

Coronavirus pandemic in the EU – Fundamental Rights Implications

Country: Lithuania

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1 Measures taken by government/public authorities impacting on specific freedoms

1.1 Emergency laws/states of emergency

In Lithuania, the Resolution ‘On Declaration of State-Level Emergency (*Dėl valstybės lygio ekstremalios situacijos paskelbimo*)’ due to the threat of coronavirus (COVID-19)¹ declared on 26 February 2020 remained valid during the reference period (1 September – 31 October 2020). Due to rapid spread of COVID-19 local quarantines were declared in 21 (out of 60) municipalities in October 2020. According to data of Statistics Lithuania, on 28 October 2020, 53.82% of Lithuanian population lived in municipalities which declared local quarantine². The quarantine has been introduced in the district municipality of Raseiniai from 9 October 2020 to 23 October 2020³. On 22 October 2020 the quarantine has been extended in Raseiniai district municipality until 6 November 2020⁴. Furthermore, on 21 October 2020 the quarantine was declared in 12 district municipalities: Elektrėnai, Joniškis, Jurbarkas, Kelmė, Klaipėda, Kretinga, Marijampolė, Pasvalys, Plungė, Skuodas, Šiauliai and Švenčionys from 26 October 2020 until 9 November 2020⁵. On 26 October 2020 the quarantine was declared in the city municipalities of Kaunas, Klaipėda and Vilnius and the district municipalities of Šilalė, Širvintos, Telšiai, Trakai and Vilnius from 28 October 2020 to 11 November 2020⁶.

In Lithuania, the measures adopted by the Government in October 2020 have restricted the fundamental rights: freedom of assembly and freedom of movement. However, there were no court rulings concerning the legality of current state of emergency and quarantine measures. According to the national media, Police Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania reported violations of quarantine law and selfisolation rules⁷.

¹ Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), Resolution ‘On Declaration of State-Level Emergency’, No. 152 on 26 February 2020. Updated version valid from 30 October 2020 ([‘Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2020 m. vasario 26 d. Nr. 152 „Dėl valstybės lygio ekstremalios situacijos paskelbimo“](#)).

² Lithuania, Statistics Lithuania, [Official Statistics Portal](#), seen on 28 October 2020.

³ Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), Resolution ‘On Declaration of Quarantine in the Territory of Raseiniai District Municipality’, No. 1069 on 8 October 2020, valid from 9 October 2020 ([‘Dėl karantino Raseinių rajono savivaldybės teritorijoje paskelbimo’](#)).

⁴ Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), Resolution ‘Due to Amendment of the Resolution on 8 October 2020 No. 1069 ‘On Declaration of Quarantine in the Territory of Raseiniai District Municipality’, No. 1161 on 22 October 2020. Valid from 23 October 2020 ([‘Dėl Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2020 m. spalio 7 d. nutarimo Nr. 1069 „Dėl karantino Raseinių rajono savivaldybės teritorijoje paskelbimo“ pakeitimo’](#)).

⁵ Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), Resolution ‘On Declaration of Quarantine in Some Municipal Territories’, No. 1159 on 21 October 2020, valid from 23 October 2020 ([‘Dėl karantino kai kurių savivaldybių teritorijose paskelbimo’](#)).

⁶ Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), Resolution ‘Due to Amendment of the Resolution on 21 October 2020 No. 1159 ‘On Declaration of Quarantine in Some Municipal Territories’, No. 1177 on 26 October 2020, valid from 28 October 2020 ([‘Dėl Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2020 m. spalio 21 d. nutarimo Nr. 1159 „Dėl karantino kai kurių savivaldybių teritorijose paskelbimo“ pakeitimo’](#)).

⁷ Jakubauskas R., BNS, Lithuanian Radio and Television (*Lietuvos radijas ir televizija*) (2020), [‘12 People Were Fined for not Wearing Masks Last Week, and 49 Broke Self-Isolation Rules’](#), published on 5 October 2020.

1.2 Freedom of assembly

In **Lithuania**, there were no reports on police actions to enforce measures related to restriction of freedom of assembly, and freedom of movement or judicial complaints concerning the legality of measures adopted between 1 September – 31 October 2020.⁸

In **Lithuania**, the right of assembly was restricted during the reference period. The Government has decided that as of 1 September, organizers of mass events held at closed and open spaces have to register all participants and meet safety requirements⁹. If organizers of an event were not able to register event participants the number of participants was limited up to 300 excluding performers, organisers, instructors and service personnel. The limitation of participants was revoked from 9 October 2020¹⁰. A safe distance of at least two meters must be maintained in outdoor public events and at least one meter distance must be kept in indoor public events. Wearing a face mask, respirators or other face covering devices was mandatory in both indoor and outdoor public events¹¹. On 28 October 2020 the Government decided to introduce stricter measures and ban all public events and gatherings organised in public places from 30 October to 13 November 2020 with some exceptions for indoor high-performance sporting events and cultural events with maximum 300 spectators and outdoor sporting and cultural events with maximum 400 spectators if the following conditions are met: spectators watch the event only from their seats at the two-meters-distance from each other except for family members. No restrictions have been applied to funerals¹². In **Lithuania**, restrictions to the right of assembly were adopted by declaring local quarantines in 21 municipalities in October 2020. According to the decree of the Government¹³, people can visit open public places in groups not larger than five persons, except close relatives. They must keep safe distance (more than two meters)

⁸ Lithuania, Police Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania (*Policijos departamentas prie Lietuvos Respublikos vidaus reikalų ministerijos*) (2020), [Lithuanian Police, News](#), official website.

⁹ Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), ‘Due to the Amendment of the Resolution No. 152, 2020 February 26, of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania ‘On Declaration of State-Level Emergency’, No. 961, 2 September 2020, valid from 3 September 2020 ([‘Dėl Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2020 m. vasario 26 d. nutarimo Nr. 152 „Dėl valstybės lygio ekstremaliosios situacijos paskelbimo“ pakeitimo](#))’).

¹⁰ Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), ‘Due to the Amendment of the Resolution No. 152, 2020 February 26, of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania ‘On Declaration of State-Level Emergency’, No. 1070, 7 October 2020, valid from 9 October 2020 ([‘Dėl Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2020 m. vasario 26 d. nutarimo Nr. 152 „Dėl valstybės lygio ekstremaliosios situacijos paskelbimo“ pakeitimo](#))’).

¹¹ Lithuania, The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Sveikatos apsaugos ministerija*) (2020), Decree ‘Due to the Conditions for the Organization of Culture, Entertainment and other Events), No. V-1462, 15 June 2020. Valid from 17 June 2020 ([‘Dėl kultūros, pramogų ir kitų renginių organizavimo būtinų sąlygų](#))’).

¹² Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), ‘Due to the Amendment of the Resolution No. 152, 2020 February 26, of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania ‘On Declaration of State-Level Emergency’, No. 1185, 28 October 2020, valid from 30 October 2020 ([‘Dėl Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2020 m. vasario 26 d. nutarimo Nr. 152 „Dėl valstybės lygio ekstremaliosios situacijos paskelbimo“ pakeitimo](#))’).

¹³ Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), Resolution ‘On Declaration of Quarantine in Some Municipal Territories’, No. 1159 on 22 October 2020, valid from 23 October 2020 ([‘Dėl karantino kai kurių savivaldybių teritorijose paskelbimo](#))’).

in 20 municipalities which have declared local quarantine. In Raseiniai district municipality due to rapid spread of COVID-19 public gatherings were restricted up to two persons¹⁴.

In **Lithuania**, the requirements to wear a protective face masks and keep at least two meters distance between participants became mandatory during public events including religious events at state level from 30 October 2020¹⁵. Religious communities operating in 21¹⁶ municipal territories which have declared local quarantine were recommended to avoid gatherings or refrain from religious events in October 2020. There was no specific restriction of participants number for religious events.

1.3 Freedom of movement

In **Lithuania**, restrictions of freedom of movement remained during the reference period. The decree of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania¹⁷ stipulates that it is allowed to arrive to Lithuania for all the citizens of the countries of the European Economic Area, the Swiss Confederation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (hereinafter 'the EEA') and persons lawfully residing in these countries and their family members. Those persons arriving from countries where coronavirus (COVID-19) incidence rate has exceeded by more than 10% compared to Lithuania will have to self-isolate for 14 days. The isolation time can be shortened by taking a coronavirus test no earlier than 8 days after arrival. In the case of a negative result, the isolation time for them can be shortened to 10 days. The movement of persons is restricted at the checkpoints of the airports and of the Klaipėda State Seaport, also at the border with the Kaliningrad region of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus. There are six road and two railway border crossing points currently operating at the external land border. There is no passenger control at the internal EU borders (Latvia, Poland). Every person returning to or arriving in Lithuania by air, sea or land using regular, special and charter services will have to submit their personal data electronically to the National Public Health Centre. In the case of individual travelling by land, it is obligatory to register with the National Public Health Centre within 12 hours from the moment of arrival in the Republic of Lithuania.

In **Lithuania**, minor restrictions to the freedom of movement were adopted by declaring local quarantines in 21 municipalities in October 2020¹⁸. It was required to keep at least 1 meter distance in

¹⁴ Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), Resolution 'On Declaration of Quarantine in the Territory of Raseiniai District Municipality', No. 1069 on 8 October 2020, valid from 9 October 2020 (['Dėl karantino Raseinių rajono savivaldybės teritorijoje paskelbimo'](#)).

¹⁵ Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), 'Due to the Amendment of the Resolution No. 152, 2020 February 26, of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania 'On Declaration of State-Level Emergency', No. 1185, 28 October 2020, valid from 30 October 2020 (['Dėl Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2020 m. vasario 26 d. nutarimo Nr. 152 „Dėl valstybės lygio ekstremaliosios situacijos paskelbimo“ pakeitimo'](#)).

¹⁶ Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), Resolution 'On Declaration of Quarantine in the Territory of Raseiniai District Municipality', No. 1069 on 8 October 2020, valid from 9 October 2020 (['Dėl karantino Raseinių rajono savivaldybės teritorijoje paskelbimo'](#)). Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), Resolution 'On Declaration of Quarantine in Some Municipal Territories', No. 1159 on 22 October 2020, valid from 23 October 2020 (['Dėl karantino kai kurių savivaldybių teritorijose paskelbimo'](#)).

¹⁷ Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), Resolution 'On Declaration of State-Level Emergency', No. 152 on 26 February 2020. Updated version valid from 30 October 2020 (['Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2020 m. vasario 26 d. Nr. 152 „Dėl valstybės lygio ekstremaliosios situacijos paskelbimo'](#)).

¹⁸ Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), Resolution 'On Declaration of Quarantine in the Territory of Raseiniai District Municipality', No. 1069 on 8 October 2020,

public transport and seated travelling was allowed only. From 30 October 2020 protective face masks became mandatory for all persons older than 6 year in public outdoor and indoor places with some exceptions for persons doing sports, professionals of high-performance sports, performers in cultural events, persons when sitting at the table or bar in catering facilities, persons with disability who cannot wear a mask due to their health condition or it can adversely affect their health condition. Wearing a face mask is not mandatory when there are no other people (except family members) within the radius of 20 metres¹⁹. Arrival and departure to the municipalities under declared local quarantine were not restricted. However, it was recommended to stay at home and limit movement for unnecessary reasons, except for going to supermarket, work, health care and other services.

In **Lithuania**, according to the data of the Ministry of Health there were 29,636 persons in isolation on 30 October 2020²⁰. Individuals that have been in contact with an infection case are required to isolate for 14 days from the last day of contact if no laboratory test has been taken, or for a shorter period if a laboratory test was taken not earlier than on the 10th day of isolation and was negative²¹.

2 Implications of Covid-19 and measures to contain it on specific social rights

Education

In **Lithuania**, only schools or classes which became a hot-spots of COVID-19 were moved to remote mode during the September and first part of October 2020. However, due to rapid spread of COVID-19 basic and secondary education students (5–12 grade) were moved to remote mode from 22 October 2020 to 8 November 2020²². The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania has developed specific website *emokykla.lt* (eschool) with distance learning online tools for school students²³. Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania has published ‘Recommendations for Parents and Caregivers on Child Safety on the Internet’²⁴. Non-formal

valid from 9 October 2020 ([‘Dėl karantino Raseinių rajono savivaldybės teritorijoje paskelbimo’](#)). Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), Resolution ‘On Declaration of Quarantine in Some Municipal Territories’, No. 1159 on 22 October 2020, valid from 23 October 2020 ([‘Dėl karantino kai kurių savivaldybių teritorijose paskelbimo’](#)).

¹⁹ Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), Resolution ‘On Declaration of State-Level Emergency’, No. 152 on 26 February 2020. Updated version valid from 30 October 2020 ([‘Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2020 m. vasario 26 d. Nr. 152 „Dėl valstybės lygio ekstremalios situacijos paskelbimo’](#)).

²⁰ Lithuania, The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Sveikatos apsaugos ministerija*) (2020), [‘Coronavirus’](#), official website on 28 October 2020.

²¹ Lithuania, The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Sveikatos apsaugos ministerija*) (2020), [‘New requirements for isolation’](#), official website on 28 October 2020.

²² Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), ‘Due to the Amendment of the Resolution No. 152, 2020 February 26, of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania ‘On Declaration of State-Level Emergency’, No. 1160, 21 October 2020, valid from 26 October 2020 ([‘Dėl Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2020 m. vasario 26 d. nutarimo Nr. 152 „Dėl valstybės lygio ekstremalios situacijos paskelbimo“ pakeitimo’](#)).

²³ Lithuania, The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Švietimo, mokslo ir sporto ministerija*) (2020), website *emokykla.lt*, on 8 November 2020.

²⁴ Lithuania, Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos ryšių reguliavimo tarnyba*) (2020), [‘Recommendations for Parents and Caregivers on Child Safety on the Internet’](#), official website on 8 November 2020.

education for children and adults will be carried out remotely or discontinued. Pre-school, pre-primary, and primary education institutions continued face-to-face learning. Hygiene and social distancing requirements²⁵ adopted by the Minister of Health remained compulsory for those continuing face-to-face learning. Higher education was recommended to be provided remotely from 26 October 2020 to 8 November 2020²⁶. In Raseiniai district municipality due to rapid spread of COVID-19 all educational and childcare activities were moved to remote mode from 9 October 2020²⁷.

In **Lithuania**, higher education institutions moved to remote mode mostly. Vilnius University the largest higher education institution in Lithuania decided that study activities will be performed remotely from 26 October to 21 November 2020 as the pandemic continues and the number of COVID-19 infections is upping in Lithuania²⁸. Only laboratory and other practical classes requiring equipment located on the Vilnius University's premises can be performed face-to-face.

In **Lithuania**, national state of emergency and local quarantine measures negatively impacted social rights of families raising children. Kindergarten and school closures have a negative effect on families with children, single mothers and fathers, in particular, who may have to undertake the mainstay of childcare responsibilities and work from home at the same time. Moreover, due to quarantine measures children from families of socially vulnerable groups will lose access to free meal in kindergartens, schools and children day-care centres. This problem was discussed in main news portal²⁹ in Lithuania during the first wave of COVID-19. National Education NGO Network raised concerns about the closure of informal education activities. According to National Education NGO Network there were 'no reasonable arguments to stop informal education activities while sport clubs and sport events remained open'³⁰.

Health care

In **Lithuania**, the right to timely access to health care was negatively impacted in health care sector during the reference period. According to the Minister of Health since the beginning of the pandemic, the number of beds for Covid-19 patients in Lithuania has been increased from 400 to 663, but 50%

²⁵ Lithuania, The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Sveikatos apsaugos ministerija*) (2020), Decree 'Due to the Conditions for the Organization of Primary Education), No. V-1839, 17 August 2020. Updated version valid from 14 October 2020 (['Dėl pradinio ugdymo organizavimo būtinų sąlygų'](#)). Lithuania, The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Sveikatos apsaugos ministerija*) (2020), Decree 'Due to the Conditions for the Organization of Pre School and Pre-Primary Education), No. V-1487, 16 August 2020. Updated version valid from 14 October 2020 (['Dėl ikimokyklinio ir priešmokyklinio ugdymo organizavimo būtinų sąlygų'](#)).

²⁶ Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), 'Due to the Amendment of the Resolution No. 152, 2020 February 26, of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania 'On Declaration of State-Level Emergency', No. 1160, 21 October 2020, valid from 26 October 2020 (['Dėl Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2020 m. vasario 26 d. nutarimo Nr. 152 „Dėl valstybės lygio ekstremaliosios situacijos paskelbimo“ pakeitimo'](#)).

²⁷ Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), Resolution 'On Declaration of Quarantine in the Territory of Raseiniai District Municipality', No. 1069 on 8 October 2020, valid from 9 October 2020 (['Dėl karantino Raseinių rajono savivaldybės teritorijoje paskelbimo'](#)).

²⁸ Vilnius University, '[Online Teaching](#)', official website seen on 28 October 2020.

²⁹ Evelina Joteikaitė (2020), delfi.lt, 'Quarantine had a negative impact on the poorest: children from socially disadvantaged families were left without warm food', 2020 March 19, (['Karantinas kirto skurdžiausiai gyvenantiems: socialiai remtinų šeimų vaikai liko be šilto maisto'](#)).

³⁰ National Education NGO Network (2020), '[The Government Decided Before the Election: Children do not Need Non-Formal Education](#)', 23 October 2020.

of them are already occupied, The Minister of Health said that ‘the number is growing fairly fast and medical establishments are facing a huge challenge of converting beds and adapting them for [coronavirus] patients’³¹. According to the managing director in Santara Clinic in Vilnius, the situation is ‘critical’ as the hospital has nearly reached its capacity, a bed occupancy have already reached a level of 80 percent on 27 October 2020³². Struggles to receive a timely access to health care services was reported in national media³³. Representatives of the Santara Clinic in Vilnius expressed their deep regret over the fact that patients have to deal with such situations due to the increasing flows of COVID-19 infected patients³⁴.

In **Lithuania**, workers right to a high level of protection of their health and safety at work was negatively impacted in health care sector during the reference period. On 14 October 2020 National Public Health Centre informed that since the beginning of the pandemic, 729 infection cases have been confirmed among healthcare workers, 310 cases were diagnosed over September and October 2020³⁵.

In **Lithuania**, representative of COVID-19 hot-line reported about delays to get a COVID-19 test done due to the lack of personel. Waiting time for COVID-19 was 2 days in Vilnius and Kaunas, 3 days in Utena, 5 days in Klaipėda³⁶. The Government introduced specific measures to alleviate the negative impact of limited access to health care. According to the National Radio and Television, the National Public Health Centre has recently been overwhelmed with the rising number of Covid-19 cases, leaving the specialists unable to trace and inform the contacts of those infected. In order to ensure necessary services of the National Public Health Centre, the Lithuanian Armed Forces assigned military personnel to help dealing with the second wave of Covid-19. In his press release the Chief of Defence Lieutenant General said that ‘the Lithuanian Armed Forces are obliged by law to assist civilian institutions when they can no longer cope with the situation or do not have the capacity to do so’³⁷.

In **Lithuania**, the introduced quarantine measures in municipalities restricted patients’ rights to be visited while staying in health care institutions. The patients in hospitals were not able to see their relatives. Visiting of the patients in hospitals was prohibited with exceptions for children under 14 years old and patients with terminal illnesses in 21 municipalities which have declared local quarantine in October³⁸.

³¹ BNS, Lithuanian Radio and Television (*Lietuvos radijas ir televizija*) (2020), ‘[Coronavirus hospital beds are filling up fast – Lithuanian health minister](#)’, published on 28 October 2020.

³² Jančiauskas I., BNS, Lithuanian Radio and Television (*Lietuvos radijas ir televizija*) (2020), ‘[Vilnius hospital warns it is running out of Covid-19 beds](#)’, published on 27 October 2020.

³³ Gaučaitė-Znutienė M., Lithuanian Radio and Television (*Lietuvos radijas ir televizija*) (2020), ‘[COVID-19 Patient Waits More Than an Hour at the Hospital Door: the Institution Regrets, the Minister Proposes to Look for Creative Solutions](#)’, published on 30 October 2020.

³⁴ Gaučaitė-Znutienė M., Lithuanian Radio and Television (*Lietuvos radijas ir televizija*) (2020), ‘[COVID-19 Patient Waits More Than an Hour at the Hospital Door: the Institution Regrets, the Minister Proposes to Look for Creative Solutions](#)’, published on 30 October 2020.

³⁵ Andrukaitytė M., BNS, Lithuanian Radio and Television (*Lietuvos radijas ir televizija*) (2020), ‘[Over 700 Lithuanian healthcare workers got infected with coronavirus](#)’, published on 14 October 2020.

³⁶ Gipiškis Z., Lithuanian Radio and Television (*Lietuvos radijas ir televizija*) (2020), ‘[In Klaipėda - Queues to Take the COVID-19 Test: Waiting Time – 5 Days](#)’, published on 2 November 2020.

³⁷ BNS, Lithuanian Radio and Television (*Lietuvos radijas ir televizija*) (2020), ‘[Military to assist health officials as second wave hits Lithuania](#)’, published on 22 October 2020.

³⁸ Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), Resolution ‘On Declaration of Quarantine in Some Municipal Territories’, No. 1159 on 22 October 2020, valid from 23 October 2020 (‘[Dėl karantino kai kurių savivaldybių teritorijose paskelbimo](#)’).

3 Negative impact on social rights for vulnerable groups including measures to address this

In Lithuania, social rights of older people and persons with disabilities were particularly negatively impacted. Visits to residential social care establishments, foster families, group and community homes have been prohibited in 21 municipalities which have declared local quarantine in October 2020. Activities in day care centres for persons with disabilities were terminated in Raseiniai district municipality, and restrictions were recommended in other 20 municipalities which have declared local quarantine in October 2020³⁹. The president of Lithuanian Disability Forum highlighted that social rights of persons with disabilities were particularly negatively impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic⁴⁰. According to the results of a survey conducted by the NGO National Network of Poverty Reduction Organisations (*Nacionalinis skurdo mažinimo organizacijų tinklas*) persons with disabilities faced limited access to social and health services. Furthermore, restrictions related to emergency state and quarantine regime have negatively impacted their financial situation. According to NGO National Network of Poverty Reduction Organisations, 53% of families with persons with disabilities faced reduced incomes, 22% of families with persons with disabilities reported food shortages⁴¹.

In Lithuania, the Government and the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania introduced preventive measures to alleviate the negative impact of restrictions on vulnerable groups during the reference period. Municipalities started providing more free-of-charge psychological consultations starting from September 2020 in order to help persons who are facing stress, anxiety and other psychological problems related to COVID-19⁴². The Ministry of Health has launched an updated on-line platform on psychological self-support since October 2020⁴³. The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania approved the proposal to pay sickness benefits for the care of young children or children with disabilities when they must self-isolate⁴⁴. Since September 2020 sickness benefit for a care of a child amounts up to 65.94 percent of the gross salary. It is paid during the period of compulsory self-isolation, but not longer than 14 calendar days. Persons caring of disabled or elderly persons may be entitled to receive sickness benefit due to the closure of day care centres. The benefits are paid for as long as the day

³⁹ Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), Resolution ‘On Declaration of Quarantine in the Territory of Raseiniai District Municipality’, No. 1069 on 8 October 2020, valid from 9 October 2020 ([‘*Dėl karantino Raseinių rajono savivaldybės teritorijoje paskelbimo*’](#)). Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), Resolution ‘On Declaration of Quarantine in Some Municipal Territories’, No. 1159 on 22 October 2020, valid from 23 October 2020 ([‘*Dėl karantino kai kurių savivaldybių teritorijose paskelbimo*’](#)).

⁴⁰ Juodkaitė D., the president of Lithuanian Disability Forum (*Mano teisės. Žmogaus teisių portalas*) (2020), [‘*When Will We Announce the End of the ‘Quarantine’ For People With Disabilities?*’](#), press release published on 19 October 2020.

⁴¹ Juodkaitė D., the president of Lithuanian Disability Forum (*Mano teisės. Žmogaus teisių portalas*) (2020), [‘*When Will We Announce the End of the ‘Quarantine’ For People With Disabilities?*’](#), press release published on 19 October 2020.

⁴² Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), [‘*Overcoming Coronavirus: Municipalities Are Starting to Provide More Free-Of-Charge Psychological Counseling*’](#), press release published on 24 September 2020.

⁴³ Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), [‘*Ministry of Health Introduced Online Mental Health Care Platform ‘pagalbasau.lt’*’](#), press release published on 13 October 2020.

⁴⁴ Lithuania, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour (*Lietuvos Respublikos socialinės apsaugos ir darbo ministerija*) (2020), [‘*The Seimas Finally Approved the Amendments: Benefits Will be Paid for the Isolation of Children*’](#), press release published on 30 September 2020.

center is closed. Furthermore, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour increased funding for NGO's, including those working with the most vulnerable groups, which were facing financial difficulties due to COVID-19 pandemic⁴⁵.

In **Lithuania**, fundamental rights of **persons in isolation** due to potential risk of COVID19 were negatively impacted. Election to Lithuanian Parliament were held in 11 October 2020 and 25 October 2020 in Lithuania. According to national media, some voters in isolation due to potential risk of COVID19 complained that they 'could not vote in the first round because poll workers did not show up to collect their ballots or because they had to go into self-isolation after the registration deadline had already passed'⁴⁶. The Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Lithuania and Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania introduced drive-in polling sites to alleviate the negative impact on these groups. The Ministry of Health allowed voters in self-isolation due to Covid-19 to vote in special drive-in polling sites in six municipalities.

⁴⁵ Lithuania, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour (*Lietuvos Respublikos socialinės apsaugos ir darbo ministerija*) (2020), '[More NGOs Affected by COVID-19 Can Apply for Fiancial Support](#)', press release published on 27 October 2020.

⁴⁶ Jančauskas I., BNS, Lithuanian Radio and Television (*Lietuvos radijas ir televizija*) (2020), '[Lithuania to allow drive-in voting for quarantined people](#)', published on 15 October 2020.