

## Lithuania

### Refugee and Migrant Integration Centre InLT

Locations	Kaunas
Level of implementation	Local
Name(s) of implementing institutions	Lithuanian Red Cross Society
Main idea behind it, initial situation (why?)	A Refugee Day Centre in Kaunas was established already in 2004 with an aim to facilitate integration of beneficiaries of international protection. However, as the number of other country nationals arriving in Lithuania has increased, in 2016 the centre expanded its activities to also include third country nationals and thus provide a broader and comprehensive integration support.
Objective (what for?)	The centre provides consultations for beneficiaries of international protection and third country nationals to address cultural differences of living in Lithuania, improve their social and economic self-dependence, develop personal and professional competencies and create inter-cultural dialogue between host community and newcomers.
Description of practice (what?)	As a part of several projects, the centre offers (1) social and legal consultations, (2) psychological assistance, (3) vocational guidance (e.g. skill recognition), (4) language courses, (5) civic orientation courses, (6) seminars about raising personal competences, as well as (7) cultural festivals and events.  The centre employs 2 social coordinators and 2 social workers.
Managed/driven by	Civil society with AMIF project funding.
Time-frame (start/end/ongoing)	Start: 2016 (assistance to beneficiaries of international protection has been provided since 2004)  <b>Ongoing</b>
Stand-alone initiative or incorporated into other initiatives?	<b>Stand-alone</b> , although the centre operates in the framework of several projects, which contribute to the range of services offered.

Main target group (nationals, non-nationals - types)	Third country nationals International protection status holders
Promotion	Online, printed, oral. Flyers distributed in cooperation with governmental authorities responsible for migration, as well as employment service. Several articles have been published online and in newspapers, and Facebook page offers consistent information. For beneficiaries of international protection, there is a city wide promotional event for one day during the year.  languages: English, Lithuanian, Russian
Information provided on legal, practical and procedural aspects of protection against racism/hatred and discrimination	Legal consultations are provided under request
Methods of language/content teaching	The services offered by the centre include language courses and various other social orientation courses. Language teaching consists of classes with small groups of about 10 people, with up to 200 hours of course available for each member of the target group. Other courses are also taught in classes, and the number of people per group varies (e.g. social orientation courses usually have 15 people in one class). The social orientation course consists of various topic modules, including one on legal system and civil orientation in Lithuania. Additional activities during the course include trips and excursions.
Accessibility:	Costs: Free  Obligatory: no; beneficiaries of international protection need to attend at least 40% of language course to receive support for integration, but in practice this is not enforced and the activities are not mandatory.  Eligibility criteria: Third country nationals and beneficiaries of international protection
Budget, sources of financing	AMIF, funding from separate governmental funds.
Sources and references (hyperlink(s))	<a href="https://www.redcross.lt/sites/redcross.lt/files/inlt_lankstukas_1.pdf">https://www.redcross.lt/sites/redcross.lt/files/inlt_lankstukas_1.pdf</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/www.redcross.lt/">https://www.facebook.com/www.redcross.lt/</a> <a href="http://www.integration.lv/uploads/files/prezentacijas/ddg_riga.pdf">http://www.integration.lv/uploads/files/prezentacijas/ddg_riga.pdf</a>  Head of the Refugees and Migrants Integration Center InLT Gertautė Žentelienė, Lithuanian Red Cross Society

Is impact assessment foreseen?	Yes
How often?	The primary impact assessment is conducted based on <b>reporting required by projects</b> that the centre is implementing. For example, the AMIF project requires a report <b>every 3 months</b> . In addition to that, the centre has internal evaluation reports by the Red Cross Society management, which are also done every 3 months.
By whom?	While the reporting is <b>done internally</b> , and there are currently no external auditors, this is an option that is currently being considered by the management.
Is the target group involved into the evaluation/impact assessment? If yes: how	Similarly, <b>the target group is currently not involved</b> in evaluation and impact assessment, but the centre is planning to include a questionnaire at the end of the project to conduct a more detailed analysis on the services that are available.
Methods of impact assessment Indicator based? If yes: please name some indicators	The centre also <b>uses several indicators</b> , which include (1) the number of members from the target group that used various services, (2) the number of jobs and flats that were found, (3) the number of volunteers that were involved, and similar.
Which actors of host communities are included?	Overall, <b>some degree of host community involvement</b> is present at the centre. Since the centre currently does not offer services to EU nationals, it actively tries to include them as volunteers in its activities. As a result, often Erasmus exchange students become volunteers and are involved in the activities and services that are provided. Similarly, a degree of host community involvement results from the local engagement events organized by the centre or the city wide promotion day for beneficiaries of international protection.
Degree of inclusion:	voluntary.
How can racism and xenophobia be countered through this activity?	While there is no specific module that deals with discrimination, the social orientation course does cover the basis for the Lithuanian legal system, which includes civil orientation and can briefly touch on issues of discrimination. In addition to that, there is legal assistance and individual consultations that are available to members of the target group, which can address legal issues related to discrimination. As a result, the primary way in which racism and xenophobia can be countered in the centre is <b>by the availability of assistance</b> in cases when discrimination has occurred.
How can the impact of this practice be measured/made measurable?	While the primary impact of the activities by the centre is to <b>some extent measured</b> , there is a lack of measurement and evaluation for the effectiveness of its activities. For example, no assessment is conducted on the extent to which courses or trainings offered were helpful in either finding a job or facilitate integration. This evaluation would require follow-up assessments over a longer

	time period from members of the target group, and would allow to better evaluate and improve contents of courses, teaching methods and the overall provision of integration services.
Elements of sustainability	The main <b>element of sustainability</b> comes from an active cooperation with the responsible government institutions. While some part of the activities is financed with AMIF support, the centre is in ongoing discussions with the government on activities that the government might continue to provide funding for after the end of the AMIF project. Similarly, some part of sustainability is provided by the general experience of Red Cross Society as an established organization, as well as the integration of a broad spectrum of different activities in one integration centre. This means that even if funding for some activities is no longer available, the centre can continue to provide some level of integration support through other means.
Elements of transferability	The main <b>element of transferability</b> includes a combination of various projects and initiatives into a one-stop centre, as well as experience sharing between various integration centres. Providing all services in the same place increases their accessibility, as well as allows for various social integration activities between members from different target groups to take place. This can be an effective method for maximizing impact of a specific practice, especially when resources available for integration of certain groups are limited. Similarly, as the courses are continuously provided and improved, their contents can be used to improve general social orientation support in the centre, and as more knowledge and experience in assisting third country nationals and beneficiaries of international protection is acquired, it can be used in other local level initiatives with a broader geographical scope.