



# **Your social security rights in Lithuania**



## **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion  
Directorate D: Social Rights and Inclusion  
Unit D.2: Social Protection

Contact: <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=2&langId=en&acronym=contact>

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# **Your social security rights in Lithuania**

Manuscript completed in July 2023

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Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2023

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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 (curatorship) benefit, Targeted guardianship (curatorship) benefit supplement, 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, Child temporary care benefit, Child adoption benefit, 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 (curatorship) benefit** (*Globos (rūpybos) išmoka*) is payable for each child cared for in a family, social family, foster centre or childcare institution;
- **Targeted guardianship (curatorship) benefit supplement** (*globos (rūpybos) išmokos tikslinis priedas*) is payable for each child placed under guardianship in a family, social family or foster centre;
- **Lump sum child benefit** (*vienkartinė išmoka vaikui*) is payable for each new born or adopted child, irrespective of whether a benefit for a new-born child has already been paid;
- **Child benefit** (*išmoka vaikui*) is payable for every child from birth to the age of 18 and up to 23 if they are in education, irrespective of family income. For low income families raising one or two children, families raising three or more children and for disabled children, an additional child benefit is paid.
- **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 in mandatory 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 person 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 benefit** (*išmoka įvaikinus vaiką*).
- **Child temporary care benefit** (*vaiko laikinosios priežiūros išmoka*).

### What conditions do I need to meet?

You may claim these benefits if:

- you are a permanent resident in Lithuania;
- you are a foreign national with a permit of a long-term residence from Lithuania in the European Union;
- you are a foreign national residing in Lithuania legally appointed as a guardian (foster carers) of a child who is a Lithuanian citizen;

- children residing in Lithuania with foreign nationality and whose guardianship according to law has been assumed by a competent authority in the country;
- you are a foreign national with a temporary residence permit enabling you to work in Lithuania in a highly-qualified position;
- 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;
- 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 does not apply if you or a member of your family are citizens of one of the countries mentioned above and work in Lithuania;
- you are a foreign national with a temporary residence in Lithuania in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer for a period not less than 9 months;
- you are a foreign citizen who is granted asylum and temporary protection in Lithuania.
- you are a person for whom the Republic of Lithuania Law on Benefits for Children is applicable under the EU regulations on the coordination of social security systems;
- you and your family members are citizens of Australia, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or South Korea and are granted temporary residence permits and live for at least three months in Lithuania. This requirement does not apply, if you are a citizen of one of the countries mentioned above and work (as employed or self-employed) in 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 that amounts to 6.43 times the basic social benefit (hereinafter - BSB) (EUR 315.07) 70 days before the scheduled childbirth date.

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 BSB (EUR 539).

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 BSB (EUR 196) 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 23 if studying under the general curriculum regardless of family income. The child benefit amounts to 1.75 BSB (EUR 85.75).

Low-income families raising and/or fostering one or two children whose income per person is less than 2 times the State supported income (EUR 258), families raising and/or fostering three or more children or disabled children are entitled to an additional child benefit amounting to 1.03 of BSB (EUR 50.47) for every child.

### **Child care benefit for person in training or education**

- if one of the child's parents, adoptive parents, or guardian attends a formal vocational training programme, or is a full-time student at a higher education institution or are doctoral or medical residency student and is not entitled to a child care benefit, they are entitled to a monthly benefit of 6 BSB (EUR 294) during the period of training or studies and for 12 months after completion.
- This benefit is paid during the period of child care from the date of birth of the child until 2 years of age. The child care benefit shall not be granted to persons in training or education, if the other parent (adoptive parent) or guardian of the child has been granted a child care benefit for the same child.

### **Guardianship (curatorship) benefit and Targeted guardianship benefit supplement**

For each child in care in a family, social family, social care institution or foster centre a monthly guardianship (curatorship) benefit is paid:

- for children under 6 years: 5.2 BSB (EUR 254.80);
- for children from 6 to 12 years: 6 BSB (EUR 294);
- for children from 12 to 18 years of age and those with a disability level: 6.5 BSB (EUR 318.50);
- for those under the age of 24 who are studying: 6.5 BSB (EUR 318.50).

A child who continues the studies according to the general education curriculum and/or the formal vocational training programme and who, during a school year, receives overnight accommodation, food and other services in a general education school, vocational training establishment or a children's socialisation centre, is entitled to a monthly guardianship (curatorship) benefit:

- for children under 6 years: EUR 127.40;
- for children from 6 to 12 years: EUR 147,
- for children from 12 to 18 years of age and those with a disability level or for those under the age of 24 who are studying: EUR 159.25.

For each child placed under guardianship in a family, a social family or foster centre a monthly targeted guardianship benefit supplement is payable, amounting to 4 times BSB (EUR 196) per family.

If, at the end of the child's guardianship, as a result of adulthood, emancipation or marriage, persons still receive overnight accommodation, food and other services in a family, social family or foster centre and are enrolled in a general education programme, they may receive a targeted guardianship benefit supplement per month of 4 BSB (EUR 196) which is granted and paid to family, social family and foster centre.

### **Lump sum settlement benefit:**

Upon the expiry of the foster care due to attaining the age of majority, emancipation or contracting a marriage, the person is granted a lump sum settlement benefit amounting to 75 BSB (EUR 3,675) to acquire a dwelling or to redeem part of the loan for the acquisition, or building of a dwelling (dwelling-house, apartment), to pay utility charges for a rented or owned dwelling, to repair or renovate a dwelling, to purchase furniture and domestic appliances, or to acquire a PC, to pay tuition charges or to purchase a plot of land.

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

Guardianship (curatorship) benefits and targeted guardianship benefits supplement 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 (curatorship) 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 (curatorship) benefit is paid to them by the local municipal council in the area where they have declared residence.

#### **Benefit for a child of a serviceman in mandatory primary military service:**

Each child of a serviceman or woman in compulsory primary military service is entitled to a benefit of 1.5 times BSB a month (EUR 73.50).

If both the father and mother perform mandatory primary military service at the same time, the amount of the benefit for mandatory primary military service serviceman's child is not increased.

#### **Child adoption benefit:**

In the case of adoption of a child, one of the adoptive parents is entitled to a monthly benefit equal to 8 BSB (EUR 392) which is paid for 24 months, but at most 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 benefit.

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

The Child adoption benefit 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 benefit is granted and paid from the day on which an individual is entitled to the allowance but for no more than 24 months before the submission of all documents for entitlement to the allowance to the municipality's administration.

#### **Child temporary care benefit:**

It is paid to the carer during the period of temporary guardianship of a child amounting to 6 BSB (EUR 294).

#### **Jargon busters**

- **Basic Social Benefit (BSB)** (*bazinė socialinė išmoka, BSI*) – monthly amount of benefit set by the Government - (EUR 49);
- **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, foster centre registration document;
- a court decision on the awarding of child maintenance, where maintenance was awarded;
- 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** (*Motinytės išmoka*), **Paternity Benefit** (*Tėvystės išmoka*) 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 and Childcare benefit extends to all those insured who have maternity social insurance record of at least 12 of the previous 24 months.

Entitlement to Paternity benefit extends to all those insured who have social insurance record of at least 6 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 77.58% of earnings.

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

**Paternity benefit** is paid to the father for 30 calendar days, which can be split into two parts, after the birth of the child with the possibility of choosing when to receive the benefit until the child is one year old. It is equal to 77.58% of earnings.

**Childcare benefit** is paid to one of the parents (or adoptive parent), one of the grandparents or guardian caring for the child. It is calculated in relation to earnings (see below) and depends on the time scale chosen:

- if someone insured elects to receive the benefit up until the child is 18 months old, it amounts to 60% of their earnings.
- Where someone elects to receive the benefit up until the child is 2 years old, it amounts to 45% of earnings for the first year, and 30% for the second year. In the event of a multiple birth, the benefit varies with the number of children born, but it cannot exceed 78% of earnings.
- For both cases, the amount of the childcare benefit for the two non-transferable months of childcare leave is 78% of the beneficiary's compensatory wage. The childcare benefit of the same amount will be paid for the additional 2 months of childcare leave, which is granted in cases where the child is raised by only one parent.
- If parents work during non-transferable leave, the benefit will be reduced by the amount of income received. It will be possible to work during transferable childcare leave, but the amount of the benefit and the salary received will not be able to exceed the salary from which the benefit was calculated. During the additional two months (paid for lone parents), it is possible to work and receive the full amount of childcare benefit.

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 benefit apply: minimum amount per month cannot be lower than 6 times the Basic Social Benefit (EUR 294). The earnings base used to calculate paternity / childcare benefit cannot be more than twice the national average monthly wage of the two quarters preceding the month when the person became entitled to the paternity or child care benefit (EUR 3,574.20), except for maternity benefit which it is not subject to any ceiling.

Upon adopting a child, childcare benefit is granted by SoDra.

Childcare benefit is paid 18 or 24 months, optionally, regardless of the age of the adopted child and until the child reaches the age of 18. The amount is 60% of the earnings if the benefit is received for 18 months and if the benefit is received for 24 months, during the first year the amount is 45% of the earnings, and 30% for the second year.

Maternity/Paternity benefits and Childcare benefits are paid by local SoDra 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, which can be split into two parts, until the child turns one year;
- **Childcare benefit** - a benefit paid optionally to one or other parent (step-parent), grandparent 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 benefits may be submitted [online](#), completed at the local SoDra 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 benefit 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, paternity, childcare benefit](#)

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.

Those insured 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?**

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 for all groups listed below 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 the Employment Services under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour 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;
- those who have received treatment for oncological disease of mouth, face and jaw.

The cost of pharmaceuticals, medical aids included in the positive list is covered for those suffering from specific diseases who receive 100% (applicable for some medicines) of the reference (basic) price (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 or implants (except for certain categories of people).

### **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 National Health Insurance Fund reimburses 100% of the cost of cochlear implants, hearing aids and prostheses (if someone wishes a different device than what it is offered by the National Health Insurance Fund, they have to pay the full price and claim for reimbursement, which cannot be higher than the price of the device offered by The National Health Insurance Fund).

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

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

Patients 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 5 232 2222

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

<https://ligoniukasa.lrv.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 by sickness 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, pre-primary or primary school education programmes as well as special education programs for children with disabilities 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;
- is insured and has a sickness social insurance record of at least 3 months in the previous 12 months, or 6 months in the previous 24 months;
- does not have the required sickness social insurance 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 local 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 62.06% and not more than 100% of the employee's average earnings.
- Benefit paid from SoDra budget funds from the third day at 62.06% 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 65.94% of earnings.

Where temporary incapacity is due to tissue or organ donation, sickness benefit is paid from SoDra funds at 77.58% 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 2023 – EUR 3,574.20).

#### **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 based on which social security contributions are calculated plus the sickness, occupational rehabilitation, maternity, paternity, childcare benefits, work-related accidents or occupational diseases benefits and unemployment benefits.

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

Applications for sickness benefit may be submitted [online](#), completed at the local SoDra 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 both long-term social care (social services) and long-term health care and provides comprehensive care to individuals due to a medical condition or age, disability or total loss of ability or self-care personal or family life.

Long-term social 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 three different health care services: supportive treatment and nursing, palliative care, outpatient-nursing services at home.

### 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 10 hours a day up to 7 days a week) in their own home, or in residential care homes (up to 6 months for short-term care or indefinitely for long-term care).

**Compensation for nursing costs** (*slaugos išlaidų tikslinė kompensacija*) amounts from 1.9 to 2.6 the **compensation base** set by the Government (in 2023, it is from EUR 279.30 to EUR 382.20 a month).

**Compensation for assistance costs** (*priežiūros (pagalbos) išlaidų tikslinė kompensacija*) amounts to either 0.6 or 1.1 of the compensation base (i.e. EUR 88.20 or EUR 161.70 a month, respectively, in 2023) 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;
- Certificate of old-age or disability pensionA 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?

A person for whom the Disability and Working Capacity Assessment Office at the Ministry of Social Security and Labour determines that they have lost at least 45% of their capacity to work.

However, in order to qualify for an incapacity pension, a person must have a certain length of minimum length of 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 **social insurance 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 a person that has lost at least 45% of your capacity to work;
- you have a minimum length of service for receipt of an incapacity pension.

An incapacity for work pension is payable from the day the incapacity is determined so long as you have the necessary minimum length of service.

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

**Social assistance disability pensions** (*šalpos neįgalumo pensijos*) are payable to those who have been declared as having lost at least 60% of their capacity to work (45% for individuals recognised as fully or partially incapable for work below the age of 24) 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 as having lost at least 45% of your capacity to work, you should apply to the local SoDra office for an incapacity pension. If on the day you were declared incapable to 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.

**Social insurance work incapacity pension** (*netekto darbingumo pensija*) 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 1 to 2.25 (from EUR 184 a month to EUR 414).

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 6 months preceding the submission of all the necessary documents to the local Sodra.

### **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 before 1994.

### **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 in private companies. Students at Career School, on work experience or during the military service and those serving terms are insured by the State. Social insurance contributions are calculated on the basis of the minimum monthly salary approved by the Government.

Decisions on entitlement to benefit are made by the local State Social Insurance Fund Board (SoDra) offices 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:

- for those who have temporarily lost their capacity for work as a result of an occupational injury, an accident on the way to/from work, or an occupational disease, which are recognised as insured events;
- if the entitlement to it has arisen during the insurance period.

**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 46.55 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 incapacity benefit;
- periodic incapacity benefit;
- 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 77.58% 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 local SoDra office.

### Jargon busters

- **Insured income** - all personal income based on which social security contributions are calculated plus the 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

Forms are in the SoDra's [information system](#);

Additional documents must be attached, if necessary, such as [forms N-1 or N-2](#), job contracts and other documents, which contain data on the cause of an accident at work, an occupational disease or death due to an accident at work or an acute occupational disease

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

- through the SoDra [information system](#);
- upon arrival in local SoDra office;
- by post (post office).

### **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: Lump-sum [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-pillar pension system that operates in Lithuania.

### In what situation can I claim?

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

Pillar I is the State social security system through which individuals are insured or insure themselves for a Social insurance pension.

Pillar II - New sources of financing have been introduced in 2019: person's private contribution (3% from the person's gross wage) and the state's contribution (1.5% from the national average wage). Transfers of social insurance contributions to the Pillar II funds are not any longer possible.

Once a pension fund scheme has been set up, it is not allowed to withdraw before reaching pension age.

Pillar III is the voluntary contribution to a pension fund or participation in a life insurance scheme. Everybody can participate, including those who do not make pay contributions to SoDra and who do not participate in Pillars 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 retirement 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.

Those participating in a funded pension scheme (Pillar II) acquire the right to receive a pension on reaching retirement 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 retirement 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 pension social insurance record of 15 years. In 2023, a full old-age pension is payable to those who have accumulated a contribution record of 33 years.

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 is 1 (EUR 184).

Social assistance pensions are payable from the date of entitlement. They may be granted retroactively up to 6 months preceding the submission of all the necessary documents to the local SoDra.

### 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  
<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](mailto: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 Social insurance 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 Social insurance pension insurance.

Widow's/widower's can be paid together with other social insurance pensions. 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 has reached the retirement 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 24 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. From 1 January 2023, it amounts to EUR 34.89.

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 social insurance 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 92) 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 276) 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;
- 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, orphans' social assistance pension should be submitted to the local SoDra branch.

### **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 (until 30 April 2024 the owned property will not be taken into account).

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;
- foreign citizens who are granted asylum or temporary protection;
- citizens of Australia, Japan, the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or South Korea and their family members who have been granted temporary residence permits and live for at least three months in Lithuania. This requirement does not apply if you are a citizen of one of these countries and work (as employed or self-employed) in Lithuania.

**Social benefit** (*Socialinė pašalpa*) is paid to the household if the monthly income is below the level of 1.1 of the **State Supported Income** (hereinafter - SSI) (*Valstybės remiamos pajamos*) (i.e. EUR 172.70 per person per month).

The minimum level of income is based on the price of a defined basket of goods and the amount of support payable is determined by assigning notional amount to each member.

From 1 June 2020, the amount of social benefit has been increased and differentiated based on the duration of payment:

Amount of social benefit for a one-person household:

- up to 6 months: the difference between 1.4 SSI (EUR 219.80) per person per month and the actual income;
- up to 6–12 months: the difference between 1.2 SSI (EUR 188.40) per person per month and the actual income;
- more than 12 months: the difference between 1.1 SSI (EUR 172.70) per person per month and the actual income.

Amount of social benefit for two or more people living together:

- the difference between 1.1 SSI (EUR 172.70) per person per month and the actual income for the first family member;
- the difference between 90% of 1.1 SSI (EUR 172.70) per person per month and the actual income for the second family member;
- the difference between 70% of 1.1 SSI (EUR 172.70) per person per month and the actual income for the third and any additional family member.

If those receiving social benefit before becoming employed were registered with the Employment Service 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 of the in-work social benefit after employment has been increased and differentiated depending on the duration of payment:

- for 1–3 months: the amount is 100% of the average amount of the social benefit paid during the last 6 months prior to employment;
- for 4–6 months: 80% of the average amount of the social benefit paid during the last 6 months prior to employment;
- for 7–12 months: 50% of the average amount of the social benefit paid during the last 6 months prior to employment.

If after finding employment the people living together (or a person living alone) are still eligible for social benefit, they can receive social benefit and the in-work social benefit at the same time.

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 Employment Service 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 pay for:

- the heating of a standard sized accommodation: not more than 10% of the difference between the family income and the amount of 2 SSI (EUR 314) for a family (persons living together) and 10% of the difference between the single person income and the amount of 3 SSI (EUR 471) for single person;
- basic standard hot water: not more than 5% of the family (persons living together) or single person income;
- basic standard drinking water: 2% of the family (persons living together) or single resident income.

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.

From 30 September 2022 until 30 April 2024 and during the heating season, more favourable conditions have been introduced to receive compensations, including compensation for house heating costs, i.e. the duration of payment of compensations has been extended to the entire heating season if the application for compensations is submitted one month before the beginning of the heating season or during the heating season.

### **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 18; 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)

### **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 minimum monthly wage 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 Employment Service.

If insurance contributions were paid for you, but they have not been paid for the required length of time (if, for example, you have completed compulsory military service), you may be treated as an exception. The unemployment benefit is granted as of the eighth day after acquiring the unemployment status. If you became dismissed 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 or you are politician or public official and you receive wages according to special laws;
- 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 1-3 years old child;
- you are one of the parents (or adoptive parents) of a disabled person or the guardian (carer) of a disabled person, providing permanent care at home;
- you are the spouse of a posted civil servant or of someone in the professional military service and living together abroad;
- you are an Internal Service officer;
- you are the owner of an individual company, member of a small partnership or member of the partnership and generate income.

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 general education programme, except for persons who study according to adult primary, basic, secondary education programs;
- you must be able to provide proof of having achieved the minimum period of unemployment insurance;
- you must be registered with the Employment Service;

- 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 (except for persons who study according to adult primary, basic, secondary education programs);
- have reached the statutory old-age pension age or are recognised as being incapable of work;
- have missed, without a valid reason, an appointment at the Employment Service for accepting a job offer, or for drawing up of an individual plan on employment activities, or for participating in the active labour market policy measures included in the individual plan on employment activities or programmes on increasing employment, or for using the labour market services provided in such plan;
- have refused, without a valid reason, to accept an individual plan of employment activities or to participate in the active labour market measures provided in such plan, or have refused a suitable job for the second time within a period of 12 months; have stopped participating in the learning support measures or supported employment measures without a valid reason;
- have not sought, without a valid reason, a job and have not carried out activities of providing agricultural and forestry services validated by a receipt and/or violated the procedure for reporting on individual job search for the second time during the period of 6 months after the first report;
- have 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 of Employment Service.
- were recognised by the Employment Service as a person getting ready for the labour market.

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

The unemployment insurance benefit shall be paid for 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 23.27% of the Minimum monthly wage and now it is EUR 195.47.

The variable part of the benefit is 38.79% of the average monthly insured income of the unemployed for the first 3 months; 31.03% for the next 3 months and 23.27% for the following 3 months. The average monthly insured income of the unemployed is calculated taking into account the amount of every month during the previous 30 months starting two months preceding to the date of the acquired unemployment status.

Unemployment benefit cannot be less than 23.27% of the minimum monthly wage and cannot exceed 58.18% of the average national wage.

Applications for payments should be addressed to the Employment Service or SoDra.

### Jargon busters

- **Active labour market policy measures** include **Support for learning** (vocational training, employment under an apprenticeship employment contract, internship (traineeship), recognition of competences acquired by non-formal and informal learning, non-formal adult education, acquisition of qualifications and competences of high added value).
- **Supported employment** (subsidised employment subsidy for the cost of a job assistant)
- **Support for job creation or adaptation** (subsidising of job adaptation, implementation of local employment initiative projects, support for business creation).
- **Support for mobility** Employment Service - the main institution for the 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 acquired unemployment status, though there are exceptions as indicated above).

### Forms you may need to fill in

You may sign on at local SoDra office or at the Employment Service 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:

- Employment Service: [information about unemployment benefit](#)
- SoDra: [payment of unemployment benefit](#)

European Commission publications and websites:

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

### Who do you need to contact?

Lithuanian Employment Service: +370 70055166.

Regional Employment Service [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 intend to work in another EU country** or in other country 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 contributions 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 determine 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.

There are two types of support in the case of death:

- lump-sum funeral allowance in the amount of 8 BSB (EUR 392)
- allowance for repatriation of remains of Lithuanian citizens who have died abroad. It is equal to the actual costs of transporting the remains in Lithuania, but with a ceiling of 54 BSB (EUR 2,646). Person shall be entitled to the repatriation allowance if the average income of the single person or each person living in the same household per month is less than 3 SSI (EUR 471).

### **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 Vilnius Division;
- 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 Territorial health insurance 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 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 the Employment Service;
- 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 (Territorial health insurance 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 Vilnius Division 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](#)

European Commission publications and websites:

- [Help and advice for EU nationals and their family](#)

## Who do you need to contact?

### **State Social Insurance Fund Board under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour**

Phone 1883 or +370 5 250 0883

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

Konstitucijos av. 12

09308 Vilnius

Lithuania

[www.sodra.lt](http://www.sodra.lt)

### **Employment Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour**

Phone 1883 or (+370) 5 250 0883

[info@uzt.lt](mailto:info@uzt.lt), [eures@uzt.lt](mailto:eures@uzt.lt)

Geležinio Vilko str. 3A

LT-03131 Vilnius

Lithuania

[www.uzt.lt](http://www.uzt.lt)

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

Phone + 370 5 232 2222

[vlk@vlk.lt](mailto:vlk@vlk.lt)

Europos Sq. 1

LT03505 Vilnius

Lithuania

<https://ligoniukasa.lrv.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 and other countries who have been issued with documents that legally confirm their right to live in Lithuania (see *Family benefits and Cash social assistance for people on low income*).

### **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

## **Getting in touch with the EU**

### **In person**

All over the European Union there are hundreds of Europe Direct information centres. You can find the address of the centre nearest you at: [europa.eu/european-union/contact\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en)

### **On the phone or by email**

Europe Direct is a service that answers your questions about the European Union. You can contact this service:

- by freephone: 00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11 (certain operators may charge for these calls),
- at the following standard number: +32 22999696 or
- by email via: [europa.eu/european-union/contact\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en)

## **Finding information about the EU**

### **Online**

Information about the European Union in all the official languages of the EU is available on the Europa website at: [europa.eu/european-union/index\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/index_en)

### **EU publications**

You can download or order free and priced EU publications at: [publications.europa.eu/en/publications](https://publications.europa.eu/en/publications). Multiple copies of free publications may be obtained by contacting Europe Direct or your local information centre (see [europa.eu/european-union/contact\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en)).

### **EU law and related documents**

For access to legal information from the EU, including all EU law since 1952 in all the official language versions, go to EUR-Lex at: [eur-lex.europa.eu](https://eur-lex.europa.eu)

### **Open data from the EU**

The EU Open Data Portal ([data.europa.eu/euodp/en](https://data.europa.eu/euodp/en)) provides access to datasets from the EU.

Data can be downloaded and reused for free, both for commercial and non-commercial purposes.

