

LITHUANIA

INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION PROGRAMME

Last Updated: May 2023

Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption	Lithuania and New Zealand are parties to the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (the Hague Convention). All intercountry adoptions from Lithuania must comply with the Hague Convention's principles and procedural requirements.
Central Authority	The Lithuanian Central Authority under the Hague Convention is the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (SCRPAS) of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, in Vilnius, Lithuania. The SCRPAS website is www.vaikoteises.lt .
Legislation	The adoption occurs in Lithuania under the Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania.
Facilitation	The Lithuania intercountry adoption programme is facilitated by Inter-Country Adoption New Zealand (ICANZ) - the accredited adoption placement agency authorised to facilitate intercountry adoptions in Lithuania.
Citizenship and Residency	Adoptive applicants must be New Zealand Citizens or Permanent Residents and live in New Zealand.
Age of Applicants	Prospective adoptive parents must be aged between 18 and 50 at the time of adoption. The age difference between the child and the applicants must be at least 18 years. Adoptive applicants should not be more than 47 years at the time their adoption application is submitted to SCRPAS. An exception to the age criteria can be made in instances where older parents wish to adopt children aged 9 years or older, or if one of the applicants exceeds the age requirements but is in satisfactory physical and mental health and assessed as capable of bringing up the adopted child.
Applicant Couples	Couples must be married but the duration of marriage is not specified. Couples in de facto relationships are not accepted for adoption.
Single Applicants	Single applicants are not accepted for adoption from Lithuania, but single applicants of Lithuanian heritage may be accepted.
Nationality	Applicants of Lithuanian descent are given priority.
Infertility	This is not a requirement.
Health	SCRPAS has a ' <i>List of medical contraindications under which persons may not be adoptive parents</i> '. The list includes some mental and behaviour disorders, including mood [affective] disorders and specified forms of depression, and some physical disorders and medical conditions, including oncological disorders and HIV positive. If prospective adoptive applicants have medical conditions specified in the list, their adoption application will not be accepted by Lithuania. The list can be provided to prospective applicants by Oranga Tamariki or

	ICANZ. In the applicants' medical reports, their doctor is required to provide medical codes for the diagnosis of any specific medical conditions, as per the WHO International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD).
Number of Children in the Family	This is not specified.
Children Available for Adoption	<p>One child or a sibling group may be adopted at a time.</p> <p>Children available for adoption are in the care of the State in Lithuania. Lithuanian children come into the care of the State due to circumstances such as the death of parents, parental incapacity, restriction or termination of parental rights, or abandonment.</p> <p>Foreign nationals who are permanent residents of a foreign state may only apply for the adoption of children with special needs from Lithuania. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A single child from 5 to 14 years with health and/or behavioural issues. Younger children aged 5-6 years are more likely to have more serious health conditions. Older children may be physically healthy but may have behavioural problems and learning difficulties and may have experienced institutionalisation and/or trauma caused by abuse and neglect in their previous care environment. • A sibling group of two, three, or more children aged from 4 to 14 years, who may have behavioural and/or learning difficulties and/or health problems and may have experienced trauma caused by abuse and neglect in the past.
Adoption Route	The Lithuanian Central Authority operates a 'waiting children' list that is sent to all intercountry adoption agencies accredited in Lithuania. Applicants may choose to apply to be considered for a child/sibling on the 'waiting children' list.
Waiting Time for a Match	There is no specific timeframe. Applicants apply for a child/sibling group from the 'waiting children' list.
Approval of the Match	The selected match must be approved by the Lithuanian Central Authority (SCRPAS) and by Oranga Tamariki–Ministry for Children who is the New Zealand Central Authority for intercountry adoption.
Time between Acceptance of a Match and Travel	If the match is approved, the adoption process in Lithuania is usually completed within 2-5 months.
Travel Requirements	<p>Both applicants are required to travel and the length of stay in Lithuania is around 2 weeks to finalise the adoption. There is a 40-day appeal period which is usually waived, except in some specific case situations.</p> <p>The prospective adoptive parents travel to Lithuania independently. ICANZ assists with the process, including translators.</p>
Child's Background	Lithuania provides the medical background and social history for each child.

Approximate Costs	ICANZ will advise on costs of services provided by the agencies in New Zealand and Lithuania. Plus cost of travel and accommodation in Lithuania.
Post-Placement Reports	Following the adoption in Lithuania, the Lithuanian Central Authority requires four six-monthly post-adoption reports followed by two annual post-adoption reports (6 reports over 4 years in total). ICANZ will advise on the cost of post-adoption reporting.
<p><i>This fact sheet provides a brief general overview of the process and requirements. Intercountry adoption criteria, processes, costs, and children in need of intercountry adoption change frequently. Applicants should speak to a social worker and ICANZ for more information.</i></p>	