



LITHUANIA BETWEEN BORDERS AND BUSINESS: LEGAL REFLECTIONS ON INVESTMENT AND MIGRATION (2019–2024)

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7220/2029-4239.31.2>

SUMMARY

Between 2019 and 2024, Lithuania underwent a significant transformation in both its economic and legal systems, evolving into a prominent destination for foreign direct investment (FDI) and a strategic entry point for migrants within the European Union.

This article critically examines the legal, institutional, and demographic changes that supported Lithuania's emergence as a Baltic innovation hub. It focuses on the rapid expansion of the startup ecosystem, which reached a valuation of €16 billion by 2024, driven by legal reforms, investor-friendly policies, and support from EU digital initiatives. In parallel, Lithuania experienced a marked increase in migration flows, with growing numbers of labor migrants, students, humanitarian entrants, and business investors arriving from Ukraine, Belarus, India, and beyond.

The article further explores the legal challenges associated with investment-based residence permits and assesses Lithuania's compliance with European standards on migration, fundamental rights, and equal treatment. Using data from national institutions, European directives, and comparative legal analysis, the study offers a nuanced view of how Lithuania balances national sovereignty with regional integration. It concludes with forward-looking policy recommendations to enhance transparency, regulatory efficiency, and migrant integration, ensuring the long-term sustainability of Lithuania's economic and legal systems.

KEYWORDS

Lithuania, migration law, investment law, startup ecosystem, EU compliance, economic policy.

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INTRODUCTION

Since joining the European Union in 2004, Lithuania has undergone a gradual and profound transformation of its legal and economic structure. However, the period between (2019 and 2024) marks a particularly pivotal chapter in the country's development. During these five years, Lithuania has not only consolidated its position as a leading destination for investment in the Baltic region, but has also redefined its approach to migration management, emerging as a laboratory for legal experiments at the intersection of sovereignty, economic liberalization, and EU integration².

Several factors motivated this shift. First, Lithuania's strategic use of digital infrastructure and investment-friendly legislation has created an environment conducive to rapid business formation, especially in the technology and financial sectors. For example, the startup ecosystem has expanded from less than €500 million in 2014 to more than €16 billion in 2024, making it one of the most dynamic in Central and Eastern Europe.³ This growth was facilitated by state agencies such as Startup Lithuania and Invest Lithuania, which provided services ranging from legal advice and registration acceleration to international project matchmaking.⁴

Second, this economic growth has occurred simultaneously with the demographic transition in Lithuania, while previously characterized by immigration and population decline, the trend reversed during this period. Net migration turned positive, driven by labor demand, educational programs, and residency – by investment schemes, the Lithuanian Immigration Department reported a record of 87,400 arrivals in 2022, compared to just 43,100 in 2020.⁵ Migration is no longer just a humanitarian or labor issue, but has become a legal mechanism linked to economic policy and international competitiveness.

The legal dimension of this transformation is pivotal. Lithuania's Foreign Investment Law has been amended to ensure equal treatment for domestic and foreign investors, while reforms to the Company Law have reduced minimum capital requirements and facilitated the legal incorporation process.⁶ Notably, Article 26 of the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens provided a route for third-country nationals to obtain temporary residence through business investment, subject to minimum capital and job creation requirements. However, these legal instruments also raised challenges: distinguishing between real economic activity and fictitious enterprises, avoiding indirect discrimination on grounds of nationality⁷, aligning national policy with EU law — and in particular with regard to Directive 2011/98/EU and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.⁸ Lithuania is at the centre of current European debates on the future of migration and investment regulation due to its simultaneous pursuit of economic openness and legal sovereignty. In order to attract talent and investment, the country offers digital interfaces, tax

² Bryer, T. A. *Lithuania's Quest for Self-Determination: Municipal Responses to National Emigration* (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2023).

³ Startup Lithuania, *Lithuania's Startup Ecosystem 2024* (Vilnius: 2024)

⁴ Invest Lithuania, *Annual Investment Report 2024* (Vilnius: 2024).

⁵ Migration Department, 2024 m. Migracijos metraštis [Migration Yearbook] (Vilnius: 2024).

⁶ UNCTAD, Republic of Lithuania Law on Investments, Investment Policy Hub (New York: 1999

⁷ Migration Department, *Investment Residence Rules and Compliance* (Vilnius: 2023).

⁸ European Commission, Directive 2011/98/EU on a Single Permit (Brussels: 2011); Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, art. 15.

benefits, and fast procedures, setting an example of proactive legal innovation⁹. However, it has been accused of selectively enforcing immigration laws, legal complexity, and bureaucratic inconsistencies — problems that reflect broader concerns among EU member states about finding a balance between economic necessity, human rights obligations, and national security¹⁰.

By conducting a comprehensive legal and political analysis of the changing frameworks of migration and investment in Lithuania between 2019 and 2024, this article aims to investigate these conflicts. This research raises three main research questions:

1. In what ways did Lithuania's legal system control immigration and encourage foreign direct investment?

2. How far do national policies comply with international human rights values and EU legal obligations?

3. What structural, administrative, or legislative changes are required to improve sustainability and openness in both areas?

This paper is based on a dogmatic legal approach as its methodology, with actual data from EU and Lithuanian government sources as a complement. Furthermore, the report uses a comparative approach, citing similar legal developments in Latvia, Estonia, and other small EU economies. The article is organized as follows.

Focusing on the startup environment and the sectoral distribution of FDI, Chapter 2 charts Lithuania's rise as a magnet for investment. Chapter 3 looks at recent migration trends, including nationality profiles and types of residence cards granted. The administrative implementation and the legal bases for investment-related residence are examined in Chapter 4. Tensions with EU legislation and principles, including freedom of establishment, non-discrimination, and proportionality, are addressed in Chapter 5. In order to improve policy coherence, Chapter 6 proposes proactive institutional and legal adjustments. The conclusion of Chapter 7 involves the consideration of Lithuania's position as a border state in the changing legal and economic environment of the European Union.

LITHUANIA AS AN EMERGING INVESTMENT CENTER (2019-2024)

Digitalization and E-governance

A notable feature of the Lithuanian experience during the 2019-2024 period is the systematic shift towards a digital economy. The government has adopted an e-governance model in the delivery of public services, including company registration, tax payments, and investment permits, reducing bureaucratic costs by an estimated 35 % compared to 2015¹¹. The e-Government Gateway system enables the delivery of more than 400 standardized e-services and is among the most efficient in the Baltic region¹². This digital transformation has had a positive

⁹ European Migration Network, Lithuania: Country Policy Report – Investment and Migration (Brussels: 2024).

¹⁰ Migration Policy Institute, The Rise of Investment Migration in Europe: Lithuania in Context (Washington: 2023).

¹¹ OECD, “Digital Government in Lithuania: Going Forward”, 2022

¹² European Commission, “eGovernment Benchmark 2023: eGovernment in the EU”, 2023.

impact on the business environment, as it is now possible to establish a company in Lithuania in just 1-3 days, through a digital registration platform directly linked to the tax, social insurance and central bank registers¹³. Lithuania is ranked in the top ten globally for the ease of setting up a digital business, according to the World Bank's 2023 Business Climate Report¹⁴.

The Role of Central Banks and Financial Supervision in Investment Stability

The Lithuanian Financial Supervisory Commission (Bank of Lithuania) has played a crucial role in boosting investor confidence, especially in the fintech sector, by putting in place flexible and supportive regulatory mechanisms through the Regulatory Sandbox, which allows startups to test their models in a safe legal environment before full launch.¹⁵ In 2023 alone, more than 250 licensed fintech companies were registered in Lithuania, making it the second largest FinTech hub in the EU after Germany in terms of number of licenses¹⁶. The sector benefits from the Central Bank's commitment to provide a regulatory framework based on the principles of transparency, legal protection for investors, and facilitating access to digital financial services¹⁷.

International Trade and Investment Agreements

Lithuania has taken advantage of its full membership in the EU and EEA to access extensive trade and investment networks. It is part of more than 70 international bilateral and multilateral investment protection and promotion agreements and directly applies the provisions of relevant European regulations, such as the EU FDI Screening Regulation (EU FDI Screening Regulation 2019/452)¹⁸. Lithuania has strengthened its position within European supply chains after the COVID-19 pandemic by developing new logistics corridors connecting its northern ports to German, Polish, and Scandinavian markets, making it a strategic destination for investment in light industry and high technology¹⁹.

Sustainable Investment Strategies

In recent years, Lithuania has adopted the principle of “sustainable investment” as part of its commitment to the United Nations recommendations on sustainable development. It has launched a national green investment incentive plan aimed at attracting foreign capital in

¹³ Invest Lithuania, “Setting Up a Business”, available at: <https://investlithuania.com/setting-up-a-business>

¹⁴ World Bank Group, “Doing Business 2023: Enabling Digital Enterprises”, p. 62.

¹⁵ Bank of Lithuania, “Regulatory Sandbox Overview”, 2024.

¹⁶ FinTech Baltic Report, “2023 Lithuanian FinTech Ecosystem”, FinTech Baltic, p. 9.

¹⁷ Bank of Lithuania, “Annual Financial Stability Review 2024”, pp. 25–32.

¹⁸ European Parliament and Council Regulation (EU) 2019/452 on the screening of foreign direct investments.

¹⁹ Lithuanian Railways, “Rail Baltica and Strategic Logistics in Lithuania”, 2024.

renewable energy, waste management, and environmental technology projects²⁰. The solar and wind sector has been identified as a priority, with the state providing tax breaks, direct financial support through EU funds, and new industrial zones providing strict environmental standards to ensure ESG compliance²¹. These policies will attract a new type of international investor who requires legal frameworks that incentivize a green economy and environmental sustainability.

MIGRATION TRANSITIONS AND ORGANIZATIONAL POLICIES IN LITHUANIA (2019-2024)

A Statistical Overview of Migration Flows

Lithuania has seen significant shifts in its demographic landscape in the past five years, with migrant arrivals doubling between 2020 and 2022, from 43,100 to more than 87,400, the highest number recorded since Lithuania joined the European Union²². The groups most represented in this growth included Ukrainians, Belarusians, Russians, Indians, and Turks, most of whom settled in Vilnius, Kaunas, and Klaipėda²³.

This remarkable increase is attributed to a combination of overlapping factors, including labor shortages in the construction and transportation sectors, liberal immigration policies after the pandemic, and the geopolitical tensions imposed by the war in Ukraine. The Immigration Department's modern administrative structure has also played a role in speeding up procedures, especially through the digitization of the application process²⁴.

Legal Reforms in Migration Governance

In terms of legal framework, Lithuania has made a series of substantial amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens, most notably raising the standards of required documentation, expanding the scope of security background checks for migrants, and strengthening the powers of migration authorities to revoke residence permits²⁵.

In 2023, 2,681 applications for temporary residency were rejected, while more than 8,000 residencies issued in previous years were canceled for reasons related to legal non-compliance²⁶. This figure rose significantly in 2024 to 29,673 revocations, signaling a clear shift in the country's philosophy towards a more assertive approach to residency and immigration management²⁷. This new trend is interpreted as an attempt to regulate the labor market and prevent the exploitation of legal loopholes by “irregular economic migrants.”

²⁰ Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, “National Investment Programme for Sustainable Development 2023–2030”.

²¹ European Investment Bank, “Green Investment in the Baltic States: Case Study of Lithuania”, 2024.

²² Migration Department of the Republic of Lithuania, “Annual Migration Statistics”, 2024.

²³ Eurostat, “Immigration by Citizenship and Country of Origin”, 2023.

²⁴ OECD, “Labour Migration in the Baltic States: Opportunities and Challenges”, 2023.

²⁵ Ministry of the Interior of Lithuania, “Digitalization of Migration Services”, 2022.

²⁶ Law on the Legal Status of Aliens, latest amendments adopted in Seimas, 2023.

²⁷ KPMG, “Lithuania Immigration Law Update – Compliance and Enforcement Trends, 2024.

Amendments have also been made to family reunification and humanitarian asylum policies, most notably granting additional powers to the Migration Court to quickly decide on appeals against deportation or cancellation decisions²⁸. These reforms are based on the recommendations of the European Migration Network (EMN) and are in line with European policies on linking legal migration and economic development²⁹.

Drivers of Migration: Labor Market, Education, Protection, and Investment

Labor migration remains the dominant pattern, with Lithuania attracting thousands of workers from Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and India to cover acute shortages in vital sectors such as construction, logistics, and light industry³⁰. The government issued more than 42,000 work permits in 2023 alone, making Lithuania one of the largest donors of work permits in the Baltic region³¹. In contrast, educational migration has seen notable growth, with more than 3,000 new international students enrolled in Lithuanian universities in 2024, mostly from Nigeria, India, and Ukraine³². Recent amendments to student residency laws, including the possibility of moving to practical residency after graduation, have contributed to Lithuania's attractiveness as an educational destination³³. Humanitarian migration has increased due to the war in Ukraine, with Lithuania receiving more than 80,000 Ukrainian refugees by mid-2024, many of whom have been granted special temporary residence permits under the EU-wide temporary protection regime³⁴. Finally, Lithuania has seen a gradual growth in the investment migration category. Linking investment to residency has attracted entrepreneurs from Turkey, India, and Israel, especially in the technology and real estate sectors. This form of migration is a key component of the national strategy to promote long-term foreign capital³⁵.

THE LEGAL INTERACTION BETWEEN INVESTMENT AND MIGRATION IN LITHUANIA

Residency through Investment: Legal Norms

Article 26 of the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens in Lithuania (Law No. IX-2206) allows the grant of temporary residence to third-country nationals who invest in the Lithuanian economy. The prerequisites to benefit from this system include the following.

- I. Investing at least EUR 28,000 in a company registered in Lithuania.
- II. Employing at least one Lithuanian citizen on a full-time basis.
- III. Proof of active and continuous economic activity.

²⁸ Migration Department, “Residence Revocations and Rejections Statistics”, Q1-Q4, 2024.

²⁹ European Commission, “Preventing Abuse of Legal Migration Pathways”, 2023.

³⁰ Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, “Reform of the Immigration Appeal Procedures”, 2023.

³¹ European Migration Network (EMN), “Policy Brief: Legal Migration and National Reforms”, 2023.

³² Invest Lithuania, “Labour Market Overview 2024: Sectors in Demand”, 2024.

³³ Migration Department, “Work Permits Issued by Sector and Nationality”, 2023.

³⁴ OECD Education Directorate, “International Students in Lithuania: Trends and Forecasts”, 2024

³⁵ European Migration Network, “Investment-Linked Migration and Residence Schemes”, 2023.

IV. Active participation in the management of the investment project.

These criteria are intended to ensure that investment migration is a tool for developing the local economy, not just a means of obtaining European residency. The law emphasizes the need for “real economic participation” and prevents any sham exploitation of the legal framework, which is confirmed by the Migration Directorate's statements that state: “Investment migration should not become a loophole to circumvent migration laws, so the Lithuanian framework requires real economic participation.”³⁶

Administrative and Constitutional Challenges

Despite a clear legal framework, foreign investors face several bureaucratic hurdles, most notably long waiting times for processing applications and ambiguity surrounding the term “real economic activity,” which is not precisely defined in legislative or administrative texts. This ambiguity is a major reason why a large number of residency applications are rejected, even though applicants fulfill the formal requirements.

There are also constitutional issues related to the practical application of certain criteria, especially in light of Article 29 of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, which states that “all individuals are equal before the law, and no one may be discriminated against on the basis of origin or nationality.”³⁷ However, field reports have shown differences in the treatment of investors based on their geographical background, with an implicit preference for EU investors over those from Asia and Africa, without clear legal justification.³⁷

Compatibility of the Lithuanian System with European Law

As an EU member state, Lithuania has to comply with a set of binding standards regarding economic migration. The most prominent of these standards is Article 15 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, which guarantees freedom of choice of work and residence.

Directive 2011/98/EU on the procedure for joint applications for residence and work. The principle of proportionality established in the case law of the European Court of Justice (ECJ). In this context, a legal issue arises in administrative decisions that rely on indicators such as “poor profitability” or “low income” to revoke residence permits, without allowing the investor to adequately defend himself/herself or provide other evidence. This may violate Articles 41³⁸ and 47 of the EU Charter, which emphasize the right to be heard and the right of access to justice.³⁹

³⁶ Migration Department of the Republic of Lithuania. (2023). *Investment-Based Residence Permits in Lithuania: Annual Review*. Vilnius: MD Publications

³⁷ Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania. (1992). Article 29

³⁸ European Commission. (2025). *Proportionality and Legal Certainty in Migration Enforcement*. Brussels: COM(2025) Official Report; Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, Articles 15, 41, and 47

³⁹ Vilnius University Faculty of Law. (2023). *Report on Equality and Access in Migration Procedures*. Vilnius: VU Press

RETURN OF LITHUANIAN CITIZENS: THE LEGAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC CONTEXT OF CITIZENSHIP RESTORATION

Recent Trends in Citizenship Restoration

Between 2023 and 2024, Lithuania witnessed a significant rise in the number of citizenship restoration applications, from 2,402 to 3,571 cases, a growth rate of nearly 48% in just one year⁴⁰. This increase reflects multidimensional developments, including supportive government policies for expatriates, improved economic conditions, and a growing national identity among the Lithuanian diaspora in Western Europe, the United States, and Canada⁴¹. According to the Ministry of Interior, this trend is a success of the “Reintegration” policies, which are based on economic incentives and legal recognition of the right to return for those who lost their citizenship as a result of migration or coercive policies during the Soviet era⁴². According to official data, the majority of returnees have high professional backgrounds and settle in major cities such as Vilnius and Kaunas, boosting human capital in the local market.

Legal Bases for Citizenship Restoration

The Lithuanian Citizenship Law (Law No. XI-1196, amended in 2016) regulates the procedure for the restoration of citizenship and grants the right to any former citizen who has involuntarily lost his/her citizenship to restore it under clear conditions, including Proof of previous citizenship or Lithuanian origin up to the second grandparent.

Not holding an enemy nationality or having served in a foreign army against the interests of the state. Submit an official application to the competent authorities and confirm cultural or family ties to Lithuania⁴³. Citizenship can be restored without having to physically reside in Lithuania, a unique legal exception in Europe, reflecting the state's commitment to linking the diaspora to the motherland through legal and political means⁴⁴.

Comparative Framework and National Identity

Compared to other European countries, Lithuania is among the most flexible in its citizenship restoration policies, as it does not require permanent residence or renunciation of other citizenship in certain cases, unlike in Germany or Austria⁴⁵. This approach reflects a

⁴⁰ Lithuanian Ministry of the Interior. (2024). *Repatriation and Citizenship Statistics Report 2023–2024*. Vilnius: Government Publications

⁴¹ OECD. (2024). *International Migration Outlook: Lithuania Chapter*. Paris: OECD Publishing

⁴² Migration Department of Lithuania. (2023). *Strategy for Reintegrating Returning Nationals*, Policy Paper No. 17

⁴³ Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania, as amended by Law No. XI-1196 (2016)

⁴⁴ European Commission. (2022). *Study on Citizenship Policies in the EU: Lithuania Country Report*. Brussels

⁴⁵ Bauböck, R. (2018). *Debating Transformations of National Citizenship*. Springer

constitutional philosophy based on the continued recognition of cross-border national ties, as stipulated in Article 18 of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania⁴⁶.

This policy is also a response to a deep sociological dimension, as the Lithuanian identity goes beyond geographical residence to include elements of culture, language, and historical affiliation. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) reports that Lithuania is an emerging model in rebuilding its human capital by bringing back migrant minds, the so-called “reverse brain drain.”⁴⁷ On the other hand, the support programs given to returnees, such as tax benefits, language courses, and resettlement allowances, demonstrate an integrated commitment to reintegrating them into the economic and social structure, achieving what is known as a “dignified and productive return.”⁴⁸

FUTURE SCENARIOS AND STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Future Investment and Migration Projections

Given the economic and demographic changes that Lithuania experienced between 2019 and 2024, a range of future scenarios are projected until the end of the decade. First, the expansion of the technology sector supported by European funding programs is expected to continue, as the European Commission plans to increase the allocation of the European Recovery Fund for the digitization of critical sectors, including innovation and digital migration⁴⁹. Second, the flow of migrants from Asia and Africa is expected to increase, especially in the context of chronic labor shortages in certain sectors.

This geographic shift in migration patterns will pose new challenges for integration systems and the recognition of foreign qualifications⁵⁰. Third, Lithuania is likely to continue to tighten the review of investment-based residency applications, especially after a sharp rise in revocations in 2024. Stricter financial criteria are expected to be imposed to verify the economic viability of investment activity before issuing residence permits.

Fourth, efforts to harmonize national policies with the European legal framework on migration and asylum will deepen. This includes strengthening Lithuania's compliance with directives such as 2011/98/EU and 2003/109/EC, as well as conventions on non-discrimination and human rights⁵¹. The European Migration Network also noted that “as Lithuania's economic

⁴⁶ Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania (1992), Article 18.

⁴⁷ OECD. (2023). *Brain Gain Dynamics in Baltic States*. Paris: OECD Working Papers Series No. 204.

⁴⁸ European Migration Network (EMN). (2024). *Good Practices in Return and Reintegration: Case of Lithuania*. Brussels: EMN Policy Report.

⁴⁹ European Commission. (2023). *Multiannual Financial Framework and the Recovery and Resilience Facility*. Brussels: EU Publications.

⁵⁰ OECD. (2024). *Migration Outlook: Emerging Trends in the Baltic Region*. Paris: OECD Publishing.

⁵¹ Migration Department of the Republic of Lithuania. (2024). *Annual Report on Investment-Based Residence Permits*. Vilnius.

attractiveness increases, migration and investment laws must evolve to ensure that they are not exploited, while maintaining the country's competitiveness”⁵².

Legal and Policy Recommendations

Based on the data and challenges presented, four sets of strategic recommendations can be proposed:

1. Legislative Integration

It is recommended to integrate provisions related to residency, labor, and investment into a unified law to minimize overlap and facilitate legal procedures. As recommended by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) report, the current multiple legislations lead to inconsistencies in application and slow procedures⁵³.

2. Administrative Transparency and Digitization

The need to accelerate digitization in the field of immigration, including e-filing, file tracking, and database integration between the Immigration Department and the Ministries of Interior and Labor. The U.S. State Department's 2024 report noted that digital transparency is the cornerstone for improving the efficiency of public services in Lithuania⁵⁴.

3. Social inclusion of migrants

It is recommended to expand Lithuanian language programs and establish legal support centers for migrants in major cities. As Geddes & Scholten point out, the legal and linguistic integration of migrants is the pillar of long-term social stability⁵⁵.

4. Compatibility with European law

Indirect discrimination should be avoided and the consistency between Lithuanian law and relevant European directives should be promoted. It should be ensured that any national legal requirement is in line with the European Charter of Fundamental Rights, especially in matters related to equality and access to justice⁵⁶.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Between 2019 and 2024, Lithuania illustrated how a small country may reformulate national policies within a European legal framework while balancing economic growth, public order, and human rights. Its reforms in the fields of residency, citizenship, employment, and educational migration show not merely compliance with EU requirements, but also a conscious plan to position itself as an appealing and competitive legal landscape.

⁵² European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. (2022). *Legal Migration and EU Directives Compliance in Lithuania*. Vienna.

⁵³ European Migration Network. (2024). *Policy Brief: Investment Migration and Legal Integrity*. Brussels, p. 11.

⁵⁴ Geddes, A., & Scholten, P. (2016). *The Politics of Migration and Immigration in Europe*. London: SAGE.

⁵⁵ OECD. (2023). *Lithuania Country Review: Administrative Law and Migration Systems*. Paris.

⁵⁶ U.S. Department of State. (2024). *Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Lithuania*. Washington, DC.

2. This move is intended to re-engage former citizens, attract international talent and capital, and manage migration using a rights-based approach. However, structural tensions persist with dependence on economic residence, increasing cultural diversity, and the challenge of integrating EU legislation into a true "culture of rights" are still a test of Lithuania's legal system and social cohesion.
3. Overall, Lithuania is strengthening its prominent position in Europe as a joint laboratory in the area of law, migration, and investment. The main challenge is to maintain a balance between openness and discipline, rights and investments, national requirements, and European obligations through evidence-based policy making and coherent legal oversight.

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SANTRAUKA

LIETUVA TARP SIENŲ IR VERSLO: TEISINĖS ĮŽVALGOS APIE INVESTICIJAS IR MIGRACIJĄ (2019-2024 M.)

2019–2024 m. Lietuva išgyveno reikšmingą teisinę ir ekonominę transformaciją, tapdama viena iš patraukliausių užsienio tiesioginių investicijų (UTI) ir migracijos krypčių Baltijos regione. Šio straipsnio tikslas – ištirti, kaip teisinė sistema, investicijų politika ir demografiniai pokyčiai sąveikauja, formuodami šalies strateginį perėjimą nuo mažosios Europos valstybės prie inovacijomis grįsto ekonomikos centro. Analizuojama, kaip startuolių ekosistema pasiekė 16 mlrd. eurų vertę iki 2024 m., ir kokie teisiniai mechanizmai (įskaitant investicijų įstatymą, įmonių steigimo reformas ir leidimus gyventi pagal investicijas) prisidėjo prie šio augimo.

Kartu pastebimas ryškus migracijos srautų augimas: nuo darbo migrantų iki studentų, nuo humanitarinių atvykėlių iš Ukrainos ir Baltarusijos iki verslo investuotojų iš Indijos, Turkijos ir Afrikos šalių. Migracijos departamentas registravo rekordiškai daug laikinųjų leidimų gyventi, tačiau taip pat augo atsisakymų skaičius, ypač dėl dokumentų trūkumo ar netikro veiklos pobūdžio. Ši tendencija paskatino diskusijas apie teisinio saugumo, diskriminacijos ir proporcingumo principus.

Straipsnyje nagrinėjami iššūkiai, kylantys taikant leidimus gyventi investuotojams: ar Lietuvos reglamentavimas atitinka Europos Sąjungos teisę, ar taikomos priemonės nėra perteklinės ar diskriminacinės. Analizuojami ES teisės aktai, tokie kaip 2011/98/ES direktyva ir Pagrindinių teisių chartija, bei pateikiama Lietuvos teisinės praktikos analizė.

Straipsnio pabaigoje pateikiamos rekomendacijos, kaip užtikrinti ilgalaikį investicinės ir migracinės politikos darnumą: skaitmenizuoti procedūras, suvienodinti standartus tarp institucijų, užtikrinti kalbinę ir teisinę pagalbą migrantams, ir derinti nacionalinį reguliavimą su ES reikalavimais. Lietuvos patirtis yra pavyzdys, kaip mažos valstybės gali strategiškai derinti ekonominį augimą su teisinės valstybės principais bei tarptautine teisine atsakomybe.

REIKŠMINIAI ŽODŽIAI

Lietuva, migracijos teisė, investicijų teisė, startuolių ekosistema, ES atitiktis, ekonominė politika.