



# **Your social security rights in Lithuania**



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# **Your social security rights in Lithuania**

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**00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11**

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Sometime in your life you may be in need of the support provided by social security benefits. If you are living in the country where you were born and satisfy the qualifying conditions, you will be entitled to receive support. But you also have the right to receive benefits if you are a national of any EU country and move to another part of the EU. The information below sets out when you are eligible for benefits, what you are entitled to and how to go about claiming it.

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# Family

## Family benefits

This section contains up-to-date information on guardianship benefit, monthly objective addition of guardianship benefit, lump sum child benefit, child benefit, lump sum settlement benefit, benefit for a child of a serviceman in mandatory primary military service, a lump sum benefit for a pregnant women, child care benefit for those in training or education, benefit for multiple births, procedures for calculating and the awarding of these payments.

Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Benefits to Children of 3 November 1994 (No. I-621).

### In what situation can I claim?

You can receive these benefits, based on the following definitions:

- **Guardianship benefit** (*Globos (rūpybos) išmoka*) is payable for each child cared for in a family, social family or childcare institution;
- **A monthly objective addition of guardianship benefit** (*globos (rūpybos) išmokos tikslinis priedas*) is payable for each child placed under guardianship in a family or social family;
- **Lump sum child benefit** (*vienkartinė išmoka vaikui*) is payable for each new born child. A lump-sum benefit is payable for an adopted child as well, irrespective of whether a benefit for a new-born child has already been paid;
- **Child benefit** (*išmoka vaikui*) is payable for each child up to 18 years raised or placed under guardianship in a family according to family income if there are one or two children and regardless of family income if there are three or more children. The amount of benefit depends on the age of the child;
- **Lump sum settlement benefit** (*vienkartinė išmoka įsikurti*) is granted to those who have been placed under guardianship (curatorship), upon termination of the guardianship of the child because of them reaching the age of majority or getting married;
- a monthly benefit is payable for each child of **a serviceman on compulsory primary military service** (*išmoka privalomosios pradinės karo tarnybos kario vaikui*);
- **Lump sum benefit for women who are pregnant** (*vienkartinė išmoka nėščiai moteriai*) is payable if the woman is not eligible for maternity allowance under the Law on Sickness and Maternity Social Insurance;
- **Child care benefit for those in training or education** (*Išmoka besimokančio ar studijuojančio asmens vaiko priežiūrai*) is payable if the person is not eligible for a childcare benefit under the Law on Sickness and Maternity Social Insurance;
- **Benefit for multiple births** (*Išmoka gimus vienu metu daugiau kaip vienam vaikui*) is payable when two or more children are born.
- **Child adoption allowance** (*išmoka įvaikinus vaiką*).

### What conditions do I need to meet?

You may claim these benefits if:

- you are a permanent resident in the Republic of Lithuania;
- you are a foreign national residing in the Republic of Lithuania legally appointed as a guardian of a child (who is a Lithuanian citizen);
- children residing in Lithuanian with foreign nationality and whose guardianship according to law has been assumed by a competent authority in the country;
- when being granted child benefit you are a foreign national with a temporary residence permit enabling you to work in Lithuania in a highly-qualified position, as defined in the relevant legislation;
- when being granted child benefit you are foreign national with a temporary permit to reside and work in Lithuania and you are in employment or have been employed for a minimum period of six months and you are registered as unemployed, except if you are foreign national who has been admitted for study purposes;

- when being granted lump sum child benefit and child benefit and lump sum benefit for a pregnant woman, you are a citizen of an EU Member State or an EEA country or a family member who has the right of residence. The additional requirement for family members is that they have been living in Lithuania for three months or more. This requirement is not applied for citizens (workers) of a Member State of the European Union or a Member State of the European Free Trade Association in the European Economic Area or their family members;
- you come into the category of someone who, under EU social security system regulations, qualifies for child benefits;
- you are a foreign citizen who is granted asylum in the Republic of Lithuania.

## **What am I entitled to and how can I claim?**

### **Lump sum benefit for a pregnant woman:**

A pregnant woman who is not entitled to maternity allowance under the Law on Sickness and Maternity Social Insurance is entitled to a lump sum benefit of twice the amount of the basic social benefit (EUR 76).

Each new-born or adopted child, irrespective of whether a new born child benefit has already been paid, is entitled to a lump sum child benefit payment of 11 times the basic social benefit (EUR 418).

Lump sum child benefit is payable to one or other of the child's parents, single parent, adoptive parents or guardian.

### **Benefit for multiple births:**

In the event of multiple births, a specific benefit is payable. In the case of twins, the monthly amount is four times the basic social benefit (EUR 152) and the same amount is paid for each additional child born.

This benefit is paid from birth up until the age of two.

### **Child benefit is payable as follows:**

For every child from birth to the age of 18 years and up to 21 if studying under the general curriculum regardless of family income. The child benefit amounts to 0.79 BSB (EUR 30.02).

For low income families raising (or fostering) one or more children an additional child benefit is paid:

- A child being brought up or cared for in a family raising and/or fostering one or two children and whose income per person is less than 1.5 times the State supported income (EUR 183) is entitled to 0.75 of the basic social benefit (EUR 28.5) monthly from birth to the age of 2 and 0.4 of the basic social benefit amount (EUR 15.2) monthly from 2 to 18 years.
- A child being brought up or cared for in a family raising and/or fostering three or more children is entitled to 0.75 of the basic social benefit (EUR 28.5) monthly from birth to the age of 2 and 0.4 of the basic social benefit (EUR 15.2) monthly from 2 to 18 years regardless of family income.

### **Child care benefit for those in training or education:**

- A parent or guardian of a child is entitled to a monthly benefit equivalent to six times the basic social benefit (EUR 228) during a period of training or studies and for 12 months after the period is over. This includes formal vocational training or higher education up until the age of 26 or a PhD or medical course up until the age of 30 (including any period of leave because of pregnancy). This benefit is paid if the person is not eligible for a child care benefit under the Law on Sickness and Maternity Social Insurance.
- This benefit is paid during the period of childcare from birth until the child is one year old.

### **Guardianship benefit and guardianship benefit for specific needs:**



- For each child in care in a family, social family, social care institution or foster centre there is a monthly payment of four times the basic social benefit (EUR 152) for as long as the child remains in care. Where an orphan's allowance and/or periodic maintenance benefit, the guardianship benefit amounts to the difference between 4 times the basic social benefit and the orphan's allowance.
- Someone reaching the end of a period of guardianship (curatorship) or the age of majority or gets married continues to be entitled to a monthly payment of 4 times the basic social benefit (EUR 152) provided that they continue to pursue a general education or vocational training programme or a sequential programme of full-time study at a higher education institute, as well as in the event of the death of both parents up until the age of 24. This payment is not payable to those admitted more than twice to the same educational establishment or to the same category.
- If a child in care is following a programme of general education and/or formal training and receives maintenance (free accommodation and food) in a boarding school or a children's social centre, they are entitled to a monthly allowance of twice the basic social benefit (EUR 76).
- For each child placed under guardianship in a family a monthly addition of guardianship benefit is payable, amounting to 4 times the basic social benefit (EUR 152) per family.
- For each child placed under guardianship in a social family or foster centre a monthly addition of guardianship benefit is payable, amounting to 4 times the basic social benefit (EUR 152) for ensuring social family activities and foster centre duties.

When a guardianship comes to an end, a lump sum settlement benefit of 75 times the basic social benefit (EUR 2,850) is payable. The benefit is payable to those who have submitted a request for receipt up until their 25th birthday.

Apart from guardianship benefit, benefits are payable by the local municipal council in the area where a person lives.

Guardianship benefits and addition of guardianship benefits for a child's guardian (curator) are paid by the local government authority under whose protection the child was placed or, after 1 January 2007, the administration of the children's social care centre designated by the leader of the local authority.

Guardianship benefits for those who have reached the age of majority and who are studying in public schools, vocational schools and higher education establishments are paid by the administration of the local authority in the area where the educational institution is located. If someone who is officially resident in Lithuania is studying in a general education, vocational or higher education establishment abroad, a guardianship benefit is paid to them by the local municipal council in the area where they have declared residence.

Each child of a serviceman or woman in compulsory primary military service is entitled to a benefit of 1.5 times the basic social benefit a month (EUR 57).

#### **Child adoption allowance** (since 1 January 2018)

In the case of adoption of a child, one of the adoptive parents is entitled to a monthly allowance equal to 8 BSB (EUR 304) which is paid until the child turns 18 except in cases where the parents are entitled to a child care benefit equal to or above the Child adoption allowance.

If the amount of the Child care benefit is less than the Child adoption allowance, the latter is calculated as the difference between the two benefits.

The Child adoption allowance is not paid when:

- one of the child's adoptive parents is entitled to child care benefit paid to the same adopted child under the Law on Sickness and Maternity Social Insurance of the Republic of Lithuania;
- a child is adopted by a new spouse or partner of the child's parent.

The child adoption allowance is granted and paid from the day on which an individual is entitled to the allowance but for no more than 12 months before the submission of all documents for entitlement to the allowance to the municipality's administration.

### Jargon busters

- **Basic Social Benefit (BSB)** (*bazinė socialinė išmoka (BSI)*) – monthly amount of benefit set by the Government - (EUR 38);
- **Age of majority** - the attainment of legal responsibility for their own actions by those reaching the age of 18;
- **Guardian of a child** means a natural or legal person who, in accordance with the procedure laid down by law, has been entrusted with supervision, upbringing, protection of rights and interests and representation of a child deprived of parental care.

### Forms you may need to fill in

You will need the following documents (choose those which apply to your specific situation):

- application form;
- proof of identity;
- proof of guardianship and letter of appointment as guardian;
- family, social family, private child care home, state or local authority children's home centre registration document;
- a court decision on the awarding of child maintenance, where maintenance was awarded;
- a statement from a company, institution or organisation that maintenance is deducted from wages or salary;
- a statement from the administration of the Children's Support Fund when a child receives benefit from the Fund;
- money orders when child benefit is received by post;
- certificate of schooling when a child (person) is accommodated in secondary school or vocational training establishment boarding house;
- a school certificate where a person aged 18 or over is in education;
- a bank current account;
- other documents presented according to the circumstances.

Applicants do not need to submit the above documents if a municipal authority receives data from the state and departmental registers and state information systems.

### Know your rights

European Commission publications and websites:

[Family Benefits: Your Rights as an EU Citizen Abroad](#)

### Who do you need to contact?

Information is supplied by the social support departments of local authorities. Most local authorities have an internet address - [name].lt (e.g. vilnius.lt).

[Ministry of Social Security and Labour](#)

## Maternity and paternity benefit

This section contains up-to-date information on **Maternity benefit** (*Motinytėsišmoka*), **Paternity Benefit** (*Tėvystėsišmoka*) and **Childcare benefit** (*Vaiko priežiūros išmoka*) paid to parents who raise a child, procedures for awarding them, calculation of the amounts and differences between them.

## In what situation can I claim?

Benefit is paid initially to the mother for the duration of maternity leave (Maternity benefit) and to the father for the duration of paternity leave (Paternity benefit). Subsequently, a parental leave benefit is payable to the parent caring for the child (Childcare benefit).

A lump sum benefit for pregnant women (*vienkartinė išmoka nėščiai moteriai*) is payable to those who are not eligible for maternity benefit under the Law on Sickness and Maternity Social Insurance (see "Family Benefits").

## What conditions do I need to meet?

Entitlement to Maternity benefit, Paternity benefit and Childcare benefit extends to all those insured against maternity under the social security system and who have a record of social security payments for at least 12 of the previous 24 months.

## What am I entitled to and how can I claim?

**Maternity benefit** is paid for 70 calendar days prior to the birth of the child up until 56 days after the birth. In the event of birth complications or a multiple birth, an allowance is paid for an extra 14 calendar days. Maternity benefit is equal to 100% of earnings.

**Paternity benefit** is paid to the father for 30 calendar days after the birth of the child with the possibility of choosing when to receive the benefit until the child is three months old. It is equal to 100% of earnings.

**Childcare benefit** is paid to one of the parents (adoptive parent) or guardian caring for the child.

**Childcare benefit** is calculated in relation to earnings (see below) and depends on the time scale chosen:

- if someone insured elects to receive an allowance up until the child is one year old, it amounts to 100% of their earnings.
- Where someone elects to receive an allowance up until the child is 2 years old, it amounts to 70% of earnings for the first year, and 40% for the second year. It is possible during the second year to work without any reduction in the allowance. In the event of a multiple birth, the allowance varies with the number of children born, but it cannot exceed 100% of earnings.

Income is calculated in accordance with insurable earnings (see Jargon busters below) for the 12 months before the leave commences.

The following lower and upper limits to the allowance apply: minimum amount cannot be lower than 6 times the Basic Social Benefit for the two quarters preceding the day when the person became temporarily incapacitated for work (EUR 228); the maximum amount cannot exceed twice the national average monthly wage (EUR 1,685.40).

### Lump sum benefit for a pregnant woman:

If an expectant mother is not entitled to social security benefits 70 days before she is due to give birth, she is entitled to a lump-sum payment equivalent to twice the basic social benefit (EUR 76).

Someone insured person who is appointed as a **guardian** to a new-born child is entitled to a maternity allowance from the date from which guardianship is confirmed up until the child is 70 days old.

Upon adopting a child, childcare leave is granted by SoDra. The general rule is applicable, i.e. the **Childcare allowance** is paid until the child reaches the age of 1 or 2 years (depending on choice). If the adopted child is older the 2 years, the Child adoption allowance is paid from the State budget.

Maternity/Paternity benefits and Childcare benefit are paid by SoDra district offices.

Compulsory health insurance covers maternity hospital care, as well as other forms of healthcare.

### **Jargon Buster**

- **Maternity benefit** - a benefit paid to a mother during pregnancy and maternity leave;
- **Paternity benefit** - a benefit paid to a father for 30 calendar days within three months from child birth;
- **Childcare benefit**- a benefit paid optionally to one or other parent (step-parent) or guardian;
- **Insured income** - all personal income liable for State social security deductions to insure against sickness and maternity, as well as sickness, occupational rehabilitation, maternity, paternity, childcare benefits, work-related accidents or occupational diseases benefits, and unemployment benefits;
- **SoDra** - The State Social Insurance Fund Board under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the principal body that organises social security.

### **Forms you may need to fill in**

Applications for maternity, paternity and childcare allowances may be submitted [online](#) to the SoDra district office (on the relevant form), or sent by post.

You must also submit details of the bank account into which you wish the allowance to be paid.

Your employer should submit a request for an allowance to be granted.

### **Know your rights**

These links will help you find out what your rights are. These are not European Commission websites and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission:

SoDra information on:

- [maternity](#) allowance;
- [paternity](#) allowance;
- Childcare allowance.

European Commission publications and websites:

- [Social security coverage: your rights as an EU citizen abroad](#).

### **Who do you need to contact?**

By telephoning the SoDra information centre on 1883 or on +370 52500883 you can find out all about benefits.

# Health

## Health insurance

This section presents relevant information about compulsory and supplementary health insurance: what services are available free of charge, what conditions must be met, and where to search for further information.

### **In what situation can I claim?**

All permanent residents are entitled to receive emergency medical assistance. Insured persons have access to other health services, with the costs being borne by compulsory health insurance. Those who have not paid compulsory health contributions (or have not had them paid on their behalf) must cover the cost of their treatment. There is also an option of choosing voluntary health insurance to supplement compulsory health insurance.

Every insured person at all levels is free to choose a doctor and healthcare institution. They should choose a family doctor and be included on the primary healthcare institution's patient list. When necessary, the doctors will refer a patient to a specialist.

If a patient is referred by a family doctor to a specialist in an establishment that has an agreement with the Territorial Health Insurance Fund, consultations are free of charge; only consultations with a dermatologist and venereal disease specialist can occur without a referral.

Family doctors, together with specialists if necessary, may recommend in-patient treatment. The system of referrals does not apply in emergency cases.

Those not paying compulsory health insurance contributions and who are not covered by compulsory health insurance must cover their own treatment costs. Medical rehabilitation costs are covered by Territorial Health Insurance Funds from the Compulsory Health Insurance funds. Patients who receive rehabilitation and convalescence services without a doctor's referral need to pay for them at officially approved prices.

Children under 7 and those under 18 with a disability have 90% of their convalescence costs covered.

Children under 18, and those who are disabled whose capacity for work is reduced by 60-100%, or those who are recovering from a serious illness (included on the official list) have their medical rehabilitation costs paid if a doctor has referred them.

### **What conditions do I need to meet?**

Automatically insured under the compulsory health insurance scheme are:

- those with a contract of employment;
- those who pay contributions for themselves (those receiving remuneration under copyright agreements, farmers and other self-employed persons);
- those with compulsory health insurance where their contributions are paid by the State;
- those under 18;
- pensioners and recipients of social assistance;
- unemployed person with a sufficient employment record to qualify for an old-age pension;
- those registered as unemployed and those undergoing professional training organised by territorial labour exchange offices if they are not employed within the framework of this training;
- women on maternity leave and unemployed women 70 days before and 56 days after giving birth;
- a parent (step-parent, foster parent) raising or caring for a child under 8, or for two children or more, or those caring for a disabled child;
- those with a disability;
- those receiving social benefits;

- students permanently residing in Lithuania in secondary education, vocational training, higher or university education, even when studying in another EU Member State;
- others in special circumstances (the clergy, war and resistance veterans, former prisoners, unaccompanied foreign minors etc. - see the Law on Health Insurance).

The self-employed persons need to make their own health insurance payments.

**Dental care** for adults is covered in part from Territorial Health Insurance Funds. Someone covered by primary healthcare institution is entitled to dental care. All insured (except children and those in daytime secondary education and vocational schools up to their 24th birthday and those receiving social support) need to pay for fillings and other dental needs.

The cost of dental prosthesis is reimbursed for the following categories of insured:

- those who have reached retirement age;
- children up to the age of 18;
- those with disabilities and those with reduced capacity for work.

The cost of pharmaceuticals, medical instruments and aids not included in the positive list is wholly covered for:

- children under 18;
- those with a recognised incapacity for work and those of pensionable age with identified special needs.

Those suffering from specific ailments have 100%, 90%, 80% or 50% of the reference price of medicines covered (in accordance with the Compensated Medicines List). Those in receipt of an old-age pension, those with Category II disabilities, those with an incapacity to work of 60-70% or those on social assistance receive compensation of 50% of the basic price of medicines. For someone insured undergoing treatment in hospital, the cost of drugs and appliances is included in the reference price of hospital treatment.

In addition, there is a list of services for which all patients are obliged to pay. Examples include: abortion at a patient's request, hormonal therapy, acupuncture and manual therapy, health checks before a foreign trip, before acquiring a weapon, for the issue of a driving licence or a private pilot's licence, additional individual patient and nursing care, cosmetic surgery and dental prostheses (except for certain categories of people) and implants.

### **What am I entitled to and how can I claim?**

Compulsory health insurance payments under the terms of a contract of employment or a copyright agreement are deducted automatically. If you are on the state insured persons' list, you also do not need to bother about additional health insurance. If you fall into none of these groups, you must acquire compulsory health insurance privately.

The Territorial Health Insurance Funds partly reimburses the cost of cochlear implants, hearing aids and prostheses (patients have to cover the difference between the price of the Territorial Health Insurance Fund paid and the actual price).

The Territorial Health Insurance Funds reimburses 100% of rent costs of medical devices that are used for healthcare at home.

Prostheses and other orthopaedic aids are reimbursed at 50%, 80%, 95% or 100% for those insured suffering from illnesses included in special lists approved by the Ministry of Health.

People patient can obtain hearing aids on a doctor's prescription from the companies contracted to the National Health Insurance Fund. The Fund reimburses the costs according to the reference price, the individual paying the difference if they want more expensive hearing aid.

Compulsory health insurance is administered by the National Health Insurance Fund under the auspices of the Ministry of Health and Territorial Health Insurance Funds.

### Jargon Buster

- **Compulsory health insurance** -the state insurance system that guarantees healthcare services and reimbursement of healthcare costs, costs of acquiring medicines and medical devices and rent costs of medical devices that are used for healthcare at home;
- **Self-employment**- independent activities undertaken by someone who is not attached to any particular employer(s), as defined in Lithuanian Income Tax legislation;
- **Basic (reference) price** – part of the price of healthcare services, pharmaceuticals or medical appliances compensated by the Compulsory Health Insurance Fund.

### Know your rights

These links will help you find out what your rights are. These are not European Commission websites and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission:

- [The Law on Health Insurance](#)
- [The National Health Insurance Fund under the Ministry of Health](#)

European Commission publications and websites:

- [Social security coverage: your rights as an EU citizen abroad](#)

### Who do you need to contact?

#### The National Health Insurance Fund under the Ministry of Health

+370 70088888

[info@vfk.lt](mailto:info@vfk.lt)

<http://www.vfk.lt/>

### Sick Pay

This section contains information on who has the right to sick pay, for how long and who pays it.

#### In what situation can I claim?

All those covered for sickness through social insurance are entitled to sickness benefit. Sickness benefit (*ligos išmoka*) is awarded in the following instances:

- to those insured who have become temporarily incapacitated through illness or injury and, as a result, suffer a loss of income;
- to those for caring for family members who are sick (children, step-children, spouses, parents and step-parents);
- to those whose work is suspended because of an outbreak of a communicable disease or epidemic;
- to those insured undergoing treatment in a healthcare facility that provides orthopaedic and/or prosthetic services;
- to those supervising pre-school or primary school education programmes where a system has been set up to limit the spread of infection;
- to those on maternity or childcare who fall ill;
- to those insured temporarily incapacitated as a result of having tissue, cells or organs removed for donor transplant purposes.



## What conditions do I need to meet?

Most of those who are insured are entitled to sickness benefit from the very first day of being unable to work.

**Sickness benefit** is paid if a person:

- becomes temporarily incapacitated (an electronic incapacity certificate is issued);
- is covered for sickness through social insurance;
- has become temporarily incapacitated during a period of work (for those receiving income under copyright agreements - during the insurance period);
- is absent from work and loses earnings because of through illness;
- has an insurance contributions record of not less than 3 months in the previous 12 months, or 6 months in the previous 24 months;
- does not have the required contributions record because of studying up to the age of 26 or being in professional military service or a statutory civil servant;
- has submitted an application for benefits to the regional SoDra office not later than 12 months after the end of the illness.

## What am I entitled to and how can I claim?

- Sickness benefits for the first 2 days paid by the employer (except for those receiving income under copyright agreements who receive no sickness benefit for the first 2 days of illness). Employer-paid sickness benefit should be not less than 80% and not more than 100% of the employee's average earnings.
- Benefit paid from SoDra budget funds from the third day at 80% of the recipient's earnings over the previous three months.

Sickness benefit paid for caring for a sick family member or for caring for a child is paid from SoDra funds from the first day at 85% of earnings.

Where temporary incapacity is due to tissue or organ donation, sickness benefit is paid from SoDra funds at 100% of earnings.

The earnings base used to calculate benefit cannot be more than twice the national average monthly wage for the two quarters preceding the month when the person became temporarily incapacitated for work (for 2018 - EUR 1,685.40).

### Jargon busters

- **SoDra** - The State Social Insurance Fund Board under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the main body responsible for social security.
- **Insured income** - all personal income liable for social security deductions to insure against sickness, maternity, unemployment and other social for loss of earnings.

## Forms you may need to fill in

Applications for sickness benefit may be submitted [online](#), completed at SoDra regional offices, or sent by post. The form required may be downloaded [here](#).

## Know your rights

These links will help you find out what your rights are. These are not European Commission websites and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission:

- [SoDra information on sickness benefits](#)

European Commission publication and websites:

- [Social security coverage: your rights as an EU citizen abroad](#)

## Who do you need to contact?

By telephoning the SoDra information centre on 1883 or on +370 52500883 you can find out all about benefits.

## Long-term care

Long-term care includes financial support and services for those who are dependent on others or who have lost their independence through illness. Relevant information on procedures in relation to support of long-term care is set out in this section.

Long-term healthcare is provided irrespective of the age of the person, according to the condition of their health and the progress of any disease or complication. Long-term healthcare includes medical treatment, palliative care and nursing.

## In what situation can I claim?

Long-term care is designed to meet the needs of those who are dependent on others because of illness or disability. Long-term healthcare also covers palliative care services (see Jargon busters).

Social care is not provided according to age but according to the degree of independence and the need for care. The main recipients are the elderly and those with disabilities. Social service needs are determined on an individual basis according to a person's dependence and the possibilities of them developing independence as a result of provision of the appropriate social services.

## What conditions do I need to meet?

Depending on their needs, persons may be given long-term short-term or daytime social cares, social support and nursing.

According to an approved list of health conditions, someone may be identified as having special nursing or assistance needs and receive compensation for the associated costs.

Compensation to cover nursing care is provided to persons identified as having a need for special nursing care.

Compensation to cover assistance is available to children with severe and moderate disabilities and to persons identified as having a need for special assistance. The adults need to be identified as having special care needs, though not disabled children.

**Institutionalised social care** is available to those with disabilities as well as the elderly in need.

Long-term medical treatment, palliative care and nursing are available for those covered by compulsory health insurance, irrespective of age according to their health and specific needs.

## What am I entitled to and how can I claim?

Payment for social services is determined by the type of service required and someone's ability to pay.

Those needing assistance are visited at home by social workers from the local government authority department responsible for the planning and administering of social services.

Depending on their situation, the elderly and disabled may receive **home assistance** (of up to 10 hours a week), daily social care (from 3 hours a day, 5 days a week), in day-care centres or (from 2 to 8 hours a day up to 7 days a week) in their own home, or in residential care homes.

**Compensation for nursing costs** (*slaugos išlaidų tikslinė kompensacija*) amounts to 2.5 the **compensation base** set by the Government (in 2018 it is EUR 280 a month).

**Compensation for assistance costs** (*priežiūros (pagalbos) išlaidų tikslinė kompensacija*) amounts to either half the compensation base or is the same as this base (EUR 56 or EUR 112, a month, respectively, in 2018) depending on the category into which an individual falls.

Applications for social care services need to be made to the local government authority's social welfare department. Social service needs, including long-term social care, are assessed by social workers. Special needs of the disabled are determined by the Disability and Working Capacity Assessment Office at the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, or by the doctors' consultative commission in the healthcare facility at which a person is registered.

Primary healthcare facilities are responsible for the organisation and provision of nursing care services at home. Only patients referred by a doctor can receive long-term healthcare services.

### Jargon buster

- **Social assistance (home care, training in social skills and support, adaptation for independent living at home)** - the complete range of services provided to a person who does not require constant specialist care.
- **Social care (day care, long-term and short-term care)** - the complete range of services provided to a person who requires constant specialist care.
- **Palliative care** - care to enhance the quality of life and mitigate the suffering of those suffering from incurable conditions.

### Forms you may need to fill in or provide

- Application (you will find the form [here](#));
- Personal identification document;
- Disability or old-age pension book with copies;
- A GP's certificate on your state of health (from your doctor).

Social workers (either from the local authority or the care department) will help you to fill in the necessary documents.

<http://www.vilnius.lt/index.php?2137359300>

### Know your rights

These links will help you find out what your rights are. These are not European Commission websites and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission:

- [Information from the Ministry of Social Security and Labour](#);
- [Information from the Disability and Working Capacity Assessment Office at the Ministry of Social Security and Labour](#).

European Commission publications and websites:

- [Social security coverage: your rights as an EU citizen abroad](#)

### Who do you need to contact?

Information is supplied by the social support departments of local authorities. Most local authorities have an internet address - [name].lt (e.g. vilnius.lt).

# Incapacity

## Work Incapacity pensions

This section contains information on the allocation and calculation of work **incapacity pensions** (*netekto darbingumo pensijos*).

### In what situation can I claim?

Someone is considered to be incapacitated when the Disability and Working Capacity Assessment Office at the Ministry of Social Security and Labour determines that they lost 75-100% of their capacity to work.

A partially incapacitated person is considered by the Disability and Working Capacity Assessment Office to have lost 45-70% of their capacity to work). However, in order to qualify for an incapacity pension, a person must have a certain length of pensionable service, which depends on their age at the time of being certified as incapacitated. A table containing the minimum lengths of service according to age is available [here](#).

### What conditions do I need to meet?

You may receive an work **incapacity pension** (*netekto darbingumo pensija*) if you fulfil the following conditions:

- you have been identified by the Disability and Working Capacity Assessment Office at the Ministry of Social Security and Labour as being incapacitated or partially incapacitated for work;
- you have a minimum length of service for receipt of an incapacity pension.

An incapacity for work pension is payable from the day on which the Disability and Working Capacity Assessment Office declares someone as being incapacitated or partially incapacitated so long as they have the necessary minimum length of service.

When someone is resident in countries which do have international agreements with Lithuania or in which European Union regulations do not apply, they nevertheless have the right to an incapacity pension so long as they have been employed a minimum length of time in an Lithuanian enterprise or organisation.

**Social assistance disability pensions** (*šalpos neįgalumo pensijos*) are payable to those who have been identified as incapacitated or partially incapacitated for work and who are not entitled to a social insurance incapacity pension or for whom this would be very small.

### What am I entitled to and how can I claim?

If you have been declared incapacitated or partially incapacitated for work, you should apply to the local SoDra office for an incapacity pension. If on the day you were declared incapacitated or partially incapacitated for work, you did not meet the minimum length of service requirements you may apply for a pension once you have obtained the necessary length of service.

From 1 January, 2018 **Social insurance work incapacity pension** consists of two parts: a general and an individual part of social insurance pension based on the length of insurance record and paid contributions.

**Social assistance disability pensions** (*šalpos neįgalumo pensijos*) depend on the social assistance pension base set by the Government and the coefficient applied which, depending on circumstance varies from 0.75 to 2.25 (from EUR 97.50 a month to EUR 292.50).

When calculating the amount to be awarded, account is taken of such factors as the age of the disabled person at the time their disability was recognised and its severity.

Social assistance pensions are granted from the date of entitlement. They may be granted retroactively up to 12 months preceding the submission of all the necessary documents to the municipal authority.

### Jargon busters

- **SoDra** - The State Social Insurance Fund Board under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the principal body that organises social security.
- **NDNT** - Disability and Working Capacity Assessment Office at the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.
- **Insured income** - All personal income liable for state social security contributions.

### Forms you may need to fill in

You should submit the following documents to your local SoDra office to be awarded an incapacity pension:

- a personal identification document;
- documents proving your length of service since 1994 and, in certain cases, proof of insured income before 1994.

<http://www.vilnius.lt/index.php?2137359300>

### Know your rights

These links will help you find out what your rights are. These are not European Commission websites and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission:

- [Disability and Incapacity Service information and application forms](#);
- SoDra: [Work incapacity \(invalidity\) pension](#).

European Commission publications and websites:

- [Social security coverage: your rights as an EU citizen abroad](#)

### Who do you need to contact

Disability and Incapacity Service:

Tel. +370 52333320;

[list of district branches and contacts](#)

SoDra, Tel.: 1883 or +370 52500883

## Social security benefits in cases of accidents at work and occupational diseases

This section provides relevant information on social security benefits for a various accidents at work and occupational diseases in Lithuania.

### In what situation can I claim?

Social insurance contributions for employees to cover accidents at work and occupational diseases are made by employers. The self-employed can insure themselves against accidents at work and occupational diseases on a voluntary basis. Students at Career School, on work experience or in the military and those serving terms of imprisonment are insured by the State.

Decisions on entitlement to benefit t are made by the regional units of State Social Insurance Fund Board (SoDra) in the region where the person lives.

### What conditions do I need to meet?

Sickness benefit because of an accident at work, while on the way to or from work or because of an occupational disease is payable in the event of:

- an accident at work where an employee has suffered damage to their her health and is unable to work for one or more;
- an accident on the way to or from work;

**Lump-sum incapacity benefit** (*vienkartinė netekto darbingumo kompensacija*) is payable to those insured who lose less than 30% of their capacity to work.

**Periodic incapacity benefit** (*periodinė netekto darbingumo kompensacija*) is payable to those insured who lose 30% or more of their capacity to work.

**Lump-sum insurance payment on the death of an insured person** (*vienkartinė draudimo išmoka apdraustajam mirus*) is made to the family of an insured person who has died either through an accident at work, on the way to or from work, or from an acute occupational disease, up to 60 times the national monthly wage.

**Periodic insurance payments on the death of an insured person** (*periodinė draudimo išmoka apdraustajam mirus*) through an accident at work, while on the way to or from work, or from an acute occupational disease, are made to the family members of the insured and calculated according to an established formula.

### What am I entitled to and how can I claim?

Benefits that may be allocated in the event of an accident at work are as follows:

- sickness benefit because of an accident at work, while on the way to or from work or because of an occupational disease;
- lump-sum compensation for the loss of capacity to work;
- periodic compensation for the loss of capacity to work;
- where someone insured has died as a result of an accident at work, while on the way to or from work or from an acute recognised occupational disease, family members are paid a lump-sum benefit;
- where someone insured person has died as a result of an accident at work, while on the way to or from work or from a severe recognised occupational illness, family members or dependents receive periodic payments of benefit calculated according to a formula.

Sickness benefit amounts to 100% of earnings and is paid for the total duration of a person's illness.

Payments for accidents at work and occupational diseases that are made from the State Social Insurance Fund (SoDra) budget should be applied for through the SoDra district office.

#### Jargon busters

- **Insured income** - a person's total income from which state social security contributions are paid, with calculations made for payment of benefits in respect of sickness, maternity, paternity, childcare, vocational rehabilitation, illness caused by accidents at work and occupational diseases, as well as for state social security payments for unemployment.
- **SoDra** - The State Social Insurance Fund Board under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the principal body that organises social security.

### Forms you may need to fill in

[Applications for payment submitted for each type of benefit](#)

### Know your rights

These links will help you find out what your rights are. These are not European Commission websites and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission:

- SoDra: [sickness benefit for accident at work, while travelling to or from work or occupational illness](#);

- SoDra: [one-off payment for unfitness for work](#);
- SoDra: [periodic compensation for unfitness for work](#);
- SoDra: [single insurance payment on the death of an insured person from an accident at work, travelling to or from work or from an acute occupational disease](#);
- SoDra: [periodic insurance payments on the death of an insured person from an accident at work, travelling to or from work or from an acute occupational disease](#).

European Commission publications and websites:

- [Social security coverage: your rights as an EU citizen abroad](#)

### **Who do you need to contact?**

By telephoning the SoDra information centre on 1883 or on +370 52500883 you can find out all about benefits.



# **Old-age and survivors**

## Old-age pension

An **old-age pension** (*senatvės pensija*) is paid to everyone who has made social insurance contributions for a particular period of time or who has been insured through other means. This section presents current information on the two-tier pension system that operates in Lithuania.

### In what situation can I claim?

The pension system in Lithuania is made up of three tiers in which pensions are accumulated differently.

Tier I - this is the State social security system through which individuals are insured or insure themselves for a State pension. State pension contributions are paid to SoDra by both the employer (23.3% - from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017: 22.3%) and the employee (3%) and from the contributions collected SoDra makes pension payments. Pension insurance (self-insurance) over a particular period of time gives entitlement to a state social insurance old-age pension. Those who are insured for a full old-age pension and who have not yet reached pension age may invest a portion of their state social insurance contributions (2%) in a pension fund. That is to say, they may participate in pension cumulation through a pension fund - Tier II. In such cases, they need to make an additional contribution from their own earnings (2% of insured income) to the pension fund chosen. Additionally, a fixed contribution will be paid into the fund from the State budget (this amounts to 2% of the average earnings before tax of the average wage of workers over four quarters, based on data published by the Lithuanian Department of Statistics). Once a pension fund scheme has been set up, it is not allowed to withdraw before reaching pension age.

Tier III - this is additional voluntary contributions to a pension fund or participation in a life assurance scheme. Anyone may participate, including those who do not make payments to SoDra and who do not participate in Tiers I and II.

Social assistance pensions are payable to those who are not entitled to social insurance old age pensions or for whom such pensions would be very small.

### What conditions do I need to meet?

The following have the right to receive a pension from SoDra:

- those who have reached retirement age. The pension age is currently being increased year by year to 65. You may use this [calculator](#) to find out the pension age;
- those who have at least the minimum social insurance pension record of 15 years. Starting from 2018, the obligatory pension social insurance record requirement for a full pension is 30 years and 6 months. This will be increased in every subsequent year until it reaches 35 years in 2027.

Those participating in pension cumulation (Tier II) acquire the right to receive a pension on reaching pension age, or if they are awarded an early old-age pension.

The following have the right to receive social assistance pension:

- those who have reached retirement age. The pension age is currently being increased year by year to 65;
- those who are not entitled to social insurance old age pensions or for whom such pensions would be very small.

### What am I entitled to and how can I claim?

Entitlement to the old age pension requires a minimum obligatory pension social insurance record of 15 years. A full old-age pension is payable to those who have accumulated a contribution record of 30 years and 6 months.

Application may be made for the receipt of an old-age pension 3 months prior to reaching retirement age or at any time after this.

Those who participated in a pension cumulation scheme should apply to the company organising the scheme who will advise whether you will be awarded an annuity (see Jargon busters) or whether you may withdraw the total accumulated sum in a lump-sum or in instalments.

Social assistance old-age pensions depend on the social assistance pension base set by the Government and the coefficient which, depending on the group of people, may amount to 0.9 or 1 (EUR 117 or EUR 130).

When calculating the amount to be awarded, account is taken of such factors as the number of children (up to five) and the length of time someone disabled has been receiving care (up to 15 years).

Social assistance pensions are payable from the date of entitlement. They may be granted retroactively up to 12 months preceding the submission of all the necessary documents to the municipal administration.

### Jargon busters

- **SoDra** - The State Social Insurance Fund Board under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the principal body that organises social security.
- **Insured income** - the sum of a person's income from which state insurance payments are deducted.
- **Pension annuity** - a participant in a pension programme is paid a pension for life in instalments, with all the risk falling on the payer - the life assurance company.

### Forms you may need to fill in

- A personal identification document;
- Documents proving your length of service up to 1994 and, in certain cases, proof of insured income before 1994. <http://www.vilnius.lt/index.php?2137359300>.

### Know your rights

These links will help you find out what your rights are. These are not European Commission websites and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission:

- [Ministry of Social Security and Labour information](#);
- [Old-age pension age calculator](#);
- [Pension calculator](#).

European Commission publications and websites:

[Social security coverage: your rights as an EU citizen abroad](#).

### Who do you need to contact?

SoDra, Tel. 1883 or +370 52500883

Lithuanian Bank Supervisory Service, Tel. +370 52680501, e-mail: pt@lb.lt

## Widow's/widower's and orphans' pensions

This section provides current information on conditions for the awarding and payment of pensions to widow's/widower's and orphans.

### In what situation can I claim?

A widow's/widower's **pension** (*našlių pensija*) is a social security benefit paid to the spouse of a deceased person who had State pension insurance.

An **orphans' pension** (*našlaičių pensija*) is a social security benefit paid to the children and adopted children of a deceased person who had State pension insurance.

If a widow's/widower's or orphan is in receipt of an old-age pension or unemployment benefit, survivors' or orphans' pension is paid together with this. Where a person is eligible for both widow's/widower's and orphans' pension, the larger of these is paid unless the recipient chooses otherwise.

Orphan's social assistance pensions are payable to those who are not entitled to social insurance orphans' pensions.

### **What conditions do I need to meet?**

The spouse and children (including adopted children) of a deceased person are paid a pension if on the day of death (or day of being declared missing without trace) the person concerned:

- had the right to work incapacity pension or old-age pension;
- had acquired minimum state social pension insurance or equivalent work service record in Lithuania, the European Union or the European Economic Area (the minimum service requirement does not apply where a person has been awarded incapacity benefit, was a political prisoner or in enforced exile).

A widow's/widower's pension is payable to the spouse of a deceased person:

- who was of pension age irrespective of the age on the day of the spouse's death;
- was disabled at the moment of death of the deceased or within five years after death. The five years term does not apply if the spouse was nursing a disabled child of the deceased person at the time s/he was recognised as disabled; where the spouse and the deceased had no children and had lived together in marriage for at least a year;
- until the spouse remarries.

An orphans' pension or orphan's social assistance pension is awarded to a deceased's children or adopted children:

- those aged under 18;
- those aged between 18 and 24 who are full-time students of registered establishments of higher vocational and secondary education;
- persons recognised as disabled before reaching 24 or between 24 and 26 because of an illness or injury which occurred before 24;
- No age limits for children with disabilities (if the disability was recognised before reaching 18 years, the benefit is paid until the disability ceases and for life in case of permanent disability).

### **What am I entitled to and how can I claim?**

The Basic State social widow's/widower's pension is awarded at the basic amount of widows/widowers pensions. Starting from 1 January 2018, it amounts to EUR 22.46.

The monthly Orphan's Pension amount of the orphan's pension is 50% of the sum of the general and individual parts of the pension that was due or could have been due to the deceased person. The amount is determined on the basis of either the state pension incapacity for work established for those who have lost 65% or more of their capacity for work or the old-age pension. If there is more than one child entitled to the pension, all of them receive equal parts of the total amount payable. If a child has lost both parents, a pension is paid in respect of each deceased parent.

The **orphan's social assistance pension** (*šalpos našlaičių pensija*) amounts to 0.5 of the social assistance pension base (EUR 65) for each child. When 4 or more children (adopted children) of a deceased person are entitled to receive this, the orphan's social assistance pension amounting to 1.5 times the social assistance pension base (EUR 195) is divided equally between them.

### **Jargon busters**

SoDra - The State Social Insurance Fund Board under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the principal body that organises social security.

### **Forms you may need to fill in**

- An identity document confirming your survivor or orphan status;
- a death certificate or a court ruling declaring a person missing without trace;
- a certificate from an educational establishment for an orphan aged 18-24 and, if required, a certificate from the Disability and Incapacity Service with details of incapacity;
- if a deceased person was not in receipt of a social insurance pension, further documents must additionally be submitted that confirm their length of service, and in some cases insured income.

Applications for receipt of a survivors' or orphans' pension should be submitted to the local SoDra branch.

<http://www.vilnius.lt/index.php?2137359300>

Applications for receipt of an orphans' social assistance pension should be submitted to the local authority.

### **Know your rights**

These links will help you find out what your rights are. These are not European Commission websites and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission:

- [Laws governing social security payments;](#)
- [Information on survivors' and orphans' pensions;](#)
- [Information about charitable contributions.](#)

European Commission publications and websites:

- [Bereavement payments: your rights as an EU citizen abroad](#)

### **Who do you need to contact?**

SoDra: Tel.: 1883 or +370 52500883

Most local authorities have an internet address - [name].lt (e.g. vilnius.lt)

# **Social assistance**

## Cash social assistance for people on low income

Cash social assistance is payable to those whose income falls below the national threshold. This section provides information about the types of support available and procedures for awarding them.

### In what situations can I claim?

Law on Cash Social Assistance for Poor Residents of 1 December 2011 (No. XI-1772).

Cash social assistance comprises both **social benefit** (*socialinė pašalpa*) and **compensation for the cost of heating, drinking water and hot water** (*būsto šildymo išlaidų, geriamojo vandens išlaidų ir karšto vandens išlaidų kompensacijos*). Both benefits are means-tested and depend on family income and assets.

Those on low income are entitled to social benefit that guarantees minimum funds for satisfying basic needs (food and clothing) and compensation for the cost of heating, hot water and drinking water intended to cover in part the cost of maintaining a household.

Those on low income may receive social benefit if there are objective reasons why they cannot earn enough to keep themselves and they have exhausted all other possibilities of earning income. Their income and assets are assessed when deciding on their entitlement for support.

### What conditions do I need to meet?

Cash social assistance is payable to those officially registered as residing in Lithuania, including:

- citizens of Lithuania;
- foreign citizens holding a permit of long-term residence in the European Union;
- citizens of a Member State of the European Union or a Member State of the European Free Trade Association in the European Economic Area or their family members who have the right of residence in Lithuania and who have been residing in the country for at least three months. The last requirement does not apply to citizens (workers) and their family members of a Member State of the EU or the European Free Trade Association;
- foreign citizens who have been granted protection in Lithuania, except for those in receipt of funds for integration;
- foreign citizens who are granted asylum in the Republic of Lithuania or temporary protection.

**Social benefit** (*Socialinė pašalpa*) is payable where the income of a family member or a single person is less than the **State Supported Income** (*Valstybės remiamos pajamos*) (EUR 122), assets are less than the limit set by the State and family members are either employed or out of work for legitimate reasons (studying, retired, disabled, raising small children, seeking work through the local labour exchange, etc.).

Social benefit for a single person amounts to 100% of the difference between the State-supported income (EUR 122) and the average monthly income of a single person. Social benefit for a family, including cases where social assistance is only payable to a child, is as follows:

- for the first family member – 100% of the difference between the amount of State Supported Income (EUR 102) for a person and the average monthly income of an individual family member;
- for the second family member – 80% of the above difference for the third and subsequent family members – 70% of the above difference.

Local authorities have the right to award social benefit where people meet these requirements and have income of no more than 50% higher than the State Supported Income level. When someone receiving social benefit starts employment, additional social assistance amounting to 50% of the average social assistance paid over the 12 months

prior to employment may be awarded for each month worked, but for no longer than 6 months.

If those receiving social benefit before becoming employed were registered with the local Labour exchange or national employment service of another Member State for at least 6 months and did not work during this period or have worked less than is legally specified, or are in public works, they are in addition entitled to Social Benefit after becoming employed so long as their earnings are not below the minimum monthly or hourly wage and not more than twice the minimum wage. The amount payable is equal to 50% of the average amount of social benefit paid during the 6 months prior to employment and it is paid for up to 6 months. Social Benefit is reduced for those of working-age who are not working but who are capable of work as follows:

- by 20% in cases where Social Benefit is paid for 12 to 24 months;
- by 30% where it is paid for 24 to 36 months;
- by 40% where it is paid for 36 to 48 months;
- by 50% where it is paid for 48 to 60 months.

In cases where Social Benefit is awarded for more than 60 months, it is provided in a non-monetary form.

The above reductions do not apply in cases where the Social Benefit is paid to children, including adult children in education, as well as during the period of the payment of Social Benefit, the local Labour Exchange office (*Lietuvos darbo birža*) or the national employment service of another Member State failed to offer a job or participation in active labour market policy measures or where they participated in socially useful activities organised by municipalities.

Those on low-income may be awarded **compensation for the cost of heating, drinking water and hot water**. This is based on a means test, which takes account the family income and assets).

Those concerned should not have to pay more than:

- 20% of the income above the State Supported Income per person for the heating for a standard size of accommodation;
- 5% of income for basic standard hot water;
- 2% of income for basic standard drinking water.

Families or single residents entitled to this compensation who own an apartment in a multi-dwelling building are entitled to support towards the cost of a loan taken out to finance the renovation of the building.

### **What am I entitled to and how can I claim?**

People on low income should apply to the local authority in their declared place of residence or in the district where they rent accommodation. Where a person has no registered abode, filling in the required application and submitting the appropriate documents should be done at the local authority of the district in which they are living. Cash social assistance (social benefit and compensation) is provided by the municipality in the place of residence.

An applicant must complete an application form for cash social assistance and attach the required documents relating to income and the assets owned by the family unless the municipality receives data from the state and departmental registers and state information systems.

A decision on the granting of social benefit and/or the calculation and provision of compensation needs to be taken no later than one month from the date of receipt of the application and all the necessary documentation.

Social benefit is awarded for a period of three months. It may be renewed (unlimited number of renewals) if the circumstances have not changed.



Compensation is granted for a period of three months from the date of entitlement. Compensation may be granted retro-actively up to two months preceding the month of submission of the application.

Cash Social assistance (social benefit and compensation) may be granted for a period shorter than three months.

### **Jargon busters**

- **Single person** means a person over 1;
- or a minor, who is declared capable and who is not married or if a married resides separately and has no children (adopted children) living with them.

### **Forms you may need to fill in**

You will find application forms [here](#) (select the appropriate one)

<http://www.socmin.lt/lt/seima-ir-vaikai/prasymu-formos-socialinei-paramai.html>

### **Know your rights**

These links will help you find out what your rights are. These are not European Commission websites and the information they contain may not necessarily reflect the Commission's point of view:

- Information from the Ministry of Social Security and Labour on Social Assistance Payments: <http://www.socmin.lt/lt/socialinis-draudimas/salpos-ismokos.html>
- Information from the Ministry of Social Security and Labour on Social Assistance to Families and children: <http://www.socmin.lt/en/family-and-children/social-assistance-to-z2xz.html>

European Commission publications and websites:

- [Social security coverage: your rights as an EU citizen abroad](#)

### **Who do you need to contact?**

Information is supplied by the social support departments of local authorities. Most local authorities have an internet address - [name].lt (e.g. vilnius.lt).

# Unemployment

## Unemployment benefit

This section provides current information on unemployment benefit, procedures for claiming it and the requirements for eligibility.

### In what situation can I claim?

Unemployment insurance is compulsory for all in employment. Benefits are linked to earnings prior to becoming unemployed and to State Insured Income approved by Government.

In order to qualify for **unemployment benefit** (*nedarbo išmoka*), a person is required to have been insured for at least 12 months in the last 30 months prior to signing on at the labour exchange (from 1st October 2018, the Employment Service will be under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania).

If insurance contributions were paid for you, but they have not been paid for the required length of time (if, for example, you were unfairly dismissed by your employer or you have completed compulsory military service), you may be treated as an exception. If contributions have not been made on your behalf, there will be a waiting period of 7 days, or the length of time for which your former employer paid the missing contributions. If you became unemployed through your own fault, the waiting period will be 3 months.

Unemployment benefit will cease to be paid from the date you find work or become self-employed.

### What conditions do I need to meet?

You have unemployment insurance if:

- you are employed under an employment contract, an authorship contract or a patent agreement, including in positions to which you were elected;
- you are in the National Defence system professional military service, a volunteer soldier, on other active service, or a managed reserve soldier called up for exercise, training or to perform service tasks;
- you are in the Lithuanian armed forces, in the initial compulsory military service or undertaking alternative service;
- you are not working because of taking childcare leave to look after a child 1-3;
- you are one of the parents (or adoptive parents) of a disabled person or the guardian of a disabled child, providing permanent care at home;
- you are the spouse of a civil servant or of someone in the professional military service;
- you are an Internal Service officer of the Prison Department of the Lithuanian Ministry of Justice and its subordinate institutions;
- you are a farmer or his/her partner, a household member engaged in individual activities as defined in the Personal Income Tax Act, (except if so engaged under a business license).

If you wish to receive unemployment benefit you must fulfil the following conditions:

- you must be unemployed;
- you must be of working age;
- you must not be in full-time education;
- you must be able to provide proof of having achieved the minimum period of unemployment insurance;
- you must be registered with the labour exchange;
- you must be actively seeking work, prepared to accept jobs offered to you, and actively participate in labour market policy measures (see Jargon busters below);
- you must not be in receipt of sickness or maternity (paternity) benefits or other social security benefits.

You will not receive unemployment benefit if you:

- are studying under a general education programme or a formal vocational education programme;
- have reached the statutory old-age pension age or are recognised as being incapable of work;
- refused, without a valid reason, a suitable job offer;
- failed, without a valid reason, to attend an appointment at the local labour exchange for accepting a job offer, or for drawing up of an individual activation plan;
- stopped participating in the learning support measures or supported employment measures without a valid reason;
- the local labour exchange repeatedly receives information from institutions exercising control and prevention of illegal work, undeclared employment and undeclared self-employment that you received income illegally;
- your permit entitling you to reside in Lithuania as unemployed has expired;
- a court decision, order or judgment has imposed penalties, or sanctions on you;
- you migrate from Lithuania;
- you have filed an application cancelling registration with the local labour exchange.

You will avoid sanctions if you can show good reason for any of the above (illness, accident, death of a parent, child or spouse, etc.).

The unemployment insurance benefit shall be paid during 9 months.

In the case you have less than 5 years remaining until retirement age when the period of benefit payment comes to an end, payments may be extended by a further 2 months so long as you are not in receipt of an early old-age pension.

If you have more than 30 years of insurance contributions and you will receive a retirement pension within the coming 5 years, you may apply for early payment of your pension.

### **What am I entitled to and how can I claim?**

Unemployment benefit is calculated as the sum of a fixed part and a variable part. The fixed part equals the 30% of the Minimum monthly wage and now it is EUR 120.

The variable part of the benefit is 50% of the average monthly insured income of the unemployed for the first 3 months; 40% for the next 3 months and 30% for the following 3 months. The average monthly insured income of the unemployed is calculated over the 30 months prior to registration with the local labour exchange.

Unemployment benefit cannot be less than 30% of the minimum monthly wage and cannot exceed 75% of the average national wage.

Applications for payments should be addressed to the district office of the Lithuanian Labour Exchange.

### Jargon busters

- **Active labour market policy measures** include support for learning (vocational training, employment under an apprenticeship employment contract, advanced training), support for mobility, supported employment (subsidised employment, support for the acquisition of work skills) support for job creation (subsidising of job creation / adaptation, implementation of local employment initiative projects, support for self-employment).
- **Labour exchange with its 10 territorial labour exchange offices** - the main institution for the implementation of employment, retraining and active labour market policies.
- **SoDra** - The State Social Insurance Fund Board under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the main institution organising social security.
- **Minimum required insurance period** - the period for which the payment of insurance contributions is required in order to qualify for unemployment benefit (12 months in the previous 30 months prior to signing on as unemployed at the local labour exchange, though there are exceptions as indicated above).

### Forms you may need to fill in

You may sign on at your local labour exchange or [online](#).

### Know your rights

These links will help you find out what your rights are. These are not European Commission websites and the information they contain may not necessarily reflect the Commission's point of view:

- Lithuania labour exchange : [information about unemployment benefit](#);
- SoDra: payment of unemployment benefit;  
<http://www.sodra.lt/lt/situacijos/informacija-gyventojams/ka-daryti-jei-netekau-darbo-1>
- [Labour exchange FAQs](#).

European Commission publications and websites:

- [Unemployment and benefits: you rights as an EU citizen abroad](#)

### Who do you need to contact?

Lithuanian Job Centre: +370 70055166.

[Regional Job Centre branches](#).

# Moving abroad

## Transfer from abroad of previously held social security

Information is set out here on how to aggregate periods of social insurance for which contributions have been paid in another Member State in order to preserve social security rights.

### In what situation can I claim?

**If you are intending to work in another EU country** or in other countries where regulations corresponding to those of the EU are in force (the European Economic Area and Switzerland), these regulations make provision for equal treatment of those insured.

Each Member State has its own laws that set out procedures for the payment of social security, as well the amounts and the length of time for which payments are made. However, social security systems in the EU are coordinated. The basic principles of social security coordination are:

- non-discrimination on grounds of nationality;
- a person is covered for social insurance only in one Member State and pays social security contributions only in one country (even if they work in two or more Member States) according to the system there. Social security contributions paid may not be cancelled, frozen or reduced if a person moves to another Member State;
- insurance periods completed in different Member States are aggregated. If anyone returns to live in Lithuania and applies for social security payments, in determining their right to benefit, social security periods accumulated in another Member State will be taken into account;
- benefits can be exported.

See below for the documents that must be submitted.

Pensions are calculated separately in each country depending on how long a person worked and paid insurance in the Member State.

### What conditions do I need to meet?

The appropriate regulations are applied to these social security areas:

- unemployment benefit;
- sickness, maternity and equivalent paternity benefits;
- invalidity benefit;
- long-term care benefit;
- old-age benefits and survivor's (loss of breadwinner) benefits;
- benefits paid for accidents at work and occupational diseases;
- death grants;
- family benefits.

### What am I entitled to and how can I claim?

In order to exercise your rights and receive payment you must submit the required documents (see below 'Forms you may need to fill in').

You must also be prepared to provide details of your employer(s) in the other Member State, as well as dates, the period during which you were insured and your social security number(s).

Family benefits are normally paid by the Member State in which child's parents work and in which the child is resident. If family members work and live in different Member States, the relevant national institution will examine your family situation and rule on which country is responsible for making payments.

If Member State 'X' is responsible for your family payments, but you work or receive a pension in Member State 'Y' and the family payments from Member State 'Y' are greater

than those from Member State 'X', this is the Member State that will make the difference in payments.

If you are posted abroad and remain insured in your own Member State, your Member State will continue to be responsible for paying family benefits.

Survivors' or orphans' pensions are awarded depending on where the deceased person has paid social security contributions and/or received a pension.

### **Jargon busters**

**European Economic Area:** Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

**Member State:** EU country, European Economic Area country and Switzerland.

### **Forms you may need to fill in**

More information can be found on the webpage [Your Europe](#).

- A1 (previously - E 101, E 103): a person on a posting or simultaneously working in several countries is issued with a document confirming that they pay social insurance contributions in another Member State. This document in Lithuania is issued by the SoDra Foreign Benefits Office;
- S1 (previously - E 106, E 109 or E 121): this document details the right to health care. It is useful for workers, pensioners, civil servants and their dependants travelling to work abroad. It can be obtained from health insurance organisations. (In Lithuania - at the Local Patients' Fund offices);
- U1 (previously - E 301): a document that confirms the periods to be taken into account when calculating unemployment benefit. It is issued by the country in which a person last worked, by the local job centre (employment service) or by the relevant social insurance institution. This document in Lithuania is issued by SoDra. SoDra also issue a U2 Certificate (previously E 303), permission to claim unemployment benefit while seeking work in another Member State;
- U3 sets out the circumstances that may affect your right to unemployment benefit. It is issued by the state employment service (district job centre). This document in Lithuania is issued by Local Labour Exchange offices;
- DA1 (previously - E 123): a document that confirms the right to receive health care services in another EU country in the event of an accident at work or occupational disease. It is issued by the health insurance institution (Local Patients' Fund offices in Lithuania);
- P1: a review of decisions taken by institutions to which a person has submitted an application for retirement, survivor's or invalidity pensions. Issued by the pensions institution (SoDra Foreign Benefits Office in Lithuania).

### **Know your rights**

These links will help you find out what your rights are. These are not European Commission websites and the information they contain may not necessarily reflect the Commission's point of view:

- Ministry of Social Security and Labour [webpage for EU migrants](#);
- [Pension payments for person living abroad](#) - SoDra information.

European Commission publications and websites:

- How to clarify, [where you are insured](#) , on the 'Your Europe' web portal;
- [Social security forms](#) on the 'Your Europe' web portal.

### **Who do you need to contact?**

SoDra: Tel.: 1883 or +370 52500883



The National SOLVIT Centre - a complaint response network to help resolve quickly and free of charge problems arising from improper application of EU law:

Gabija Balikė  
Lina Giedraitienė

**Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Lithuania**  
**Department of European Union Affairs**

Gedimino pr. 38 LT-01104 Vilnius LITHUANIA

Tel. +370 70664797

Tel. +370 70664803 Fax. +370 70664762 [solvit@ukmin.lt](mailto:solvit@ukmin.lt)

# Main residence

## Habitual place of residence

This section sets out current information on the requirements governing habitual places of residence that you must adhere to if you wish to claim certain types of social benefits.

### In what situation can I claim?

A permanent residence is a place where a person actually lives and with which they are most closely associated. It is important that a person should intend to live there permanently for the foreseeable future, not just stay there for short periods of time between trips, business trips or for study purposes. Different rules apply to EU citizens than to other foreigners.

The Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania defines what is meant by a person's permanent residence.

The requirement to actually live in the place means that a person is in fact permanently occupying and maintaining the living space, and not just for a certain time each year.

By 'in the foreseeable future' is meant in the coming tax period.

Permanent residence does not need to necessarily correspond to a person's declared place of abode.

In deciding whether a person has the right to compulsory health insurance, account must be taken of whether or not they are listed in the population register.

According to a clarification of the European Court of Justice a *child's* residence is determined with reference to their history of residence in a State, their length of residence and other circumstances, as well as the extent of their integration into the environment.

### What conditions do I need to meet?

The criteria by which a place of residence is recognised as permanent are:

- **the duration of your stay in Lithuania**, continuity of residence and intention in the future to live or not to live in the country;
- **your personal situation**: your paid or unpaid activities; if you have signed a contract of employment, its duration and your place of employment; your family situation; if you are studying; your source of income; your status as a tenant or homeowner, and the country in which you pay tax.

### What am I entitled to and how can I claim?

The majority of the social security benefits in Lithuania are related to a person's activities and to past insurance contributions. Only health insurance contributions are compulsory.

Social assistance in cash, i.e. family benefits, assistance in the event of death and social support for people on a low-income, are paid by the State, with social services provided to all irrespective of contributions. Social assistance in cash is paid to permanent residents as well as to citizens and their family members of EU Member States living for at least 3 months in Lithuania who have been issued with documents that legally confirm their right to live in Lithuania.

### **Jargon busters**

- **Tax period** - The fiscal year, which coincides with the calendar year, but for companies is calculated from their founding or establishment.
- **SoDra** - The State Social Insurance Fund Board under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the principal body that organises social security.
- **Public records** - The register of taxpayers, register of addresses, the property register and other registers of the 'Register Centre' state enterprise.

### **Forms you may need to fill in**

- A public register certificate of place of residence;
- Other documents, if required, offering proof of a person's permanent residence (e.g. lease agreement).

### **Know your rights**

These links will help you find out what your rights are. These are not European Commission websites and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission:

- [Laws on social benefits](#);
- [Legal consultations](#).

European Commission publications and websites:

- [Social security coverage: your rights as an EU citizen abroad](#)

### **Who do you need to contact?**

SoDra: Tel.: 1883 or +370 52500883

