who did not retain the nationality of their State of origin, permitted to regain it at a later stage?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the conditions to regain nationality: The law on citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania states that a child - citizen of the Republic of Lithuania who is adopted by citizens of another state, remains a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania, regardless of whether he or she has acquired the citizenship of another state due to adoption.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No. Please explain your response: Please insert text here</p>
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Both States of origin and receiving States

27.	<p>Has your State encountered situations where adoptees have sought to regain the nationality of their State of origin?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the situations and how they were handled: Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
28.	<p>Please give the reasons, if any, why your State would or would not support the development of a Guide to Good Practice on post-adoption.</p> <p>The Service supports the initiative of the development of a Guide to Good Practice on post-adoption matters, and considers it necessary and welcome.</p>

2. PREVENTING AND ADDRESSING ILLICIT PRACTICES

Both States of origin and receiving States

29.	<p>Have illicit practices in intercountry adoption been discovered since 2015 in your State?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify:</p> <p>(a) the type of illicit practices which were discovered; Please insert text here</p> <p>(b) when the illicit practices were discovered (<i>i.e.</i>, during or after the adoption procedure); Please insert text here</p> <p>(c) whether the illicit practices were done under or outside the scope of the 1993 Adoption Convention; Please insert text here</p> <p>(d) how your State handled these situations; Please insert text here</p>
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.
30.	Please specify any good practices of your State to prevent and address illicit practices. Transparent and clearly defined adoption procedures prevent illicit practices.
31.	Is it possible in your State to annul an intercountry adoption? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify: (a) the authority which has jurisdiction to do so; Please insert text here (b) who can request the annulment (<i>e.g.</i> , adoptee, adoptive parents, birth parents); Please insert text here (c) the grounds upon which this may be done; Please insert text here (d) whether there is an age limit for the annulment of an adoption; Please insert text here (e) the procedure involved; Please insert text here (f) the number of intercountry adoptions which are on average annulled per year. Please insert text here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.
32.	Is it possible in your State to revoke an intercountry adoption? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify: (a) the authority which has the jurisdiction to do so; Please insert text here (b) who can request the revocation (<i>e.g.</i> , adoptee, adoptive parents, birth parents); Please insert text here (c) the grounds upon which this is done; Please insert text here (d) whether there is an age limit for the revocation of the adoption; Please insert text here (e) the procedure involved; Please insert text here (f) the number of intercountry adoptions which are on average revoked per year. Please insert text here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.

3. INTRAFAMILY ADOPTIONS

In this Questionnaire, an “intrafamily adoption” is one in which the adoptive parent(s) are either **relatives** of the child (e.g., an aunt, a grandparent, a cousin) or a **stepparent** of the child. These adoptions are respectively referred to as “relative adoptions” and “stepparent adoptions.” The Convention applies to all intrafamily adoptions.¹⁰

3.1. General questions for intrafamily adoptions (i.e., relative and stepparent adoptions)

Both States of origin and receiving States

33.	<p>In your State, which authority is in charge of intrafamily adoptions?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The Central Authority.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Another competent authority. Please specify which authority and the reasons for designating a different authority:</p> <p>We don't have practice of inter-country (neither by relatives nor stepparents) intrafamily adoptions, so there are no answers to questions No 34-45.</p>
34.	<p>Has your State developed any good practices to ensure that Recommendation No 32¹¹ of the 2015 Special Commission is implemented?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the good practices developed in that regard:</p> <p>Please insert text here</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No. Please specify any reasons:</p> <p>Please insert text here</p>
35.	<p>Are there specific guidelines or procedures for intrafamily adoptions in your State?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please provide a link or attach a copy with your response:</p> <p>Please insert text here</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
36.	<p>Has your State encountered any particular difficulties with adoptability decisions in the context of intrafamily adoptions?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the situations and how they were handled:¹²</p> <p>Please insert text here</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
37.	<p>In your State, does the termination of the pre-existing legal relationship affect only the child and his or her mother and father, or does it also affect the other members of the family (see Art. 26(1)(c) of the Convention)?</p>

¹⁰ See Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law, [Guide to Good Practice No 1: The Implementation and Operation of the 1993 Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention](#), Bristol, Family Law (Jordan Publishing Limited), 2008 (hereinafter, “[Guide to Good Practice No 1](#)”), sections 8.6.4 and 8.6.5.

¹¹ C&R No 32 of the 2015 SC:
 “In relation to in-family adoption, the SC:
 a. recalled that in-family adoptions **fall within the scope** of the Convention;
 b. recalled the need to respect the **safeguards** of the Convention, in particular to **counsel** and **prepare** the prospective adoptive parents;
 c. recognised that the **matching** process might be **adapted** to the specific features of infamily adoptions;
 d. recommended that the **motivations** of all parties should be **examined** to determine whether the child is genuinely **in need of adoption**;
 e. recognised that it is necessary to undertake an **individualised assessment of each child’s situation** and it should **not** be **automatically assumed** that either an in-country or infamily placement is in a child’s best interests” [emphasis added].

¹² If applicable, you may wish to refer to your State's response to Question 3(b) of the [2014 Questionnaire](#).

	<input type="checkbox"/> It only affects the child and his or her mother and father. <input type="checkbox"/> It affects the child and his or her mother and father, but also the other members of the family. <input type="checkbox"/> Other. Please explain your response: Please insert text here
38.	<p>Has your State encountered cases of breakdown in intrafamily intercountry adoptions?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please provide information on (a) the number of breakdowns; (b) the causes of the breakdowns; and (c) the ways your State addresses(ed) them: Please insert text here
	<input type="checkbox"/> No.
39.	<p>In the context of intrafamily intercountry adoptions, does your State cooperate with States with which it normally does not cooperate?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify any challenges your State encounters and share any good practices your State may have developed in this regard: Please insert text here
	<input type="checkbox"/> No.

States of origin only

40.	<p>In your State, is the subsidiarity principle applied in the same manner to intrafamily intercountry adoptions?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. <input type="checkbox"/> No. Please describe any different procedures used and explain the reasons for these different procedures: ¹³ Please insert text here
41.	<p>Is intrafamily adoption used frequently to protect children within the extended family and / or are there other child protection measures (<i>e.g.</i>, kinship care, foster care) that your State applies to protect children within the extended family?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Intrafamily adoption is used frequently. Please explain your response: Please insert text here
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other child protection measures are applied. Please specify:
	<p>(a) which other child protection measures are applied to protect children within the extended family: Please insert text here </p>
	<p>(b) if your State is a Party to the 1996 Child Protection Convention, whether your State applies that Convention to give effect to these other child protection measures in other Contracting States: Please insert text here </p>

3.2. Stepparent adoptions

¹³ If applicable, you may wish to refer to your State's response to Question 33(i) of the [2014 Questionnaire](#).

Both States of origin and receiving States

42.	<p>Does your State apply the 1993 Adoption Convention to stepparent intercountry adoptions?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No. Please specify any reasons: Please insert text here</p>
43.	<p>What is the profile of children who are adopted intercountry by a stepparent, either in your State or in the State with which your State cooperates?</p> <p>Please insert text here</p>
44.	<p>(a) Please specify any challenges your State encounters with stepparent intercountry adoptions: Please insert text here</p> <p>(b) Please specify any good practices of your State for stepparent intercountry adoptions, including those for overcoming any challenges: Please insert text here</p>

3.3. Intrafamily adoptions and circumvention of immigration lawsBoth States of origin and receiving States

45.	<p>Has your State encountered situations where intrafamily adoptions were sought / used to circumvent immigration laws?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify what the situations were and how your State addressed these situations: Please insert text here</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
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4. DETERMINING THE CHILD'S HABITUAL RESIDENCE WHEN THE MOTHER MOVES TO ANOTHER STATE SHORTLY BEFORE GIVING BIRTH

Scenario: A pregnant woman, habitually resident in one State (State A), travels to another State (State B) where she gives birth to her child and relinquishes her newborn child for adoption in that other State (i.e., State B).

Both States of origin and receiving States

46.	<p>If your State has been involved in situation(s) similar to the above-described scenario:</p> <p>(a) was your State the State of habitual residence of the mother (State A), the State of birth of the child (State B), or another State? Please insert text here</p> <p>(b) how was the child's habitual residence determined? Which factors were considered? Please insert text here</p> <p>(c) if adoption was considered the best option for the child, did your State determine it as being a domestic adoption or an intercountry adoption? Please insert text here</p> <p>(d) what challenges did your State face in dealing with such situation(s)? Please insert text here</p>
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	<p>(e) if your State was the State where the child was born, was contact sought with the State of habitual residence of the mother? Was there any cooperation between the concerned States?</p> <p>Please insert text here</p>
47.	<p>If there is a risk that the situation described above involves a case of human trafficking, would this be considered by your State when determining the child's habitual residence?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please explain your response: Please insert text here</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No. Please explain your response: Please insert text here</p>
48.	<p>Which actions would your State take to address the case where both your State and the other State:</p> <p>(a) would determine the child's habitual residence to be in their State? Please insert text here</p> <p>(b) would determine the child's habitual residence not to be in their State? Please insert text here</p>

5. SIMPLE AND OPEN ADOPTIONS

Both States of origin and receiving States

5.1. Simple adoptions

A simple adoption is one in which the parent-child relationship which existed before the adoption is not terminated but a new legal parent-child relationship between the child and his or her adoptive parents is established, and these adoptive parents have parental responsibility for the child.¹⁴

49.	<p>Has your State changed its legislation, rules or practices in recent years regarding simple intercountry adoption?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the changes made and the reasons for these changes: Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
50.	<p>What is the profile of children for whom a simple intercountry adoption is made, either in your State or in the State(s) with which your State cooperates? Please insert text here</p>
51.	<p>If your State permits both full and simple adoption, are simple adoptions encouraged / promoted?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please explain your response: Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. Please explain your response: In Lithuania only full adoptions are permitted.</p>

¹⁴ See [Guide to Good Practice No 1](#), Glossary.

52.	<p>Has your State faced any problems regarding seeking the birth mother / family's consent to convert a simple adoption into a full adoption in the State of origin (Art. 27 of the Convention)?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the situations which have arisen and how your State has dealt with these situations: Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
53.	<p>(a) Please specify any challenges your State encounters with simple adoptions: Please insert text here</p> <p>(b) Please specify any good practices of your State for simple adoptions, including those for overcoming any challenges: Please insert text here</p>

5.2. Open adoptions / openness in adoption

54.	<p>Does the terms "open adoption", "openness in adoption" or similar concepts exist in your State?¹⁵</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify: (a) how it is defined; (b) whether it is provided by law, regulation or only in practice; and (c) whether it is promoted in your State: Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. Please explain what is understood in your State by the terms "open adoption", "openness in adoption" or similar concepts: In Lithuanian legislation there is no such term, so the answers to questions No 55-60 are not being submitted.</p>
55.	<p>Has your State changed its legislation, rules or practices in recent years regarding open or openness in intercountry adoption?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the changes made and the reasons for these changes: Please insert text here</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
56.	<p>Has your State developed any good practices to ensure that Recommendation No 31¹⁶ of the 2015 Special Commission is implemented?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the good practices developed in that regard: Please insert text here</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No. Please specify any reasons: Please insert text here</p>

¹⁵ If applicable, you may wish to refer to your State's response to Questions 19 and 20 of the [2014 Questionnaire](#).

¹⁶ C&R No 31 of the 2015 SC:

"The SC noted that, where not prohibited by domestic legislation, and after professional matching, **contact between the adoptee and biological family** in intercountry adoption may be **beneficial** in some cases. In order to maximise the benefits and minimise the risks of such contact, professional support should be offered to prepare the parties, as well as to assist them during and after contact. The adopted child's best interests should guide the nature of this contact, considering his or her wishes" [emphasis added].

57.	<p>(a) What is the profile of children for whom an open intercountry adoption is made, either in your State or in the State(s) with which your State cooperates? Please insert text here</p> <p>(b) Does your State have a specific approach depending on the profile of these children? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify these different approaches: Please insert text here</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
58.	<p>Does your State provide professional support or services to birth families (in the case of States of origin) or adoptive families (in the case of receiving States) and adoptees in open adoptions (e.g., support for contact agreements, supervising contact after adoption)?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the support / services provided and any challenges and / or good practices in this regard: Please insert text here</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No. Please explain your response: Please insert text here</p>
59.	<p>Has your State encountered situations where adoptees, adoptive parents and / or birth parents wanted to change the frequency or the method of contact between them after the adoption?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify what action was taken in response: Please insert text here</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
60.	<p>(a) Please specify any other challenges your State encounters regarding open adoptions: Please insert text here</p> <p>(b) Please specify any good practices of your State with regard to open adoptions, including those for overcoming any challenges: Please insert text here</p>

6. NON-CONSENSUAL ADOPTIONS

In this Questionnaire, non-consensual adoption refers to the adoption of children whose birth parents have been deprived of parental responsibility by a competent authority but nonetheless disagree with the adoption. It does not intend to cover adoption where consent of the birth parents is required but not sought (such adoptions would fall under the category of illegal adoption), or where consent of the birth parents cannot be sought (e.g., they are deceased or unknown).

States of origin only

61.	<p>What are the circumstances in your State in which a parent can lose his or her parental responsibility? According to the provisions of the Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania, when parents avoid their duties to raise children, misuse parental authority, abuse children, harm children with their immoral behavior or do not take care of children, the court may decide on a temporary or permanent restriction of parental authority.</p>
62.	<p>Does your State permit the adoption of children whose birth parents have been deprived of parental responsibility? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify:</p>

	<p>(a) whether the consent of the birth parents who have lost their parental responsibility is <u>still</u> required?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please explain your response: Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. Please explain your response: Restriction of parental authority, temporarily or permanently, suspends the personal and property rights of parents based on kinship and established by law. The right to see the child remains, unless it is against the best interests of the child. If the parental authority is limited permanently, the child may be adopted without the separate consent of the parents.</p> <p>(b) how your State ensure that the principle of subsidiarity is respected. Please also specify whether measures to support the birth family's reunification and alternative care options (<i>e.g.</i>, long-term foster care, kinship care) are considered prior to making the decision of non-consensual adoption. Please insert text here</p> <p>(c) what is the procedure applicable to such non-consensual adoptions (<i>e.g.</i>: how the child is declared adoptable; if the birth parents are given notice of the procedure; if the birth parents can contest). A temporary or permanent restriction of parental authority may be withdrawn if it is proved that the parents have changed their behavior and can raise the child, and if the abolition of the restriction of parental authority is not against the best interests of the child. The restriction on parental authority can only be withdrawn if the child has not been adopted. The child is included into the list of children available for adoption when the child's parents or the sole parent has parental authority restricted permanently.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No. Please explain your response: Please insert text here</p>
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Receiving States only

63.	<p>Has your State encountered situations in which the birth parents in the State of origin contested a non-consensual intercountry adoption when the child was already in the receiving State?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify what actions, if any, your State has taken to deal with these situations: Please insert text here</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
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Both States of origin and receiving States

64.	<p>What is the profile of children for whom a non-consensual intercountry adoption is made, either in your State or in the State(s) with which your State cooperates?</p> <p>The profile of children available for adoption for whom a non-consensual inter-country adoption is applied doesn't differ from those children, whose parents are unknown, dead or the parents/the sole parent has the court-approved written consent for the adoption of the child. The average profile of child in need of inter-country adoption is children over 7 years old, children with serious health problems, big sibling groups (3 and more children).</p>
65.	<p>(a) Please specify any challenges your State encounters with non-consensual adoptions: N/A</p>

(b) Please specify any **good practices** of your State regarding non-consensual adoptions, including those for overcoming any challenges:

N/A

7. CONTACT BETWEEN THE PAPs AND THE CHILD BEFORE MATCHING

Both States of origin and receiving States

7.1. General questions

66.	<p>Does your State prohibit any contact between the child and the PAPs before matching?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please explain your response: The contact is available only after the matching according to Lithuanian legislation.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No. Please specify:</p> <p>(a) in which circumstances such contact is permitted; Please insert text here</p> <p>(b) the experience of your State with regard to such contact. Please insert text here</p>
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7.2. Summer camps / hosting programmes

In this Questionnaire, the “summer camps” practice is when adoptable children and PAPs attend an event (usually a camp) in the PAPs’ State of residence (i.e., receiving State) or in the State of origin, usually for a period of several weeks. The hope is that the PAPs will want to apply to adopt one or more of the children they have spent time with during this event.

“Hosting programmes” (including “respite care” programmes for children who go abroad to improve their physical and psychological well-being) are when adoptable children are hosted by families living abroad, usually for a period of several weeks, sometimes with the hope that the families will wish to adopt them after the hosting.

67.	<p>Is your State involved in summer camps / hosting programmes for children?¹⁷</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify:</p> <p>(a) whether such programmes specifically aim to be a precursor to adoption for some children (e.g., for children with special needs):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please explain your response: Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p> <p>(b) whether such programmes have, in fact, resulted in the adoption of children:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the percentage of children involved in the programmes that are adopted: In Lithuania we have no summer camps, but according to the provisions of the law regarding hosting programmes the guardian of a child may temporarily allow the child to visit a person/family permanently residing in a foreign state, if applied for by a foreign organization holding a permit issued by a competent foreign authority to</p>
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¹⁷ Regarding respite care, if applicable, you may wish to refer to your State's response to Question 54 of the [2014 Questionnaire](#).

carry out social welfare activities. In accordance with the provisions of the Description of the Hosting Procedure and taking into account the recommendations of the Interdepartmental Commission, the Service issues a permit to a legal person to carry out a programme of temporary stay abroad in the Republic of Lithuania and supervises the implementation of the programme by that legal person. The laws of Lithuania prohibit the families to adopt children involved in hosting programmes.

No.

- (c) where a child is adopted following such a programme, how is it ensured that the **safeguards** of the **1993 Adoption Convention** have been respected (bearing in mind that it is likely that the child remains “habitually resident” in his or her State of origin and thus the adoption would fall within the scope of the Convention under Art. 2)?

[Please insert text here](#)

No.

68. If your State is involved in summer camps / hosting programmes specifically aimed at the adoption of some children, please specify:

- (a) whether the children benefiting from these programmes must have been **declared adoptable before** they can be part of such programmes;

[Please insert text here](#)

- (b) whether the PAPs participating in such programmes must have been **declared eligible and suitable** to adopt to be allowed to take part in such programmes;

[Please insert text here](#)

- (c) how the PAPs and children are **selected** to participate in such programmes, and whether a selection is made in cooperation with the other State;

[Please insert text here](#)

- (d) how the children are **prepared** for such programmes;

[Please insert text here](#)

- (e) what are the **effects on** and the **feedback from** the **children** who participated in such programmes but were not adopted;

[Please insert text here](#)

- (f) whether there have been situations where the adoption **broke down** after the child was adopted following participation in such programmes;

[Please insert text here](#)

- (g) if the PAPs wish to adopt the child, whether it is possible for the child to remain in the receiving State or whether he or she must **return** to the State of origin before the adoption procedure can be initiated;

[Please insert text here](#)

- (h) who **finances** such programmes;

[Please insert text here](#)

- (i) what is the **experience** of your State with these practices (*i.e.*, **challenges** and any potential **benefits**).

[Please insert text here](#)

7.3. Voluntourism

In this Questionnaire, "voluntourism" refers to the practice of an individual travelling to another State to volunteer in that State. One common practice is to travel to volunteer in a children's institution. In these situations, some volunteers may subsequently wish to adopt one or more children from the child institution in which they were volunteering.

69.	<p>Has your State experienced situations where "voluntourists" commenced an adoption procedure to adopt a child from the children's institution in which they volunteered?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify how your State handled these situations and any difficulties these situations may have caused: Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
70.	<p>Has your State taken any action to prohibit, regulate or to otherwise add safeguards to the practice of "voluntourism"?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please explain your response: In Lithuania inter-country adoption is strictly defined process and in chapter No 7.3 of this questionnaire indicated situations are not impossible according to the laws of Lithuania.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No. Please explain your response: Please insert text here</p>

7.4. Adoption of children already under the care of PAPs

71.	<p>If your State is aware of situations where PAPs have adopted or wished to adopt a child who was already under their care in the State of origin (e.g., as part of a foster care placement, kinship care, "niño puesto",¹⁸ or a more informal arrangement such as temporary care by neighbours or within a community), please specify:¹⁹</p> <p>(a) whether the child had already been declared adoptable before the PAPs' adoption application was submitted; Lithuania has no experience in such adoptions.</p> <p>(b) at what stage in the process the PAPs were declared eligible and suitable to adopt; Please insert text here</p> <p>(c) what the profile of these children was; Please insert text here</p> <p>(d) what was done to ensure that the safeguards and procedures of the 1993 Adoption Convention had been respected; Please insert text here</p> <p>(e) your State's experience with such adoptions. Please insert text here</p>
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8. USE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES

¹⁸ "Niño puesto" refers to a practice in some Latin American States where persons who already have care of a child request to adopt even if the child has not yet been declared adoptable nor have the persons been declared eligible and suitable to adopt.

¹⁹ Regarding foster care, if applicable, you may wish to refer to your State's response to Question 55 of the [2014 Questionnaire](#).

Both States of origin and receiving States

72.	<p>Has your State changed its practices recently to integrate new technologies into work processes (e.g., blockchain to facilitate transmission and access to data)?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify (a) what the experiences of your State are in this regard (i.e., benefits and challenges) and (b) how your State take into account data protection in this context: Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
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9. STATISTICSBoth States of origin and receiving States

73.	<p>Please specify the number of intercountry adoptions per year (between 2015 and the present date) involving your State that are:</p> <p>(a) relative adoptions (i.e., excluding stepparent adoptions);²⁰ 0</p> <p>(b) stepparent adoptions; 0</p> <p>(c) simple adoptions; 0</p> <p>(d) open adoptions or adoptions that involve a certain degree of openness; and 0</p> <p>(e) non-consensual adoptions.</p> <p>The vast majority of inter-country adoptions are when the child's parents or the sole parent has parental authority restricted permanently.</p> <p>In 2015 we had 55 such adoptions (total number of inter-country adoptions 62); In 2016 we had 45 such adoptions (total number of inter-country adoptions 63); In 2017 we had 42 such adoptions (total number of inter-country adoptions 47); In 2018 we had 52 such adoptions (total number of inter-country adoptions 56); In 2019 we had 33 such adoptions (total number of inter-country adoptions 34).</p>
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10. OTHER MATTERS

74.	<p>Please specify any other comments your State wishes to make concerning the implementation and / or operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention.</p> <p>N/A</p>
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²⁰ For receiving States, you may wish to refer to your State's response to the HCCH [Annual Adoption Statistics Form](#).