

Country Report Lithuania

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June 2009

Promoting Comparative Quantitative
Research in the Field of Migration
and Integration in Europe
(PROMINSTAT)



Project funded by the
European Commission Research DG,
Sixth Framework Programme, Priority 8

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A. Key data sources and responsible institutions

The most important national institutions involved in data collection in Lithuania on international migration and foreign population stocks are the Department of Statistics of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (Statistics Lithuania), the Ministry of Interior, (Migration and the Border Police Departments) and the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.

Statistics Lithuania is the central agency responsible for the production of official statistics requested by national and international regulations. It conducts the national *Census of Population and Housing*, last carried out in 2001. The agency collects data on demographic, educational and economic characteristics of the Lithuanian resident population. It manages databases on births, marriages, divorces and deaths. Furthermore, the service produces the majority of the European statistics in Lithuania (for example, the national Labour Force Survey) and co-ordinates other institutions in producing official statistics.

The **Migration Department** under the **Ministry of the Interior** organises the issuing of passports, personal identity cards, temporary certificates, certificates on retaining the right to Lithuanian citizenship, visas, temporary and permanent residence permits, travel documents for stateless persons and refugees, as well as alien's passports and registration certificates¹. Consequently, it manages several databases:

- The *Residents' Register* is a centralized population register that has been operational since 1992, and can be used as a primary source for migration data. The database collects information on all persons legally residing in the country and declaring their place of residence to be Lithuania, and those registering any changes of their civil state in a registry office. Residence permit holders are counted in migration statistics only after the information is transferred to the Residents' Register. The Register is comprised of the central population register and its subdivisions – the local population registers. Information on foreigners is based on data provided by the Migration Units of the Territorial Police Offices.
- The *Aliens Register* (Visa and Residence permits) provides information on issuing visas. Data on residence permits already issued and changes related to them are available in the Residents' Register.
- *Database on Asylum Seekers* is managed by the **Division on Asylum Affairs Information** at the Migration Department. Data is provided by the State Border Guard Service, the Foreigners' Registration Centre and the territorial police agency². The database includes numbers of applications, numbers of positive and negative decisions, etc. Of note is that the database has been implemented for administrative reasons only (for the internal use of the

¹ Migration Yearbook 2007: 11, Migration Department under the Ministry of the Interior of Republic of Lithuania, <http://www.migracija.lt/index.php?-484440258> (2.06.09)

² Art. 67 of the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens of 29 April 2004 No. IX-2206, <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/41c01b314.html>, (2.06.2009)

Migration Department), and is therefore not accessible to researchers or the general public.

- *Statistics of Citizenship Applications and Database on acquisition of citizenship* is an internal database for citizenship applications (excepting applications which are resolved through the Migration Services and by the President of the Republic of Lithuania). Positive decisions are recorded in the Residents' Register.

B. Historical evolution of the national data collection system/ data collection practices and policies on data collection

In the last two decades various socio-political factors have led to changes in data collection practices in Lithuania. Regarding population censuses carried out during the Soviet period (in the years 1959, 1970, 1979, and 1989), the basic shortcomings were related to the absence of national accounts, analysis and time series. The first census carried out after the restoration of Lithuanian's Independence reflects the changes produced in data collection practices. *The 2001 census* adopted EU and UN definitions – “the census questionnaire was prepared following the United Nations and Eurostat recommendations for the 2000 censuses of Population and Housing in the ECE Region. These recommendations were analyzed and adjusted to national needs. In addition to the classical set of questions useful in obtaining demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population and households, respondents were asked specific questions on their command of foreign languages, religious beliefs and disability. For the housing component of the project, information on buildings and dwellings and their quality was collected”³. The census made possible the compatibility of social, demographic and regional statistics with EU standards.

In 1992, shortly after the Proclamation of Lithuanian Independence, the Residents' Register was created. It is compiled of smaller, local population registers for governmental use. Residents whose data are processed are allocated a unique 11-digit personal number. The largest portion of residents not included in the Register comprises persons who have not changed their passport since 1992. Since then everybody who received a Lithuanian passport has been included. Newborns were introduced systematically into the database since 1986 with the PIN number of their parents. Starting from 2003, the Migration Services of Police Commissariats transfer residence data on to the online Residents' Register. Also since 2005 the Civil Registry Sections transfer information to the online Residents' Register⁴. The Register is used as a sampling frame for surveys such as the national Labour Force Survey, as well as the Norbalt Living Conditions Survey.

Before its EU accession in 2004, Lithuania had already carried out a national Labour Force Survey. Nevertheless, some adjustments were necessary in order to maintain

³ Census report 2001:2,
<http://www.stat.gov.lt/en/pages/view/?id=1668&PHPSESSID=ad0622a1dad4250491d57d9e8ee6178e>
(2.06.09)

⁴ The Civil Registry Sections are in charge of collecting data on vital events

the level of comparability with other Member States. For example, *The Lithuanian LFS* started in April 1994 as a biannual survey with one reference week in the second and fourth quarter each; survey questionnaires were implemented in 1998 and 1999. From the third quarter of 2002 and onwards the LFS was redesigned as a continuous survey. Furthermore, the target population from 1994 to 1999 covered persons aged 14 years and over, while from 2000 and on the target population covers all residents aged 15 years and over.

The first major survey on *Living Conditions in Lithuania* was the *Norbalt survey*⁵ - Norbalt I was carried out in 1994 and Norbalt II - in 1999. The project included concurrent surveys in the three Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. It focused on poverty and economic resources, housing and residential environment, education, labour market (unemployment, working conditions), social integration, health, crime and security. The main institution responsible for the implementation of the survey in Lithuania was the **Ministry of Social Security and Labour**. The existence of comparable questions from both the 1994 and the 1999 surveys in all three countries facilitated comparative analyses across time and countries⁶. The Norbalt survey has laid the basis for the introduction of similar European surveys (EU Living Conditions Survey).

C. Coordination and linking

All state registers and databases containing personal data also include the *Personal Identification Number (PIN)* that enables the linking of different administrative datasets. For example, a foreign citizen, registered in the Residents' Register, is issued a PIN code and a residence permit document is printed in the Personalisation of Identity Documents Centre at the Ministry of Interior. The Residents' Register also contains data on the validity of the residence permit. Migration Services monitor and inform foreign citizens about the expiry date of their residence permit.

Using the PIN code of a resident allows for the interaction between the Residents' Register central database and demographic statistics concerning employment, health, education, etc. Data recording, processing, storing and information provision are handled in the Demographic Statistics Database of Statistics Lithuania. The compilation of a survey population (sampling frame) could be based on data taken from the Residents' Register, including:

- Personal data: citizenship, country of birth, place of residence; date of arrival at the place of residence; etc.
- Personal document data: type of personal document, issuing country, state of validity (invalidity), etc.

⁵ The study was conducted by the FafoInstitute for Applied Social Science, the first Western research institution to carry out such survey in the former Easter Block. (<http://www.fafo.no/norbalt>).

⁶ European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, 2003

Linking of data by Personal Identification Number is in practice limited and authorities must have very strong arguments to claim this right. Statistical datasets, in general, do not include personal identification information.

D. Concepts and definitions

In Lithuania, 'non-nationals' are divided into two groups. The first one includes national minorities who have been living in Lithuania for many years and (in most cases) enjoying Lithuanian citizenship. The second group represents 'true' migrants: 'persons, arriving from another country with the intention of taking up residence in the Republic of Lithuania either permanently or for more than a six-month period, including foreigners who have temporary residence permits for one year and longer. It may refer to asylum seekers, those already granted asylum, foreign employees holding work permits issued by the Lithuanian Labour Exchange, or other immigrants.

These concepts appear often in statistical datasets as well as in some administrative databases. *Citizenship* is the prevalent concept used for data collection in the field of migration and integration. Concepts such as *migrant* and *migration* are not generally used in data collection practices. Migration is identified by collecting information on consecutive places of residence or comparing data on places of residence at different points of time. Of note is that in official statistics, the concept of *nationality* is used in the sense of *ethnic nationality*. For example, the *Residents' Register* includes variables such as citizenship, country of birth and ethnic nationality (the latter on a voluntary basis). According to the *2001 census*, parents indicate the nationality (ethnicity) of their children: "data on children under 15 years of age are provided by one of the parents or foster-parents, or other adult member of the household. If there are doubts as to which nationality and mother tongue should be indicated, priority is given to the mother's opinion"⁷. In asylum statistics asylum seekers are distinguished according to citizenship and nationality (ethnic group/clan)⁸.

The *2001 census* uses the categories of place of birth and usual place of residence. *Place of birth* is "the geographical area of the usual residence of respondent's mother at the time of his/her birth. For a person born in Lithuania the status of the residential area is indicated as it was at the time of the person's birth. For a person born abroad the country according to the current borders is indicated"⁹. *Usual place of residence* is "the geographical area wherein a person under enumeration usually resides. It can be the same or another place where he/she actually was at the time of the census, or his/her legal place of residence"¹⁰.

Less often, and mainly in statistical datasets, appear the concepts of country of birth of parents, parents' place of birth; country of residence one year before survey, year

⁷ Division on Asylum Affairs, Migration Department, <http://www.stat.gov.lt>

⁸ Annual report 2007, <http://www.migracija.lt/index.php?1655808178>, 2.06.09

⁹ <http://www.stat.gov.lt>

¹⁰ <http://www.stat.gov.lt>

of arrival in Lithuania; knowledge of other languages, religious affiliation. An example is the national *Labour Force Survey*.

E. Availability of data

E.1. Core demographic data on immigrants and migration control

E.1.a Population Stocks and General Demographic Characteristics

Residents' Register

The *Residents' Register* provides continuous and up-to-date information on population stocks and flows by key variables (place of birth, sex, ethnicity, citizenship, educational level, marital status, place of present and previous residence, reason for migration and number of children who arrived or departed with their parents). The Register consists of the individual records of all Lithuanian citizens, foreign nationals and stateless persons permanently residing in the Republic of Lithuania. Data from the Register also has a legal value – it provides information on valid and expired residence permits issued to foreigners and on acquisition of citizenship. Asylum seekers are not recorded before positive decisions are made and residence permits issued. Data on the international migration of the population is obtained by processing the data from arrival or departure records (based on self-declaration of arrival and departure). According to the 2003 Law on the Declaration of the Place of Residence of the Republic of Lithuania, citizens of foreign countries in possession of a residence permit in the Republic of Lithuania and stateless persons who arrive to reside in Lithuania for a period exceeding six months or who depart from Lithuania for a period exceeding six months have to declare their unique place of residence in the Residents' Register¹¹. In reality, citizens have little interest in notifying departure times, except when it gives them the possibility to renew their passport abroad through either their embassy or consular office. On the other hand, there are advantages to registering their place of residence. Personal documents are issued only if the record exists in the Residents' Register. Checks on the reliability of information on place of residence are done using election lists.

Statistics Lithuania

Statistics Lithuania produces the largest part of international migration statistics. It is possible to generate tables based on citizenship (it gives the number of foreigners from each country living in Lithuania). Information on the stock of immigrants is available through the category of country of origin (either by country of birth or by country of citizenship). Stock of residents with a foreign background can be examined by using statistics on naturalisation. The statistics contain data on the population's place of residence, age, native language, nationality and country of birth, as well as on the spouse, and all the children and parents of an individual person.

¹¹ Chapter 2, Article 4. Declaration Subjects, Law on the declaration of the Residence of the Republic of Lithuania, <http://soderkopings.org.ua/page11327.html>, (02.06.09)

Census 2001

The census covers all permanent residents in Lithuania including foreign citizens who hold permits of permanent residence and foreigners residing for over a one year period. The census collected data on citizenship, ethnic nationality, mother tongue, a person's and his/her parents' place of birth, a person's permanent place of residence and location at the time of the census, as well as a person's permanent place of residence one year ago. Data on *migration background*, defined as foreign-born and native-born foreigners (non-nationals), has been collected by combining the variables *country of birth* and *citizenship*. The Census has made good coverage of the target population and is available to researchers under conditions regulated by law.

Surveys

Most of the statistical surveys on persons include some questions concerning immigration or foreign background and could serve as good sources for research on migrants. However, because of so small a sample it may appear difficult to use detailed information in comparing nationals and non-nationals or native-born and foreign born.

E.1.b Migration flows and characteristics of migrants at the time of Migration

The current flow of immigrants into Lithuania mainly consists of returning citizens¹², foreigners immigrating for work or business or foreigners involved in family reunification. The majority of immigrants come from Russia and the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries.

Residents' Register

The central database of the *Residents' Register Service* is the main data source for producing international migration statistics. International migration events are defined on the basis of *intended stay* of foreign citizens who arrive. The *intended duration* is calculated according to the validity of any residence permit. Until 2001 only movements on the basis of permanent residence permit status were counted in migration flows statistics. At present movements on temporary residence permits for at least one year are taken into account. International migration indicators include monthly and annual indicators, produced by Demographic Statistics Division of Statistics Lithuania. Citizens are counted in emigration and immigration flows only if they have personally notified their movement in the Residents' Register (they must register if they are present for at least 6 months). The same rule is applied to foreign citizens with permanent residence permits. Due to underreporting on changes of address, not all movements of population within the country are reflected. Since 1992, only the arrival record has been filled in for information on the country's internal migration; it contains data on the previous place of residence. The record is filled in when a change of residence occurs: from one local municipality to another; from a rural area to an urban area of the same district. Temporary moves are not included in the statistics on migration. In this sense, a person may appear several times in one year's statistics.

¹² Returning citizens are 1) citizens who have emigrated and returned to their home country; 2) some other immigrants with Lithuanian background or 3) non-nationals who have received the Lithuanian citizenship when entering the country and can therefore stay definitively in Lithuania.

The State Social Insurance Fund Board

This provides data on residents insured with the compulsory state social insurance (employed people), their workplace (legal person or entity), work activity, and periods following an official enquiry. These data are used for identifying economic characteristics of emigrants. Data on emigrants and immigrants are accumulated and managed in the demographic statistics database.

E.1.c Legal status of immigrants

Aliens' Register

This may be used as a data source for the legal status of immigrants. The Register allows for the possibility to compile statistics on applications and decisions on asylum and statistics on residence permits, grouped according to the grounds for the application. The *Aliens Register* includes the following personal data: citizenship, place of birth, place of residence, civil status (family circumstances and the date of their changing); ethnic nationality and personal document data.

The **Residents' Register** contains information on residence permits¹³. They are issued for temporary or permanent stays in Lithuania. *Temporary residence permits* are issued to non-EU citizens, in cases of family reunification, work or business activities, studies, or other reasons. They are usually issued for one year but may also be issued for a shorter term and may be renewed. *Permanent residence permits* are issued to non-EU country nationals if: a) the person has lived in Lithuania for the last five years (on the basis of temporary residence permit); b) has a residence place and c) has a lawful source of subsistence¹⁴.

E.1.d Change of citizenship

After proclaiming independence, Lithuania adopted a new Citizenship Law (1989), which introduced the so-called “zero-option” for acquiring Lithuanian citizenship. All members of national minorities living permanently in the country could apply for Lithuanian citizenship, regardless of nationality and without any language requirements¹⁵. The law applied most directly to people who settled in Lithuania while it was annexed by the Soviet Union. It originally gave these people two years to choose between Lithuanian and Russian citizenship. The law was revised in December 1991 when the two-year option period was replaced by naturalization

¹³ See section on migration stocks and migration flows.

¹⁴ www.migracija.lt

¹⁵ The right to citizenship extended to three categories of people: (1) those who had Lithuanian citizenship before 15 July 1940 and their children or grandchildren (if they were at any subsequent time permanent residents of Lithuania); (2) those who had a permanent residence in Lithuania as of 3 November 1989, provided they were born in Lithuania, or that at least one of their parents or grandparents was born in Lithuania, and provided they are not citizens of another state; and (3) those who were permanent residents of Lithuania as of 3 November 1989 and have permanent place of employment in the Republic.

procedures¹⁶. . In 2002 the law was again changed, widening the category of persons who have an inherent right to citizenship up to the fourth generation (Zukauskienė 2007: 215). At the same time, the requirements for naturalization were made more restrictive¹⁷.

The *Database on Acquisition of Citizenship* is the most relevant database giving information on change of citizenship. It is kept by the Migration Department and includes the following variables: previous citizenship, type of voluntary acquisition (by declaration of option; naturalization or by reinstatement) and number of positive decisions. The Department also maintains statistics on citizenship application.

E.1.e Asylum seeking and refugees

The *Database on asylum seekers* is maintained by the Division on Asylum Affairs Information at the Ministry of Interior. Variables include general personal characteristics as well as information on administrative procedures, a person's legal status and decisions. The database has been implemented for administrative reasons only and is not accessible to either researchers or the general public. On the national level, statistics on asylum are produced in the form of monthly reports and an annual report. Personal data records include the following variables: citizenship¹⁸, nationality/ethnic community belonging; ethnicity¹⁹, country of origin²⁰, place of birth, parents' place of birth religious conviction, native language. From the latest **Annual Report on Asylum Procedures**²¹ in the Republic of Lithuania the following information can be extracted: a) number of new applications lodged by citizenship (1997-2007); b) number of positive decisions by citizenship (2007); c) number of negative decisions by citizenship (2007), d) grants of subsidiary protection by citizenship (2007); e) number of new applications according to the citizenship or the nationality (or ethnic group/clan in 2007 and f) number of unaccompanied minors by citizenship (2000-2007). The total number of applications between 2000 and 2007 was 4269 of which 480 were lodged in 2007. In 2007 convention status was granted to 9 persons and subsidiary protection- to 393 persons²².

¹⁶ Minority Rights Group International, *World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples - Lithuania : Overview*, 2007, <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4954ce4f23.html> (2.06.09).

¹⁷ A person can become naturalized if he/she has been living in Lithuania for at least 10 years, possesses an unlimited residence permit, have passed an official language test, have passed an examination on the basic provisions of the Constitution, have taken the oath of allegiance to the Republic of Lithuania and is able to defray one's own living costs. Dual citizenship is possible in exceptional and justified cases; in general, those seeking naturalization have to opt for one citizenship only, Art. 12 under the new version of the law as of 15 July 2008 No X-1709, http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter2/dokpaieska.showdoc_e?p_id=326111, (2.06.09)

¹⁸ According to ISO 3166 (countries and world regions)

¹⁹ ISO 3166

²⁰ ISO 3166

²¹ <http://www.migracija.lt/index.php?148336722>, (2.06.09)

²² <http://www.migracija.lt/index.php?148336722>, (2.06.09)

E.1.f Irregular migration, apprehensions and expulsions

The *State Border Guard Service* (SBGS) provides data on “illegal immigrants”²³. It covers “aliens who entered Lithuania illegally and stayed in Lithuania illegally including “smuggled persons” (ICMPD Yearbook 2007: 149).

Data includes:

- Number of border violators by nationalities/citizenships including foreigners and citizens of Lithuania
- Number of minors apprehended at the border due to border violation including foreigners and citizens of Lithuania
- Number of migration related border apprehensions including foreigners and citizens of Lithuania by a) gender; b) place of apprehension, c) border section.
- Number of apprehended persons being smuggled into Lithuania
- Number of smugglers in humans apprehended including foreigners and citizens of Lithuania by nationalities/citizenships
- Number of traffickers in humans apprehended by nationalities/citizenships including foreigners and citizens of Lithuania
- Persons rejected at the border by nationalities/citizenships
- Persons to whom residence was refused by nationalities/citizenships
- Removed persons by nationalities/citizenships
- Number of apprehensions at international airports²⁴ by direction of illegal migration (entry, leave or stay at an international airports)
- Number of apprehensions at international airports²⁵ by international airports (ICMPD Yearbook: 150-153)

According to the ICMPD Yearbook on Illegal Migration, Human Smuggling and Trafficking in Central and Eastern Europe in 2007, “the vast majority of apprehended migrants were visa overstayers, detected at border crossing points when attempting to exit Lithuania” - 90 per cent were detained due to an illegal stay in the territory of the country; 6 percent due to entry into the territory of Lithuania by crossing the state border illegally, and 4 per cent due to entry into the territory of Lithuania via the border crossing points using false travel documents. The majority of the apprehended migrants were nationals of Belarus, the Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan and Moldova (ICMPD Yearbook 2007: 148).

E.2. Measuring integration, discrimination and diversity

Three broad types of data source provide some information on integration of immigrants; these are administrative datasets (registers), official statistics (censuses) and surveys. Administrative datasets include only legally residing immigrants, therefore areas such as jobs in the black economy and untaxed income are not covered. Given the small number of foreigners in Lithuania, surveys are not good instruments in measuring integration- even in large samples foreigners would still be

²³ Illegal immigrants is the definition used by the SBGS

²⁴ Includes numbers of persons to whom entry was refused at airports

²⁵ Includes numbers of persons to whom entry was refused at airports

under-represented. Furthermore, due to the small numbers of immigrants, surveys do not usually provide questionnaires in immigrant languages.

E.2.a Employment

Statistics Lithuania

This provides quarterly and annual data on: a) labour force, employment and unemployment; b) time worked; c) job vacancies and occupied posts, d) number of hired employees and e) working hours. Statistics cover the permanently resident population in Lithuania on the last day of the year and are compiled mainly from administrative registers and statistical data files²⁶. Employment data describes main type of activity of the population, industrial distribution, occupational status, number and location of workplaces, educational level and income of the population.

Labour Force Survey

Statistics Lithuania conducts also the national LFS. The target group consists of people aged 15 and over, including persons absent for short periods due to studies as well as temporarily absent household members. Topics covered are as follows: employment, unemployment, underemployment, hours of work, wages, income, informal sector employment, discouraged and occasional workers, industry, occupation, status in employment, education/qualification skills, second and previous jobs. The LFS distinguishes immigrants by citizenship²⁷, birthplace²⁸ and by duration of stay. The latter category is important in analysing grades of integration of groups with different durations of stay in Lithuania; nevertheless, the answer categories allow comparison between two groups only: those who have lived in Lithuania less than 10 years and those who have lived for 10 years and more. Due to the small size of the foreign resident population and the resulting small number of persons theoretically contained in the sample, as well as underrepresentation of non-nationals, the LFS is of limited use for making statements on the employment of non-nationals.

2001 census

The 2001 census contained questions on employment, unemployment, location of workplace, place of work (fixed or not fixed), occupation, second job. The **1999 Norbalt Survey** had also a section on employment. It provided data on a) distribution of employed persons by employment types, b) employment contract c) activity rates; d) share of persons looking for work and persons having additional jobs; e) unemployment rate and unemployment duration, f) working conditions. The survey distinguished immigrants according to ethnicity, citizenship, application for Lithuanian citizenship, country of birth. However, it does not reflect the actual situation.

²⁶ Population and Social Statistics indicators
<http://db1.stat.gov.lt/statbank/SelectTable/omrade0.asp?Subjectcode=S3&PLanguage=1&Shownews=OFF&tree=false>, (2.06.09)

²⁷ Lithuanian; Pole; Russian; Belarusian; Ukrainian; do not have; other

²⁸ Lithuania, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, other (specify country)

Lithuanian Labour Exchange (LDB)

Since 1995, the LDB has been collecting information about work permits issued to foreign citizens. Information is available by gender of employees, type and economic activities of enterprises where they get employment, distribution of foreign citizens by countries they arrive from and by their occupations..

Survey by the Centre of Ethnic Studies (ETC)

In 2001-2002, the ETC carried out a survey on social adaptation of the three biggest ethnic groups in Lithuania – Lithuanians, Russians and Poles – and historical Diasporas of Lithuania– Tatars and Jews²⁹. The analysis involved a comparison of the responses of different ethnic groups to thematic areas such as: identity issues, circle of social relations and assessment of one's own situation, including employment and working conditions³⁰.

E.2.b Incomes, transfers and social benefits

Statistics Lithuania collects a) quarterly data on wages and salaries by type, sector, category of employees, sex, etc., b) annual data on earnings and on structure of earnings c) data on household income by place of residence and by type of household and d) data on non-monetary poverty indicators (such as persons living in households affected by material deprivation, etc).³¹ The *2001 census* contained a question on sources of person's income in the last 12 months preceding the census. The *1999 Norbalt survey* also included a section on income and economic resources.

E.2.c Housing and residential patterns

Statistics Lithuania provides annual data on household-dwelling units and housing conditions. Housing statistics are produced by linking dwelling stock statistics with data on the permanent residents (from the Residents' Register). All persons residing permanently in the same dwelling constitute a household-dwelling unit. Housing conditions are described by variables such as form of tenure, type of building, number of rooms and equipment in dwelling, as well as by structure and stage of life of household-dwelling unit and age of its members. There are statistics concerning the living conditions of different population groups. *Statistics Lithuania* also manages a database on persons (families) who require social housing. Applicants are distinguished according to the following categories: young families, orphans and children without parental custody, disabled persons (families), social housing tenants having the right to improve their housing and families raising three and more children (adopted children)³². The *2001 Census* provides some information on housing and residential patterns, including questions on type of housing, type of building;

²⁹ <http://www.ces.lt/en/list.php?strid=3448&id=3603>

³⁰ Project report „The Adaptation of Ethnic Groups in Lithuania: Context and Process” is publicly available at the Open Society Fund Lithuania, <http://politika.osf.lt>

³¹ <http://db1.stat.gov.lt/statbank/SelectTable/omrade0.asp?Subjectcode=S3&PLanguage=1&Shownews=OFF&tree=false>

³² <http://db1.stat.gov.lt/statbank/SelectVarVal/Define.asp?MainTable=M3100201&PLanguage=1&PXSI d=0&ShowNews=OFF>

equipment and conveniences. The *1999 Norbalt* had also a section on dwelling conditions and environment³³.

E.2.d Health and access to healthcare

Statistics Lithuania collects data on issues related to health care services, abortions, accidents at work and occupational diseases, the disabled, health care expenditure, self-perceived health, long-standing illness, health problems and their influence on daily activity, prevention, etc. Of note is that the *2001 Census* provided statistics on disabled persons³⁴. The *1999 Norbalt* survey contains a section on health – it focuses on the self-assessment of a person's health in general and access to healthcare services³⁵.

E.2.e Education

Statistics Lithuania manages data on educational attainment (quarterly and annual) as well as data on pre-primary, general, vocational, non-higher professional education, higher non-university education and higher university education. The Service has conducted a continuing vocational training survey. *LFS* and *Norbalt* also provide data on education. The *2001 Census* contains data on educational attainment and on type of current educational institution.

E.2.f Family and household

Statistics Lithuania manages a register on marriages and divorces. *The 2001 census* provides information on household compositions including number of household members and relationship of each household member to the reference person. Furthermore, it distinguishes between **private household**; **family household** and **non-family household**³⁶. The samples of the *LFS* and the *Norbalt survey* are both organised to collect data on whole households and are therefore useful when examining family and household issues.

E.2.g Political participation

Statistics Lithuania produces political participation related data on the basis of the results of general elections, persons entitled to vote, voting, candidates and the elected. The statistics themselves do not include any migration related variables. The Residents' Register establishes a register of eligible voters; therefore, it is possible to compose migration related statistics on political participation. *Statistics Lithuania* also manages a database on **membership organisations**, including political parties, trade unions, business and employers' organisations as well as other organisations.

³³ FafoInstitute, <http://www.fafo.no/norbalt/nattab.htm>

³⁴ <http://db1.stat.gov.lt/statbank/default.asp?w=1024>

³⁵ FafoInstitute 2000: 177, <http://www.fafo.no/norbalt/lithuani.pdf>

³⁶ <http://www.stat.gov.lt/en/pages/view/?id=1669>

The data concerns the actual number, resources (by financial sources) and expenditure of organisations. In addition, the Service holds a database on **religious communities** divided into: Roman Catholics, Greek Catholics, Evangelical Lutherans, Evangelical Reformists, Orthodox Believers, Church of Old Rite, Judaists, Sunni Muslims and Karaites.

E.2.h Crime and justice

Statistics Lithuania collects data on crime, including juvenile crime, and on court proceedings and their results. The crime statistics focus on registered and investigated criminal offences; persons suspected and persons charged with criminal offences, recorded drug-related criminal offences, etc.

Current statistics measuring integration, discrimination and diversity are limited. In addition, studying integration as a process requires good information on developments and changes over time; in Lithuania, however, longitudinal data are not available or available only for core demographic data (from the population).

F. Accessibility of data

General aggregate statistics are available at the website of Statistics Lithuania. The Service provides a possibility to choose variables and to process the data in different forms. The database is free of charge and data can be explored in several file formats and presented as diagrams or maps. Preliminary statistics are used for producing monthly and annual statistical information, and they are supplied to users at their own request. Statistical information about international migration (including data on sex, age, citizenship and country of previous or next residence) is published in statistical publications such as “International Migration of Lithuanian Population”, “Demographic Yearbook and “Statistical Yearbook of Lithuania”³⁷.

Most registers maintained by different Lithuanian government departments as well as the statistics produced by the police are not directly available. Furthermore, the Law on Statistics, the Law on the Population and Housing Census 2001 of the Republic of Lithuania as well as the Law on the Personal Data Security of the Republic of Lithuania provides that personal data has to be used only for the preparation of statistical information. For example, special data security rules for the Population Census were prepared to ensure data quality, data protection and confidentiality.

³⁷ <http://www.stat.gov.lt/lt/pages/view/?id=1298>

G. Quality and scope of data collection

Data on immigration are available in various databases and publications. However, there are discrepancies in data supply as different institutions use different definitions and/or cover different target groups. In the absence of the proper means to accurately measure migration, no reliable and comprehensive data on migration flows is available

The Residents' Register is the main data source for producing international migration statistics. However, the coverage and reliability of data on migration events as well as population stock in the Register are considered to be generally low. Information about migration events is recorded in the Register only when an individual decides to inform the authorities about his/her new place of residence. Even if the registration of place of residence is obligatory, the rules are not clear concerning the necessary period of residence that has to be submitted. Many emigrations of nationals, as well as those returning from abroad, are not recorded. This is also valid in the case of immigration and emigration of citizens of other EU Member States. Data on migrations of foreign citizens to non-EU countries are presumably better recorded, as this information is linked to residence permits. Data on previous place of residence may be largely missing in the Residents' Register, which means that for the identification of recent international immigrations, analysis should be made of several consecutive records.

H. Conclusions - Recommendations

Overall, statistical data on migrants and migration is rather limited. The latter may be related to at least two reasons: a) no large numbers of new immigrants in Lithuania and b) the naturalization of immigrants who arrived in the country during the Soviet period. The present analysis shows that there is no comprehensive immigration database as such in Lithuania. Information and statistics on migration have to be drawn from different types of databases. At the same time, there are discrepancies in data supply as different institutions use different definitions and/or cover different target groups. For research use, the most reliable data on migrants and migration is to be taken from administrative datasets. Survey data (such as the LFS) has limited coverage of immigrants.

It is important for policy makers who use statistical data is to make sure that they understand the meaning of the term 'non-nationals'. It should be distinguished from national minorities, foreign citizens, including refugees, and workers holding permits from the Lithuanian Labour Exchange.

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