

# **Coronavirus pandemic in the EU – Fundamental Rights Implications**

**Country:** Lithuania

**Contractor's name:** Lithuanian Social Research Centre

**Date:** 2 July 2020

**DISCLAIMER:** This document was commissioned under contract as background material for a comparative report being prepared by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) for the project “Coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak in the EU – fundamental rights implications”. The information and views contained in the document do not necessarily reflect the views or the official position of the FRA. The document is made available for transparency and information purposes only and does not constitute legal advice or legal opinion.

# 1 Measures taken by government/public authorities

## 1.1 Emergency laws/states of emergency

In **Lithuania**, the Resolution ‘On Declaration of Quarantine in the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania (*Dėl karantino Lietuvos Respublikos teritorijoje paskelbimo*)’<sup>1</sup> was valid until 16 June 2020. However, measures affecting the general population remained active after 16 June 2020 because of the declaration of state of emergency<sup>2</sup> adopted by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. Restrictions affecting social distancing, freedom of movement, work, education, health, and other public services were moved from the Resolution ‘On Declaration of Quarantine in the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania’<sup>3</sup> to the Resolution ‘On Declaration of State-Level Emergency (*Dėl valstybės lygio ekstremalios situacijos paskelbimo*)’ due to the threat of coronavirus (COVID-19)<sup>4</sup>.

In **Lithuania**, the measures adopted by the Government have had an impact on fundamental rights despite relaxing lockdown rules in June 2020. There were no court rulings concerning the legality of current quarantine measures. Nevertheless, the opposition of the Lithuanian parliamentarians initiated the Resolution ‘Due to the Dangerous Situation Regarding the Access of Health Care Services’<sup>5</sup> which was approved by the Lithuanian Parliament. According to this Resolution, the State Commander of National Emergency Operations should review restrictions related to the limited access to health care services and retain only epidemiologically based measures.

In **Lithuania**, the right of demonstration was restricted during the quarantine from 16 March 2020 to 16 June 2020. From 1 June 2020 to 16 June 2020, cultural, entertainment, sports and other outdoor events were allowed with the maximum of 300 participants (excluding performers, organisers, instructors and service personnel), while ensuring the distance of at least 1 m between the spectators, except for spouses, close relatives, adoptive parents, adoptive children, guardians and carers<sup>6</sup>. After

---

<sup>1</sup> Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), Resolution ‘On Declaration of Quarantine in the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania’, No. 207 on 14 March 2020. Valid from 2020 March 15 ([‘Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2020 m. kovo 14 d. nutarimas Nr. 207 „Dėl karantino Lietuvos Respublikos teritorijoje paskelbimo“](#)

<sup>2</sup> 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. Valid from 26 February 2020 ([‘Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2020 m. vasario 26 d. Nr. 152 „Dėl valstybės lygio ekstremalios situacijos paskelbimo“](#)

<sup>3</sup> Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), Resolution ‘On Declaration of Quarantine in the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania’, No. 207 on 14 March 2020. Valid from 2020 March 15 ([‘Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2020 m. kovo 14 d. nutarimas Nr. 207 „Dėl karantino Lietuvos Respublikos teritorijoje paskelbimo“](#)

<sup>4</sup> 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. 588, 10 June 2020, valid from 17 June 2020 ([‘Dėl Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2020 m. vasario 26 d. nutarimo Nr. 152 „Dėl valstybės lygio ekstremaliosios situacijos paskelbimo“ pakeitimo](#)’) and No. 649, 24 June 2020, valid from 24 June 2020 ([‘Dėl Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2020 m. vasario 26 d. nutarimo Nr. 152 „Dėl valstybės lygio ekstremaliosios situacijos paskelbimo“ pakeitimo](#)’).

<sup>5</sup> Lithuania, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas*) (2020), ‘Due to the Dangerous Situation Regarding the Access of Health Care Services’, No. XIII-3067, on 18 June 2020 ([‘Dėl susidariusios grėsmingos situacijos sveikatos priežiūros paslaugu prieinamumo srityje](#)’).

<sup>6</sup> Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), Resolution ‘On Declaration of Quarantine in the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania’, No. 207 on 14 March 2020. Updated version valid from 1 June 2020 ([‘Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2020 m. kovo 14 d. nutarimas Nr. 207 „Dėl karantino Lietuvos Respublikos teritorijoje paskelbimo“](#)

the quarantine number of participant in public events was increased to 700<sup>7</sup> (valid from 17 June 2020 to 30 June 2020).

In **Lithuania**, 1,000 young people rallied in support of the Black Lives Matter movement and the ongoing anti-racism protests in the US on 5 June 2020 in Vilnius<sup>8</sup>. The right of demonstration was protected during the quarantine. However, the police are investigating eight cases of administrative offenses, as well as a public order violation, during the Black Lives Matter rally in Vilnius. To our knowledge the police didn't bring any charges against the organisers of the demonstration.

## 1.2 Measures affecting the general population

### 1.2.1 Social distancing

In **Lithuania**, according to updated version of the Resolution 'On Declaration of Quarantine in the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania'<sup>9</sup> article 4.2.12 face masks, respirators or other protective equipment must be worn indoors, also outdoors: in marketplaces and other public trading venues, events, excursions, public transport boarding points, public transport and other gathering places. The resolution was valid until 16 June 2020. From 17 June 2020 similar restrictions were adopted by decree of the State Commander of National Emergency Operations<sup>10</sup>. According to this decree, a safe distance of 2 meters must be maintained in public points of service and trade (distance may be smaller if there is a partition or personal protective equipment), at least 1 meter distance must be kept in queues, it is mandatory to sanitise trolleys and shopping baskets in trade venues and hands of shop workers and customers. It is not allowed to work with the symptoms of COVID-19. Both visitors and staff are advised to wear personal protective equipment (face masks, shields, respirators, gloves, etc.).

In **Lithuania**, according to the Resolution 'On Declaration of State-Level Emergency (*Dėl valstybės lygio ekstremalios situacijos paskelbimo*)'<sup>11</sup> the number of participants allowed in cultural, entertainment, sports or other events was increased from 17 June 2020 to 150 people indoors and to 700 outdoors, and from 1 July 2020 until 16 July 2020 - to 200 indoors and up to 1,000 outdoors. Performers, organisers and service personnel were not included in this figure. Public events must follow the

---

<sup>7</sup> 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. 588, 10 June 2020, valid from 17 June 2020 (['Dėl Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2020 m. vasario 26 d. nutarimo Nr. 152 „Dėl valstybės lygio ekstremaliosios situacijos paskelbimo“ pakeitimo](#))'.

<sup>8</sup> BNS, LRT, Lithuanian Radio and Television (*Lietuvos radijas ir televizija*) (2020), '[The police in Lithuania are investigating eight cases of administrative offenses, as well as a public order violation, during the Black Lives Matter rally in Vilnius last week.](#)', published on 11 June 2020.

<sup>9</sup> Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), Resolution 'On Declaration of Quarantine in the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania', No. 207 on 14 March 2020. Updated version valid from 1 June 2020 (['Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2020 m. kovo 14 d. nutarimas Nr. 207 „Dėl karantino Lietuvos Respublikos teritorijoje paskelbimo“](#))'.

<sup>10</sup> Lithuania, The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Sveikatos apsaugos ministerija*) (2020), Decree 'Due to the Conditions for the Provision of Services, Trade in Public Trading Venues, Leisure and Entertainment Activities), No. V-1463, 16 June 2020. Valid from 17 June 2020 (['Dėl paslaugų teikimo, prekybos viešose prekybos vietose bei veiklos laisvalaikio ir pramogų vietose vykdymo būtinų sąlygų](#))'.

<sup>11</sup> 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. Valid from 26 February 2020 (['Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2020 m. vasario 26 d. Nr. 152 „Dėl valstybės lygio ekstremaliosios situacijos paskelbimo](#))'.

requirements laid down in the decree of the State Commander of National Emergency Operations<sup>12</sup>. According to this decree 2 metre physical distance has to be kept, hand disinfectants must be available for participants, the instructions for hand disinfection and personal hygiene has to be posted at the entrance into, personnel and participant with the symptoms of COVID-19 are not allowed to enter the event.

In **Lithuania**, according to the updated version of the Resolution ‘On Declaration of Quarantine in the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania’<sup>13</sup> article 4.1.5. persons who have returned or arrived from foreign countries where the incidence of COVID-19 has exceeded 25 cases/100 000 population in the last 14 calendar days shall fall subject to 14 days’ isolation. This resolution was valid until 16 June 2020. From 17 June 2020 the same restrictions of the isolation were adopted by the decree of the State Commander of National Emergency Operations<sup>14</sup>.

### 1.2.2 Education

In **Lithuania**, pre-school, pre-primary education institutions<sup>15</sup>, non-formal and primary education institutions, pre-secondary and secondary education institutions were reopened during May 2020<sup>16</sup>. School managers and founders of primary and pre-secondary education institutions were able to decide either come back to schools or continue on the remote mode from the end of May 2020<sup>17</sup>. According to the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania<sup>18</sup> only 19% of primary schools came back to classrooms in June 2020. Secondary and third level education institutions usually end classes in the end of May or beginning of June. Therefore, majority of secondary and third level institutions didn’t come back to schools after the end of lockdown.

In **Lithuania**, from 17 June 2020 all educational activities became unrestricted, if the necessary conditions for public health safety, hygiene, provision of persons with necessary personal protective

---

<sup>12</sup> Lithuania, The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Sveikatos apsaugos ministerija*) (2020), Decree ‘Due to 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’](#)).

<sup>13</sup> Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), Resolution ‘On Declaration of Quarantine in the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania’, No. 207 on 14 March 2020. Updated version valid from 1 June 2020 ([‘Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2020 m. kovo 14 d. nutarimas Nr. 207 „Dėl karantino Lietuvos Respublikos teritorijoje paskelbimo“’](#)).

<sup>14</sup> Lithuania, The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Sveikatos apsaugos ministerija*) (2020), Decree ‘Due to Adoption of the List of Countries Affected by COVID-19’ (Coronavirus Infection), No. V-1463, 16 June 2020. Valid from 17 June 2020 ([‘Dėl COVID-19 ligos \(koronaviruso infekcijos\) paveiktų šalių sąrašo patvirtinimo’](#)).

<sup>15</sup> Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), ‘Amendment of the Resolution 14 March 2020 No. 207 ‘On Declaration of Quarantine in the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania’, No. 451 on 6 May 2020. Valid from 7 May 2020 ([‘Dėl Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2020 m. kovo 14 d. nutarimo Nr. 207 „Dėl karantino Lietuvos Respublikos teritorijoje paskelbimo“ pakeitimo’](#)).

<sup>16</sup> Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), ‘Amendment of the Resolution 14 March 2020 No. 207 ‘On Declaration of Quarantine in the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania’, No. 475 on 13 May 2020. Valid from 15 May 2020 ([‘Dėl Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2020 m. kovo 14 d. nutarimo Nr. 207 „Dėl karantino Lietuvos Respublikos teritorijoje paskelbimo“ pakeitimo’](#)).

<sup>17</sup> Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), ‘[Relaxing lockdown rules](#)’, press release published on 27 May 2020.

<sup>18</sup> Lithuania, The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Švietimo, mokslo ir sporto ministerija*) (2020), ‘[The Experience of Distance Learning and Coming School Years Were Discussed in Education Forum](#)’, press release published on 18 June 2020.

equipment were ensured (classroom and equipment disinfection, hand hygiene, prohibition to work with symptoms). Educational institutions which were not able to meet specified conditions continued to work remotely<sup>19</sup>. There is no information about specific measures aimed at children from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds during the reference period.

### 1.2.3 Work

In **Lithuania**, the Government decided to end the quarantine from 17 June 2020, but some restrictions on economic activity remained in place to protect the population against the new outbreak of coronavirus<sup>20</sup>. A safe distance of 2 meters must be maintained in public points of service and trade, at least 1 meter distance must be kept in queues, it is mandatory to sanitise trolleys and shopping baskets in trade venues and hands of shop workers and customers. Both visitors and staff are advised to wear personal protective equipment (face masks, shields, respirators, gloves, etc.). Social care institutions must comply with all the requirements for public health safety, hygiene and the use of necessary personal protective equipment: disinfection, hand hygiene. Workers with symptoms of COVID-19 are not allowed to work.

In **Lithuania**, after the end of quarantine in 16 June 2020 health care providers must have a phased service resumption plan, and visitor flows must be managed in accordance with the procedure established by the head of a medical facility. Remote services are encouraged, while allowing health care providers to choose the method of providing services which are in the best interest of the patient. Health care providers should strengthen infection control, make provisions of personal protective equipment and use it, and provide for a testing strategy. Restaurants, cafes, and bars have to keep a physical distance of 2 meters between the tables, disinfect the premises, and observe hand hygiene. There is no longer a restriction on working hours<sup>21</sup>.

In **Lithuania**, self-employed persons were entitled to a monthly benefit of 257 euros during quarantine and two months after the end of quarantine. Independently whether or not their activities were restricted during quarantine<sup>22</sup>. Self-employed taxpayers who are on this list of specific sectors mostly affected by quarantine and confirmed by State Tax Inspectorate (*Valstybinė mokesčių inspekcija*) from 16 March 2020 to the end of the emergency situation (plus two extra months) were automatically (without any requests) released from late payment of interest and no new tax recovery actions were initiated<sup>23</sup>.

---

<sup>19</sup> Lithuania, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020) '[COVID-19 related restrictions as of 17 June 2020](#)', press release published on 17 June 2020.

<sup>20</sup> Lithuania, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), '[Quarantine lifted, but some restrictions remain in place](#)', press release published on 16 April 2020.

<sup>21</sup> Lithuania, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), '[Quarantine lifted, but some restrictions remain in place](#)', press release published on 16 April 2020.

<sup>22</sup> Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos socialinės apsaugos ir darbo ministerija*) (2020), '[Approved aid package after quarantine: 1.4 million Lithuanians will benefit](#)', press release published on 7 May 2020.

<sup>23</sup> State Tax Inspectorate under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania (*Valstybinė mokesčių inspekcija prie Lietuvos Respublikos finansų ministerijos*) (2020), '[COVID-19. Information for residents engaged in individual activities](#)', information on official website, seen on 7 July 2020.

### 1.2.4 Access to justice

In **Lithuania**, the Judicial Council<sup>24</sup> postponed all scheduled hearings in oral procedure from the beginning of quarantine, except in cases of statutory urgency (issues related to arrest, removal of a child from an unsafe environment). Court hearings with some recommendations related to physical distancing and personal hygiene were renewed in May 2020 after the decision of the Judicial Council<sup>25</sup> on 27 April 2020. Statistics show increase in written procedure (changed from oral procedure upon agreement of parties) and cases examined by electronic means and videoconferencing equipment<sup>26</sup>. According to the information from the Lithuanian National Courts Administration, all courts have resumed functioning as usual since 17 June 2020<sup>27</sup>.

### 1.2.5 Freedom of movement

In **Lithuania**, the three-month lockdown ended on 16 June 2020. It was replaced by emergency situation regime from 17 June 2020. Restrictions of freedom of movement remained. According to the decree of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania<sup>28</sup> the control of cross-border movement will continue until the 16 July 2020. Entering to the territory of the Republic of Lithuania remained prohibited with exceptions for citizens and residents of the countries where the incidence of COVID-19 has not exceeded 25 cases/100 000 population in the last 14 calendar days. The list<sup>29</sup> of such countries is published every Monday by the State Commander of National Emergency Operations<sup>30</sup>. The exceptions are made for citizens and residents of the Republic of Lithuania, drivers and crew members of cargo transport, diplomats, NATO military personnel and their families, for artists, sportspersons, journalists and other persons who have special permission of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. Screening is carried out at airports, Klaipėda Seaport and five EU external border crossing points with Belarus and Russia: the temperature of arriving persons is measured and they are required to complete within 48 hours a passenger location card by registering electronically or by filling in a paper form. Self-isolation of 14 days is required for all persons arriving from countries where the incidence of COVID-19 has exceeded 25 cases/100 000 population in the last 14 calendar days. There were no controls on passengers crossing the EU's internal borders (Latvia, Poland). Restrictions to enter the Republic of Lithuania for foreigners including asylum seekers was still in place

---

<sup>24</sup> Lithuania, The Judicial Council (2020), '[Regarding the exercise of judicial functions during the quarantine period](#)' press release published on 24 March 2020.

<sup>25</sup> Lithuania, The Judicial Council (2020), 'On the exercise of judicial functions after the softening of quarantine measures' No. 36P-78-(7.1.10), released on 27 April 2020. ('[Dėl teismų funkcijų vykdymo sušvelninus karantino sąlygas](#)').

<sup>26</sup> Lithuania, National Courts Administration, <https://www.teismai.lt/lt/lietuvos-teismai-karantino-laikotarpiu-bylu-nagrinejimas-persikele-i-elektronine-erdve-organizuota-daugiau-nei-tukstantis-nuotoliniu-posedziu/7764>

<sup>27</sup> Phone communication with representative of the Lithuanian National Courts Administration (*Nacionalinė teismų administracija*), 7 July 2020.

<sup>28</sup> 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 24 June 2020 ('[Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2020 m. vasario 26 d. Nr. 152 „Dėl valstybės lygio ekstremalios situacijos paskelbimo](#)').

<sup>29</sup> Lithuania, The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Sveikatos apsaugos ministerija*) (2020), Decree 'Due to Adoption of the List of Countries', No. V-1457, 15 June 2020. Valid from 17 June 2020 ('[Dėl COVID-19 ligos \(koronaviruso infekcijos\) paveiktų šalių sąrašo patvirtinimo](#)').

<sup>30</sup> 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 24 June 2020 ('[Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2020 m. vasario 26 d. Nr. 152 „Dėl valstybės lygio ekstremalios situacijos paskelbimo](#)').

from 1 June 2020 to 30 June 2020<sup>31</sup>. According to the expert from the Red Cross Lithuania there was no applications from asylum seekers during the reference period<sup>32</sup>.

### 1.3 Impact of measures on particular groups

In **Lithuania**, visiting of prisoners and the arrested was prohibited, except for meetings with the lawyers, from 16 March 2020 to 16 June 2020 according to the Resolution ‘On Declaration of Quarantine in the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania’ article 3.2.10.<sup>33</sup> Prohibition was revoked from 17 June 2020. Prison Department under the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania (*Kalėjimų departamentas prie Lietuvos Respublikos teisingumo ministerijos*) announced<sup>34</sup> that contactless short-term meetings up to one hour were allowed from the 17 June 2020. Body temperature of visitors is measured at the entrance before the visit. It is required to wear masks and disposable gloves for visitors. Long-term visits and home trips for prisoners and detainees remains prohibited.

In **Lithuania**, violation of fundamental rights of older persons was discussed in an official website of Lithuanian Radio and Television. NGO activist raised concerns on restriction for 60+ persons to work in hospitals and educational institutions<sup>35</sup>. The Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson has received complaints about signs on the doors in stores, cafes, hairdressers stating that it is not recommended (in some cases - prohibited) to visit the institution for 60+ persons<sup>36</sup>. Financial incentives for employers to keep 60+ workers were proposed by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and approved by the Government in the end of May 2020. The list of measures planned by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour to support the elderly was approved in the Parliament on 4 June 2020<sup>37</sup>. Recipients of old-age pensions, disability pensions and other social insurance pensions and benefits will be able to receive a one-off benefit of 200 euros in August 2020. It was decided to pay subsidies to employers for older workers in downtime during the state of emergency or quarantine (100% of salary, but not more than 607 EUR gross or 70% of salary, but not more than 910.5 EUR

---

<sup>31</sup> 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. 649, 24 June 2020, valid from 24 June 2020 ([‘Dėl Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2020 m. vasario 26 d. nutarimo Nr. 152 „Dėl valstybės lygio ekstremaliosios situacijos paskelbimo“ pakeitimo](#))’.

<sup>32</sup> Phone communication with the expert from Lithuanian Red Cross (*Lietuvos raudonasis kryžius*), 1 July 2020.

<sup>33</sup> Lithuania, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020), ‘Amendment of the Resolution 14 March 2020 No. 207 ‘On Declaration of Quarantine in the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania’, No. 428 on 29 April 2020, updated version valid from 12 June 2020 ([‘Dėl Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2020 m. kovo 14 d. nutarimo Nr. 207 „Dėl karantino Lietuvos Respublikos teritorijoje paskelbimo“ pakeitimo](#))’.

<sup>34</sup> Lithuania, Prison Department under the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania (*Kalėjimų departamentas prie Lietuvos Respublikos teisingumo ministerijos*) (2020), ‘[Short-Term Visits Are Allowed in Places of Detention](#)’ press released published on 17 June 2020.

<sup>35</sup> Pūras, D. (2020), Lithuanian Radio and Television (*Lietuvos radijas ir televizija*) (2020), ‘[Dainius Pūras. Can We Agree that We Will Respect Human Rights in Lithuania?](#)’, published on 31 May 2020.

<sup>36</sup> Lithuania, the Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson (*Lygių galimybių kontrolieriaus tarnyba*) (2020), ‘[Quarantine Restrictions on the Elderly Can Lead to Discrimination](#)’, press release published on 20 May 2020.

<sup>37</sup> Lithuania, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas*) (2020). ‘[The Measures to Support Older Workers Were Approved](#)’, press release published on 4 June 2020.

gross). During downtime 60+ employee may not be paid less than the minimum monthly wage if the full working time rate has been agreed<sup>38</sup>.

## 2 Selected issues emerging during the COVID-19 crisis

### 2.1 Xenophobic speech, acts of harassment and violent attacks

In Lithuania, there were no reports on official website of Police Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania<sup>39</sup> about incidents related to COVID-19 pandemic of alleged discrimination on the grounds of nationality in access to goods and services, employment, healthcare and any other sector against during the reference period. NGO Human Rights Monitoring Institute<sup>40</sup> and the Lithuanian public broadcaster, Lithuanian Radio and Television<sup>41</sup> have not reported any incidents of alleged discrimination on the grounds of nationality on official websites in June 2020. According to the information of Lithuanian Centre for Human Rights, no cases of online hate speech linking COVID-19 to minority groups such as migrants, Roma, etc. were reported in June 2020<sup>42</sup>.

### 2.2 Infringement of privacy and/or data protection rights

In Lithuania, the State Data Protection Inspectorate of the Republic of Lithuania (*Valstybinė duomenų apsaugos inspekcija*) has temporarily suspended<sup>43</sup> the use of mobile application 'Quarantine' (*'Karantinas'*). Mobile application 'Karantinas' was introduced by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania in cooperation with Vilnius municipality, National Public Health Center under the Ministry of Health, Hospital of Lithuanian University of Health Sciences Kaunas Clinics and IT company 'Latgala' on 7 April 2020<sup>44</sup>. It was available to download at 'App Store' and 'Google Play' for free. Application 'Karantinas' provided COVID-19 related information to its users and allowed to track the location and health status of users during the quarantine period. According to the State Data Protection Inspectorate the mobile application 'Karantinas' may did not meet the principles related to processing of personal data (General Data Protection Regulation article 5(1) and 5(2))<sup>45</sup>.

---

<sup>38</sup> Lithuania, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour (*Lietuvos Respublikos socialinės apsaugos ir darbo ministerija*) (2020), ['Employers Receive Higher Subsidies for Employees Aged 60 and Older'](#), press release published on 12 June 2020.

<sup>39</sup> Lithuania, Police Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania (*Policijos departamentas prie Lietuvos Respublikos vidaus reikalų ministerijos*) (2020), [official website](#), seen on 1 July 2020.

<sup>40</sup> Lithuania, Human Rights Monitoring Institute (*Žmogaus teisių stebėjimo institutas*) (2020), [official website](#) and [Facebook page](#), seen on 1 July 2020.

<sup>41</sup> Lithuania, Lithuanian Radio and Television (*Lietuvos radijas ir televizija*) (2020), [official website](#), seen on 1 July 2020.

<sup>42</sup> Phone communication with representative of the Lithuanian Centre for Human Rights (*Lietuvos žmogaus teisių centras*), 7 July 2020.

<sup>43</sup> Lithuania, the State Data Protection Inspectorate of the Republic of Lithuania (*Valstybinė duomenų apsaugos inspekcija*) (2020), ['It Has Been Ordered to Temporarily Suspend the 'Quarantine' Application Due to Possible Violations of Personal Data Use'](#), press release published on 25 May 2020.

<sup>44</sup> Lithuania, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020) ['Useful and Meaningful Self-Isolation - With the Mobile App 'Quarantine'](#), press release published on 7 April 2020.

<sup>45</sup> Lithuania, the State Data Protection Inspectorate of the Republic of Lithuania (*Valstybinė duomenų apsaugos inspekcija*) (2020), ['It Has Been Ordered to Temporarily Suspend the 'Quarantine' Application Due to Possible Violations of Personal Data Use'](#), press release published on 25 May 2020.

## 2.3 Spread of disinformation online

In **Lithuania**, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos sveikatos apsaugos ministerija*) are reporting the situation and legislative changes periodically in order to avoid the spread of disinformation online. Information related to COVID-19 and quarantine is published in official website of the Ministry of Health<sup>46</sup>. It is available to get the information via phone call or Facebook messenger application. Press conferences of the State Commander of National Emergency Operations on the COVID-19 are broadcasted live on the national television, radio and online periodically. The Government released an official source of information ('koronastop.lt')<sup>47</sup> on the situation of coronavirus pandemic in Lithuania.

In **Lithuania**, measures to counter the spread of disinformation online were taken by the Statistics Lithuania (*Lietuvos statistikos departamentas*) and Lithuanian Radio and Television (*Lietuvos radijas ir televizija*). Online media portal 'lrytas.lt' published an article<sup>48</sup> about 10% excess in overall death rate during the quarantine in Lithuania on 25 June 2020. According to the Statistics Lithuania<sup>49</sup> 'lrytas.lt' article was fake news. Overall death rate has risen by 4.2% during the quarantine in Lithuania. Lithuanian Radio and Television 'Fact Check' column also concluded that 'lrytas.lt' article was based on disinformation and excess in a overall death rates was not significant<sup>50</sup>. The fake number of excess death rates was included into the resolution 'Due to the Dangerous Situation Regarding the Access of Health Care Services' of the Lithuanian Parliament<sup>51</sup>.

---

<sup>46</sup> Lithuania, The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Sveikatos apsaugos ministerija*) (2020), '[Coronavirus](#)', official website on the situation of coronavirus pandemic in Lithuania.

<sup>47</sup> Lithuania, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė*) (2020) '[Relevant information about Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)', official website seen on 1 July 2020.

<sup>48</sup> Ignatavičius, T., '*Lietuvos rytas*' ('lrytas.lt') (2020), '[In Lithuania – an Unprecedented Excess in Deaths: the Number is Surrounded by a Fog](#)', published on 25 May 2020.

<sup>49</sup> Lithuania, Statistics Lithuania (2020), '[Attention! Fake News!](#)', press release published on 26 May 2020.

<sup>50</sup> Bakaitė, J., Lithuanian Radio and Television (*Lietuvos radijas ir televizija*) (2020), '[LRT FACTS. Have More People Died of Coronavirus in Lithuania than Expected?](#)', published on 26 June 2020.

<sup>51</sup> Lithuania, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas*) (2020), 'Due to the Dangerous Situation Regarding the Access of Health Care Services', No. XIII-3067, on 18 June 2020 ('[Dėl susidariusios grėsmingos situacijos sveikatos priežiūros paslaugų prieinamumo srityje](#)').