*Recreation and leisure*

1(a). Does your country have laws, policies, plans, strategies or guidelines[[1]](#footnote-1) and departments at any level of government relating to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in mainstream (not disability-specific) recreational and leisure physical activity, including but not limited to:

* **Private settings:** Private gymnasiums, sports clubs, sports associations and foundations, summer camps, marathons, swimming pools, among others;
* **Public and private tourism** **platforms:** tourism facilities (e.g. beach, mountain, forest, among others), including services for persons with disabilities;
* **Public settings in urban areas:** Urban sports trails, cycling trails, public physical training, yoga, recreational sports, playgrounds for children, recreational facilities for older persons, among others.
* **Nature trails:** hiking trails, nature centers, toilets, viewing platforms, count with accessibility and services.

The Council for the Affairs of the Disabled under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania finances projects supporting the social integration of people with disabilities, through physical education and sport and the activities of associations of the Disabled, which finance the sports activities of the disabled carried out by non-governmental organizations.

The projects of social integration of people with disabilities through physical education and sports are finances through municipalities, implementing the inter-institutional action plan for the implementation of the state sport development strategy for 2011-2020.

In 2019, the projects were financed by implementing the 2019 Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Program for the Social integration of the Disabled for 2013-2019.

In 2020, the projects of social integration of the disabled through physical education and sports are financed by implementing the 2020 Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Program for the Social Integration of the Disabled 2013-2020.

In 2019 and 2020, funding for projects is allocated through municipalities in accordance with the regulations on the organization of the competition for the selection of projects for the social integration of the people with disabilities through physical education and sports in 2019-2020.

In 2019, in total 585 thousand Euros were allocated for the implementation of projects, 335 thousand Euros of them were allocated from the state budget and 14 thousand Euros were allocated for financing and administering, 236 thousand Euros were allocated for municipality projects.

In 2020, in total 591 thousand Euros were allocated for the implementation of projects, 333 thousand Euros of them were allocated from the state budget and 14 thousand Euros were allocated for financing and administering, 244 thousand Euros were allocated for municipality projects.

The tender procedure is to select and finance projects of non-governmental organizations, for physical education and sporting activities for the people with disabilities as a mean for social integration of the disabled people.

The projects are implemented by non-governmental organizations representing various disabilities: disabled sports amateur organizations (clubs) engaged in sports activities for people with disabilities, except for the departments of educational and scientific institutions uniting athletes of one or more sports; organizations active in the field of social integration of the disabled people - associations (except sports federations, committees and associations representing the disabled living in at least half of the municipalities or at least half of the counties), charitable and support foundations, religious communities or associations, public institutions (except public institutions , owned or shareholder is the state or municipality).

By implementing projects the following activities are supported: permanent activities (training in various sports; physical education exercises, active physical activity) and non-permanent activities (preparation for participation in national pre-selection competitions; municipal health, physical leisure and demonstration events organized by the municipality).

In 2019, in total 83 projects were implemented by non-governmental organizations in 44 municipalities, with the participation of 4,583 disabled people (including 610 young people aged from 18 to 29, 3,451 older than 29 years old, and 522 disabled children). 3289 disabled people took part in permanent activities (including 499 young people aged from 18 to 29 years old, 2360 over 29 years old, 430 disabled children), in non-permanent activities - 3153 disabled people (440 young people aged from 18 to 29 years old, older than 29 years old – 2383 and 330 of disabled children).

In 2020, it is planned that 88 projects implemented by non-governmental organizations will be realized in 46 municipalities. The estimated number of participants is 4,129 disabled people (including 596 young people aged from 18 to 29, 3,041 over 29 years old, and 492 disabled children). 3098 disabled people will take part in permanent activities (500 of which young people aged from 18 to 29 years old, 2195 people over 29 years and 403 disabled children), in non-permanent activities - 3259 disabled people (624 of which young people aged from 18 to 29 years old, 22363 people older than 29 years old and 399 children with disabilities).

In 2019, projects supporting the activities of associations of the disabled are financed by implementing the 2019 action plan for the implementation of the National program for the Social Integration of the People with Disabilities for 2013–2019. Funding for projects is allocated in accordance with the regulations of the tender for the selection of projects for the activities of associations of the disabled in 2019, approved by the Director of The Council for the Affairs of the Disabled under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on 29th August 2018 by order No. V-33.

In 2020, projects supporting the activities of associations of the disabled are financed by implementing the 2020 action plan for the implementation of the National program for the Social Integration of the Disabled for 2013-2020.

In 2019, twenty projects for the support of the activities of Umbrella Body for Disability Association, selected by tender procedure, are financed. 1 359 thousand Euros were allocated and used for the implementation of projects. 51 thousand Euros of which is allocated to three non-governmental organization that unite athletes with disabilities and sport clubs.

In 2020, twenty-five projects for the support of the activities of Umbrella Body for Disability Association, selected by tender procedure, are financed. 1 328 thousand Euros were allocated for the implementation of projects. 158 thousand Euros of which is allocated to six non-governmental organization that unite athletes with disabilities and sport clubs.

During the projects’ implementation, the rights of athletes with disabilities are protected, which aim to inform the widest possible parts of society, managers of various levels, on whom decisions related to athletes’ with disabilities activities, life and sports problems and their solutions depend. Athletes with disabilities are represented in state and municipalities and institutions, working groups of state and municipal institutions and establishments, etc. (In the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania, in committees discussing related draft laws, in the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, in the Lithuanian Council of Sports, in the Council for the Affairs of the Disabled, in the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and in Lithuanian municipalities) in order to guarantee better training opportunities for athletes with disabilities. It also aims to ensure higher grants and awards for highly skilled athletes. The organizations implementing the project constantly monitor and analyze the laws, by-laws and other legal acts in force, prepare and submit proposals to them.

Events are organized, during which participants (people with disabilities and other members of society) are introduced to the history of sports for the disabled, changes in sport activities, the state’s approach to sports for the disabled, the opportunities for disabled athletes are presented and the shortcomings of the Lithuanian sports system are reviewed.

There are organized trainings for disabled athletes and other people involved in sports, about motivation to play sports, a healthy lifestyle, a healthy eating, psychological stability in sporting career and active development in general.

Important activities to support and promote sport for people with disabilities are funded in the projects: are organized self-confidence boosting camps according to the type of disability and in cooperation with different organizations, bringing together the disabled, increasing their physical capacity and mobility in wheelchairs, training in using active wheelchairs, improving the techniques of overcoming wheelchair obstacles, increasing independence and mobility through special exercises.

All conditions are fulfilled for increasing physical activity and employment of particularly vulnerable children (disabled ones, experiencing social exclusion). In their activities, the applicants increase the motivation of children with disabilities to learn and engage in sporting activities, to achieve goals and results. There are organized visits at general education schools, special education centers which children with disabilities are attending also, various communities and children’s camps where disabled children participate also, where are explained about sports for people with disabilities, shown movies, explaining that every child with a disability also has the right to exercise during physical education lesson and after school in clubs or in sport groups.

Organizations, not directly involved in the organization of sporting activities, organize active rehabilitation training camps, where participants are introduced to sporting activities that improve the coordination of movements and their impact on improving psychological adaptation and involving people with disabilities in public life. All disabled people, participating in the camps, get organized physical fitness training sessions, where are used elements of individual sports for the disabled: weightlifting, table tennis, athletics and wheelchair control; there are also theoretical courses: development of physical characteristics for people; basics of a healthy lifestyle, applied sport activities for people with disabilities. At the event, professional physiotherapists give lectures on the benefits of physical exercise, healthy lifestyle teachers explain how to maintain well-being and regain health by changing lifestyles. They also organize practical classes, which help the disabled people to get practical knowledge how to do exercises without doing any harm to themselves and how to do the exercises to get their maximum benefit.

Guaranteeing equal opportunities not only in sporting activities, but also to participate in world and national sport championships, in 2019 the Lithuanian Sign language training program “Translation in the Field of Sport” was prepared, which aims to improve the skills of Lithuanian sign language translators to translate in the field of sport. During the training, sign language translators are introduced to the sport activities of deaf people. The circulation of methodological material (written and visual) – 50 copies.

1(b). What are the challenges to implementing the above? Are you aware of good practice related to the above?

*Education*

2(a). Does your country have laws, policies, plans, strategies or guidelines on physical education in public and private schools, including in special education, informal education and extra-curricular activities, relating to the inclusion of persons with disabilities, particularly children and young people, to avoid their exclusion or exemption from physical education and facilitating contact with disability-specific sports? What are the objectives of these instruments?

Article No. 3 of the Law on Sports of the Republic of Lithuania provides that physical education is based on the principle of equality. This principle means that all persons, without discrimination on the grounds of their sex, race, nationality, language, origin, age, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation and social or economic state, have equal rights to sport; separate sport competitions for men, women, the disabled, sport competitions by age groups, limiting the number of participants in sport competitions are not considered a breach of the principle of equality. Article No. 2 of the Law on Equal Opportunities of the Republic of Lithuania establishes that direct discrimination is the treatment of a person when sex, race, nationality, citizenship, language, origin, social status, religion, beliefs or opinions, age, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, on the basis of religion, a person is treated on terms on less favorable than another person is, has been or would be treaded in similar circumstances. But among the exceptions there is provided that direct discrimination is not considered separate sport competitions for the disabled.

2(b)(i). Are teachers and professors of physical education trained to include students with disabilities in either mainstream or disability-specific physical education?

In Lithuania physical education teachers are trained to work with students with special needs and are obliged take a course in special pedagogy and special psychology during their studies, and if they don’t take it during studies, they must take in-service training courses. People with disabilities have the opportunity to become physical education teachers.

Lithuanian Sports University trains specialists in applied physical activities, but only a few of them work with people with disabilities in sports organizations.

2(b)(ii). Do persons with disabilities who want to be teachers and professors of physical education have access to equal certification to exercise the profession?

2(c). What are the challenges to implementing the above? Are you aware of any good practices related to the above?

*Sports*

3(a). Does your country have national, regional and local sports departments addressing and promoting competitive sports that cover both mainstream and disability-specific sports, either integrated or separated?

In order to increase the participation of persons with disabilities in sports and physical activities, 5 national sports organizations for persons with disabilities have been operating in Lithuania for 30 years now, including the Lithuanian Paralympic Committee, with the Lithuanian Blind Sports Federation and the Lithuanian Sport Federation for the Disabled as its members, as well as the Lithuanian Deaf Sports Committee and the Lithuania’s Special Olympics Committee. 48 sports clubs (8 clubs for the visually impaired, 21 clubs for people with reduced mobility, 6 clubs for people with hearing impairments and 13 clubs for people with intellectual disabilities) are members of the above federations and committees. Sports clubs operate throughout the Republic of Lithuania, practicing from 2 to 8 sports. People with disabilities from special schools, social care homes, day employment and vocational training centres also take part in the events held by the Lithuania’s Special Olympics Committee.

3(b). Do disability-specific competitions have a similar structure to mainstream competitions, either integrated or separated, to organize local, regional, national, continental and international competition?

National sports organisations of the disabled of Lithuania practice 25 sports. 82 republican championships in various sports for the disabled were held in the country in 2019 (20 championships for the visually impaired, 17 championships for people with reduced mobility, 24 championships for people with hearing impairments and 21 championships for people with intellectual disabilities) with 3 557 people with disabilities participating therein. Each year, national sports organisations of the disabled also hold 3-4 events for schoolchildren and children (Games for Deaf Schoolchildren, Championships for Deaf Schoolchildren “Brave, Strong, Agile”, Basketball and Football Championships of Special Schools), 6-7 wellness events (events of the European Special Olympics Football and Basketball Week, special Olympic games of boarding houses, summer and winter sports festivals for the physically and hearing impaired, Games of Deaf Veterans), 5-6 international sports events (for people with mobility disabilities – boccia, wheelchair basketball, volleyball (sitting), for visually impaired - judo wrestling, goalball, also football in special Olympics). Lithuanian Games for the Disabled are held every year. People with various disabilities take part in 6-8 sports of the Games. 6 253 people with disabilities took part in events held by national sports organizations in 2019.

National sports organizations for the disabled of the country represent Lithuania in 15 international organizations. The structure of the five listed national sports organizations for the disabled is essentially in line with the structure of the international sports organizations for the disabled. Lithuanian athletes with disabilities participate in competitions held by international sports organizations of people with disabilities: Paralympic Games, Deaflympics, Special Olympics, IBSA, IWAS Games, World, European championships and other international events. 2019 members of teams of 126 Lithuanian national sports organizations of people with disabilities participated in 11 world, 7 European championships for the disabled, world Special Olympic (summer) Games and European youth games. Representatives of 12 sports won medals.

Sports camps of high-level sport mastership have been held for members of national teams of people with disabilities of the country.

In order to integrate into sports of able-bodied people, the most capable Lithuanian athletes with disabilities participate in championships of various capacities of different sports held by national federations of sports of able-bodied of Lithuania. Athletes with hearing impairments participate in basketball, athletics, badminton, orienteering, table tennis, wrestling, beach volleyball championships, athletes with visual impairments – in checkers, chess, athletics championships, athletes with mobility impairments – in orienteering, athletics and swimming, special Olympics athletes – in skiing and football championships. More than 100 people with disabilities took part in the said championships in 2019.

3(c). What are the challenges that persons with disabilities face to access training centers prepared for high-performance sports at local, regional and national levels?

The Technical Construction Regulation of the Republic of Lithuania applicable when building and reconstructing all “public buildings”[[2]](#footnote-2) establishes that “Public buildings and premises shall be adapted to meet the needs of people with disabilities”.

The Technical Construction Regulation STR 2.03.01:2019 “Accessibility of Buildings”[[3]](#footnote-3) lays down the requirements for preparing structures, projects of construction, reconstruction, building renovation (modernization), overhaul repairs, simplified construction, simplified reconstruction, description of overhaul repairs, ordinary repair projects or ordinary repair descriptions, or for changing the purpose of buildings to public buildings. When renovating (modernizing), reconstructing or repairing structures, provisions of the Regulation shall apply only to the parts of the structure that are rebuilt during renovation (modernization), reconstruction or repair; this exception shall not apply when the purpose of structures has been changed. The decision to adapt common-use objects of multi-apartment buildings for special needs of the disabled shall be made in accordance with the procedure established in Article 11(3) of the Law on the Social Integration of the Disabled [5.1].

3(d). Are there laws, policies and mechanisms in place to ensure fair distribution of public grants, awards and other financial support to ensure that sportspersons with disabilities have equal opportunities to succeed in competitive sports?

Programs of sports organizations of able-bodied and disabled are financed from the state budget through the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania. In 2020, EUR 0.84 million was allocated for the implementation of programmes of the national sports organizations for the disabled (5 programmes) (which accounts for 11.95% of the total funds allocated for the implementation of programmes of sports of high- level mastership). The funds allocated for the implementation of the programmes are used for holding championships for people with disabilities of the republic and other events for the disabled, preparation and participation in the key international competitions, salaries of employees of national sports organizations of the disabled and national team coaches. EUR 6.19 million was allocated for the implementation of programmes of national sports organizations for able-bodied (59 programmes).

Pursuant to Article 22 of the Law on Sports of the Republic of Lithuania, the state ensures the implementation of the principle of equality and motivates athletes for their achievements in sports, taking into account different systems of selection competitions, quotas for countries, competition rank, number of countries and participants in sports competitions. Article 23 of the Law on Sports establishes that an athlete with disabilities shall be entitled to a state prize if he has represented the Republic of Lithuania in accordance with the rules established by the international federation of the respective sport or other international sports organizations and has won the 1st – 3rd place in an event included in the programme of Paralympic Games or Games for the Deaf in the World or European Championships for the Disabled, the 1st – 4th place in Paralympic Games or Games for the Deaf, or the 1st – 3rd place in Special Olympics Games.

Pursuant to Article 24 of the Law on Sports of the Republic of Lithuania, athletes with disabilities shall be entitled to a state scholarship paid each month, if when representing the Republic of Lithuania, they won 1st - 6th place in Paralympic Games or Games for the Deaf, 1st – 3rd place in an event included in the programme of Paralympic Games or Games for the Deaf in the World or European Championship for People with Disabilities, or the 1st place in the World or European Youth Championships. In July 2020, state scholarships were paid to 59 athletes with disabilities. There are 79 able-bodied athletes, who receive state scholarships.

Sub-clause 1.2 of Resolution No. 85 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 23 January 2019 “Regarding the Approval of Proportions of Allocation of the Sports Support Fund, the Setting of the Share of the Funds Allocated for the Administration of the Sports Support Fund and the Description of the Procedure of Financing Sports Projects Financed from the Sports Support Fund” establishes that 10 per cent of the Sports Support Fund shall be allocated for the implementation of projects promoting the development of sports of persons with disabilities. Such a provision is also enshrined in Article 17 of the Law on Sports of the Republic of Lithuania. This amendment has given an impetus to smaller organizations of people with disabilities to submit projects and to receive long-term (up to 4 years) financing to organize activities. Projects for people with disabilities receive a priority, and their projects do not compete with those of other organizations. However, this type of financing has received a significant interest and demand, i.e. there were more applications submitted than funds were disbursed. The budget of the call for the implementation of projects promoting the development of sports for the disabled is 10% of the call funds, or EUR 1 145 107, in 2020.

Pursuant to Article 25 of the Law on Sports of the Republic of Lithuania, an athlete with disabilities shall be entitled to a monthly rent, if he has the citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania and represents the Republic of Lithuania, or acquired the citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania by 1 January 2009 and had won the 1st or the 2nd place in Paralympic or Games for the Deaf, when the selection competitions are held and there is a system of quotas for countries, or the 1st place when selection competitions are not held and there is no system of quotas for countries. Currently, rents have been allocated for 49 athletes with disabilities. There are 116 able-bodied athletes receiving such rents.

3(e). Please provide information on the organizational structures of disability-specific sports, including examples and good practices. Kindly consider the following aspects when replying:

* Are they separate structures, or are they integrated into mainstream federations and clubs?
* Are they decentralized covering the whole territory or they only operate in capital city/area?
* Are they sports-discipline specific, or they integrate multiple disciplines?
* Do they receive equal funding opportunities compared to mainstream sports?
* Are joint activities between sportspersons in disability-specific sports and mainstream sports encouraged or carried out to facilitate exchange among sportspersons within similar disciplines?
* Are persons with disabilities considered in sports beyond their role as sportspersons, including as referees, coaches, spectators, administrators, workers, volunteers in the sports industry, board members, among others?

There are no special education centers for the disabled in Lithuania. Indicators for forming sports education groups for persons with disabilities supplementing formal education and the number of contact academic hours per week by sport were approved by Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania “Regarding the Approval of Recommendations for Sports Education”. The document is of recommendatory nature to municipalities. Municipalities must decide themselves how many and what types of sports education groups they shall establish, determining the number of athletes with disabilities to be included in the sports education groups, establishing new job positions of coaches and leaders (assistants) in sports education centers.

1. These regulations and guidelines should refer to ensuring accessibility of venues/facilities, accessibility of information and communications, reasonable accommodation, support service provision, affordability, procurement, data collection and disaggregation, among others. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.B7AFE0723734/asr> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/103022d0ffbe11e99681cd81dcdca52c> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)