

The logo for RMIT, featuring the letters 'RMIT' in a bold, dark blue font. A light blue diagonal line starts from the top right of the 'R' and extends upwards and to the right, crossing the 'M' and 'I'.

LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS  
UŽSIENIO REIKALŲ  
MINISTERIJA



# 2024 SURVEY OF THE LITHUANIAN DIASPORA

Report

# Summary





## RESEARCH DESCRIPTION

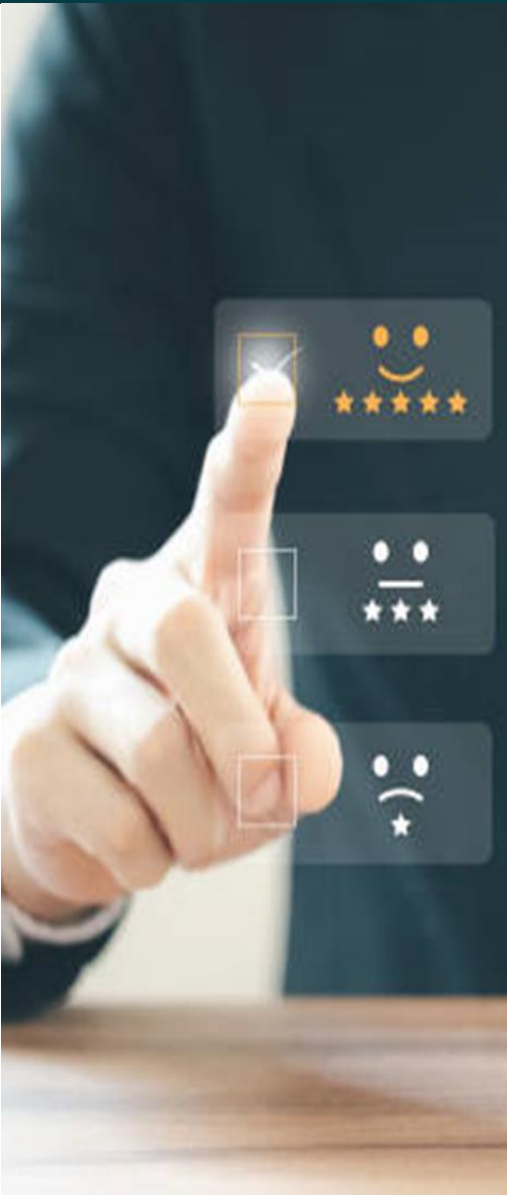
- During the period from the 13th of October, 2024 to the 13th of January, 2025, a market research company “RAIT”, on behalf of the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (hereinafter as MFA), conducted a survey of the Lithuanian diaspora which aims to better understand how the Lithuanian diaspora values opportunities to nurture national identity, opportunities to learn the Lithuanian language; to find out the desire and opportunities of the Lithuanian diaspora to participate in Lithuanian public life and engage in activities that benefit Lithuania, plans and expectations of returning to Lithuania. The opinion and insights of the Lithuanian diaspora are essential to strengthen and expand the relationship, dialogue, and partnership between the state and the diaspora, to improve the Lithuania's diaspora policy and its implementation.
- The invitation to participate in the survey was distributed with the help of Lithuanian diplomatic missions, communities, and organizations uniting Lithuanians abroad. It was also shared on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn accounts administered by the Global Lithuania Department of MFA. A total of 2,243 foreign Lithuanians (aged 18 and older, who have lived abroad for at least 6 months) residing in 76 countries participated in the survey. The questionnaires were prepared in three languages: Lithuanian (N=1932), English (N=240), and Spanish (N=71).
- 76% of respondents indicated that they participated in the survey for the first time in 2024 (84% in 2023), while 24% had participated in the annual survey before.

## STRUCTURE OF RESPONDENTS

- Most respondents were female (69%); 30-65 years old (81%); with a university degree (80%); born in Lithuania (88%); living abroad for over 3 years (92%, including those living over 10 years - 71%). 15% of respondents live in the USA, 11% in the United Kingdom, 7% in Norway. Almost 8 out of 10 respondents (78%) have Lithuanian citizenship, 10% have citizenship of Lithuania and another country, and 12% no longer have/never had Lithuanian citizenship.

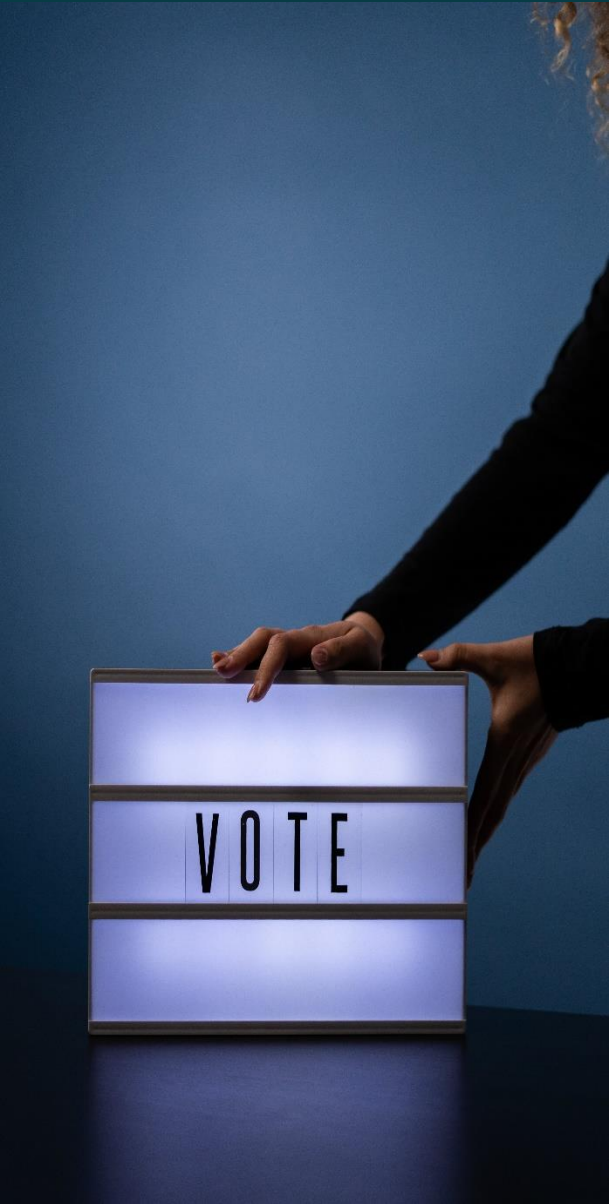
## NATIONAL IDENTITY

- In 2024, 95% of respondents indicated that national identity was important to them. Female, respondents living in the USA and Canada as well as those who are still thinking of returning to Lithuania in the future - both planning to return in the next five years or no earlier than in five years - consider national identity important more often.



## NATIONAL IDENTITY

- As in 2023, 8 out of 10 respondents agree that living abroad provides conditions to nurture Lithuanian identity, while another 14% agree that such conditions exist but there could be more of them. 6% of respondents disagree with this statement. People aged 66 and over; respondents with higher or special secondary education; respondents whose children are already adults; respondents from Norway; respondents who are actively involved in Lithuanian organizations agree with the statement statistically significantly more often.
- The majority of respondents who indicated that there could be more conditions to nurture Lithuanian identity abroad named the lack of information about communities and their activities, the need to organize more events and informal meetings, to adapt events to more diverse groups; more opportunities to learn the Lithuanian language, more varied distance learning courses and educational activities for both children and adults are also desirable. According to the respondents, it is particularly difficult to nurture Lithuanian identity in smaller towns and areas far from major cities, where there are no Lithuanian communities or missions. Some respondents indicated that the opportunity to preserve Lithuanian citizenship would also be important for nurturing Lithuanian identity.
- According to the research data, 50% of respondents participate in the activities of Lithuanian organizations in 2024, compared to 42% in 2023. More than a third of respondents belong to local Lithuanian communities (37%, compared to 36% in 2023), and 16% participate in Lithuanian school communities, which is 3% more than in 2023.
- People aged 66 and over (59%); respondents with adult children (50%); with citizenship of another country (56%) or who have never had Lithuanian citizenship (60%); respondents who have lived abroad since birth (61%) are involved in the activities of local Lithuanian communities statistically significantly more often. The Lithuanian school communities more often consist of females (19%); respondents aged 30-65 (18%); respondents with a Master's degree (19%); raising (pre)school age children (28%); who have lived abroad for more than 10 years (18%) and respondents living in the USA (20%).
- 22% of respondents indicated that they do not participate in any activities or events organized by Lithuanian organizations abroad. Male respondents; youth aged 18 to 29; childless respondents; respondents living abroad for 3 to 10 years; respondents who believe that they will never return to live in Lithuania were statistically significantly more likely to state that. 28% of respondents indicated that they do not participate in the activities of Lithuanian organizations, but attend events organized by these Lithuanian communities and join together for joint initiatives.
- Those who do not participate in the activities of Lithuanian organizations most often indicated that there are no Lithuanian organizations in the area where they reside – 34% (34% in 2023) or they do not have time for it – 29% (27% in 2023).
- 5% of respondents participate in the Lithuanian Diaspora Professionals Club. Its members are most often involved in mentoring programs, providing consultations to Lithuanian institutions, organizations or individuals (45%), or engaging in activities that raise awareness of Lithuania abroad and present Lithuania to foreign media (41%).



## CHILDREN AND LITHUANIAN EDUCATION

- 41% of all the respondents have (pre-)school-age children. 41% indicated that their child(ren) attend/attended Lithuanian educational institutions (39% in 2023).
- Slightly more than a fifth (22%) indicated that their children did not attend Lithuanian educational institutions, but they speak Lithuanian with their children at home. This indicator has decreased compared to 36% in 2023. Slightly more than a tenth (14%) teach their children the Lithuanian language, history and traditions. This is also less than in 2023 when it was 18%.
- Parents were most motivated to teach their children Lithuanian by the desire for their child(ren) to preserve their Lithuanian identity, connection to Lithuania (83%) and the opportunity for their child(ren) to communicate with relatives living in Lithuania (70%). 45% indicated that they were motivated to teach Lithuanian because of the opportunity for their child(ren) to live and pursue a career in Lithuania in the future, while 32% would want their child(ren) to have the opportunity to study in Lithuania. Some respondents believe that knowing two or more languages is a huge advantage.
- Parents who do not teach their children Lithuanian usually point out two main reasons: it is too difficult to do so in mixed families (59%), and they believe that it is more important to learn the language of the country of residence (28%).
- 29% consider the possibility for their children to study in Lithuania - 4% more than in 2023 (25%). Slightly more than a third (35%) have not yet planned their children's studies in Lithuania, but do not rule out such possibility (51% in 2023). Meanwhile, 28% of the respondents do not consider this option at all – 6% more than in 2023 (22%). Those who plan to return to Lithuania in the next 5 years or earlier are statistically significantly more likely to consider the possibility for their children to study in Lithuania.

## CITIZENSHIP

- In a 2024 survey, 8 out of 10 respondents indicated having only Lithuanian citizenship. In 2024, persons with Lithuanian citizenship were most active in the presidential election (77%), the referendum on retaining citizenship (75%), and the Lithuanian parliamentary election (66%), and somewhat less active in the European Parliament election (60%). Almost one-fifth (18%) did not participate in any of the elections.
- The main reasons for not participating in the elections: 23% indicated that they did not know where and when to vote, 18% stated that they should not vote because they do not reside in Lithuania. 5% encountered technical difficulties - they did not receive a ballot paper even though they had registered to vote by post.



## ENGAGEMENT IN LITHUANIA'S LIFE/ACTIVITIES THAT BENEFIT LITHUANIA

- As in 2023, the majority of the respondents are in one way or another involved in activities presenting Lithuania abroad and raising awareness of Lithuania - 72% (73% in 2023). Approximately 2 out of 3 (62%) respondents tell others about Lithuania and encourage them to visit the country (65% in 2023), almost a quarter (23%) share positive information about Lithuania on social networks (18% in 2023), 16% organize events and presentations about Lithuania (13% in 2023). Female and people who plan to return to Lithuania no earlier than in the next five years actively tell others about Lithuania statistically significantly more often.
- 2 out of 3 respondents indicate that they are in one form or another engaged in activities that benefit Lithuania - 67% (70% in 2023). 31% of them indicated that they promote tourism to Lithuania, which is significantly less than in 2023 (38%), 30% financially support relatives living in Lithuania (33% in 2023), 17% participated in charity and support activities in Lithuania in the last 12 months, which is 5% more than in 2023 (12%), 12% act as mediators in establishing contacts between Lithuania and foreign countries (13% in 2023), 9% have invested in Lithuania or established their business here (8% in 2023), a similar proportion (8%) is engaged in joint research activities with Lithuania (8% in 2023) and 8% provide consultations to Lithuanian companies/organizations or individuals (9% in 2023).
- 22% of the respondents indicated that they have not yet contributed but intend to contribute to the growth of prosperity in Lithuania (20% in 2023), while the rest (11%) stated that they had no such intentions (10% in 2023).
- As in 2023, 58% say that it is possible to participate in various activities of Lithuanian life even without living in Lithuania, 13% of respondents (11% in 2023) partially agree with this statement, indicating that more information about opportunities to participate in Lithuanian life is needed. Some respondents said that preserving citizenship (dual citizenship) would provide more opportunities, while 10% disagree with the statement (8% in 2023).



## RETURN/RELOCATION TO LITHUANIA

- In the 2024 survey, the question about the reasons for leaving Lithuania was only asked to respondents who had left recently - between 6 months and 3 years ago (in 2023, all respondents were asked this question). The 2024 survey data revealed that the tendencies differ from the results of previous year: the respondents more often stated that they had left to study abroad - 29% (17% in 2023), and less often for economic reasons: too low income - 7% (21% in 2023) and greater career opportunities abroad - 14% (17% in 2023).
- 22% of respondents plan to return to live in Lithuania in the future, while another 57% do not rule out the possibility of returning to Lithuania (59% in 2023). 21% of respondents do not plan to return (21% in 2023). The research results show that a larger proportion of Lithuanians than in 2023 plan to return to Lithuania in the next two years - 8% (4% in 2023), but fewer intend to do so in the next 5 years - 6% (10% in 2023).
- Male, youth aged 18-29, people with secondary education, childless respondents and people who have lived abroad for up to 10 years plan to return to Lithuania in the next 2 years statistically significantly more often. Youth aged 18-29 and respondents who have lived abroad for up to 10 years would like to return in the next five years. Respondents aged 30-65; those with Lithuanian citizenship and respondents who have lived abroad for more than 10 years do not rule out the possibility of returning to Lithuania statistically significantly more often. 66+ year-old respondents; with adult children; respondents who have never had or lost Lithuanian citizenship; living abroad since birth are more often among those who do not plan to return to Lithuania.
- Respondents who intend to return to Lithuania/do not rule out the possibility of returning to Lithuania in the future say that they are mainly encouraged to do so by their family and friends - 58% but this reason is indicated less frequently than in 2023 (68%). One-third (32%) of respondents would like to return to live in Lithuania upon reaching retirement age. One-quarter (26%) indicated that they feel best in Lithuania (27% in 2023). Other encouraging reasons for returning: the desire to work and create for Lithuania - 18% (20% in 2023) and high quality of life - 18% (16% in 2023).
- The most frequently mentioned reasons for not planning to return to Lithuania are: they have already established their life abroad - 64% (69% in 2023), the desire to be with the whole family in another country - 33% (30% in 2023), xenophobia - 31% (34% in 2023), greater opportunities for their children abroad - 27% (32% in 2023), in Lithuania salaries are too low (24%). The latter financial reason has less influence on the decision to return than in 2023 when it was mentioned by 36% of respondents.



## RETURN/RELOCATION TO LITHUANIA

- When asked about the measures that would strengthen the respondents' willingness to return/relocate to Lithuania, the respondents most often mentioned: a favorable perception and attitude of employers and the public towards those who have returned, their family members (34%), easily accessible and clearly understandable information about returning via a single window principle (32%) and clearer information and support for foreign family members to come and integrate (30%).
- The main concerns, risks about returning/relocating to Lithuania are too low salaries - 40% (49% in 2023), uncertainty about whether they will be able to re-integrate - 33% (32% in 2023), xenophobia is mentioned less frequently than before - 26% of respondents compared to 31% in 2023, concern about the integration of other family members in Lithuania - 26% (28% in 2023).
- According to the research data, 10% of the respondents indicated that the information about returning to Lithuania is sufficient, while 41% have enough information, but need to look for it, 14% believe that the information is insufficient and more than a third (35%) were not interested or had no opinion.
- Respondents planning to return or relocate to Lithuania evaluated that they did not have enough information about return/relocation and (re)integration indicating that they mostly need structured information on the first steps they should take if they want to return - 58%. The need for other types of information was also mentioned: about taxes - 51%, about health care - 44%, about social guarantees - 40%, about work and business - 40%.
- When planning their return/relocation to Lithuania, the respondents indicated that they would look for a job with the help of relatives and friends - 41% (43% in 2023), on job search portals, media advertisements, or social networks - 39% (42% in 2023), in the Employment Service database - 38% (33% in 2023), on the Work in Lithuania platform - 33% (32% in 2023). One out of ten respondents do not plan to look for a job in Lithuania because they will be working remotely abroad - 11% (10% in 2023) or they want to start their own business - 10% (11% in 2023).



## RETURN/RELOCATION TO LITHUANIA

- Almost half of all respondents who do not rule out the possibility of returning to Lithuania plan to return/relocate to Vilnius/Vilnius district - 45%. 16% - to Kaunas/Kaunas district, 7% - to Klaipėda/Klaipėda district. A bit more than a quarter (26%) would return or relocate to other places, while 6% have not decided where they would return to.
- 18-29 year-old youth; with a Master's degree; childless respondents; living abroad for less than 10 years are planning to relocate to Vilnius/Vilnius district statistically significantly more often. 66+ year-old respondents; residents of the USA and Canada would choose to relocate to Kaunas/Kaunas district more often. Respondents with adult children; residents of Northern European countries more often would consider relocating to Klaipėda and its surroundings.
- 6 out of 10 respondents who did not rule out the possibility of returning to Lithuania would plan to return to their hometown, city, or municipality. Those who have lived abroad for more than ten years; those who plan to return in the next two years plan to return more often.
- The vast majority (89%) of respondents say they maintain contact with their or their relatives' hometown/village/municipality. 77% visit relatives living there, 26% are interested in the information provided by the city/municipality on their website and social networks, 17% participate in city/region festivals or other events. 11% of all respondents do not maintain any contact with/are not interested in their or their relatives' homeland.



## LITHUANIAN MEDIA/SOCIAL NETWORKS/COMMUNICATION

- 7 out of 10 (71%) respondents use Lithuanian media outlets. 46% of respondents indicated that they mostly learn about current issues in Lithuania by watching LRT channels (22% in 2023), using the Delfi.lt portal - 30% (15% in 2023) and the 15min.lt portal - 14% (6% in 2023). 14% of respondents follow the information on the Irytas.lt portal (9% in 2023). Respondents with a Master's degree; childless respondents; having Lithuanian citizenship; living abroad for 3 to 10 years use Lithuanian media outlets more often.
- The respondents are mostly interested in news on the LRT.lt portal - 74%, LRT TV, radio live and pre-recorded radio broadcasts on LRT.lt, other media and audio library information - 49%. 14% of respondents do not use the LRT.lt portal. Male; with secondary or lower education; respondents who think they will never return to Lithuania said that statistically significantly more often.
- The most popular social networks among the Lithuanian diaspora remain Facebook - 85% (87% in 2023), Instagram - 57% (53% in 2023), LinkedIn - 38% (36% in 2023).

## LITHUANIAN DIASPORA POLICY

- In 2024, more respondents had a favorable opinion of the diaspora policy implemented by the Lithuanian Government - 61% (55% in 2023). Compared to 2023, the proportion of respondents who evaluated the diaspora policy slightly positively increased (23% in 2024, 7% in 2023). 8% had a negative opinion of the diaspora policy implemented by the Lithuanian Government (6% in 2023). Fewer respondents had no opinion on the matter or had not heard about it (31% in 2024, 39% in 2023). Respondents who have two citizenships; living abroad since birth; respondents who plan to return to Lithuania in the next two years positively evaluated the increasing attention to the Lithuanian diaspora statistically significantly more often.
- The respondents who positively evaluated the Lithuanian diaspora policy think that Lithuanian authorities give their most attention to: Lithuanian education - 44% (37% in 2023), informing about the return to Lithuania - 40% (38% in 2023), promotion of community spirit, strengthening of diaspora organizations - 36% (35% in 2023).
- 41% of the diaspora believe that the state's communication with the diaspora meets their expectations. Almost a third of respondents (approximately 30%) evaluated this communication negatively, i. e. as not meeting their expectations, while a similar proportion (30%) had no opinion on the issue.

# RAIT

The only independent market research company operating in all Baltic countries, Sweden, and Denmark, providing a full-service research package.

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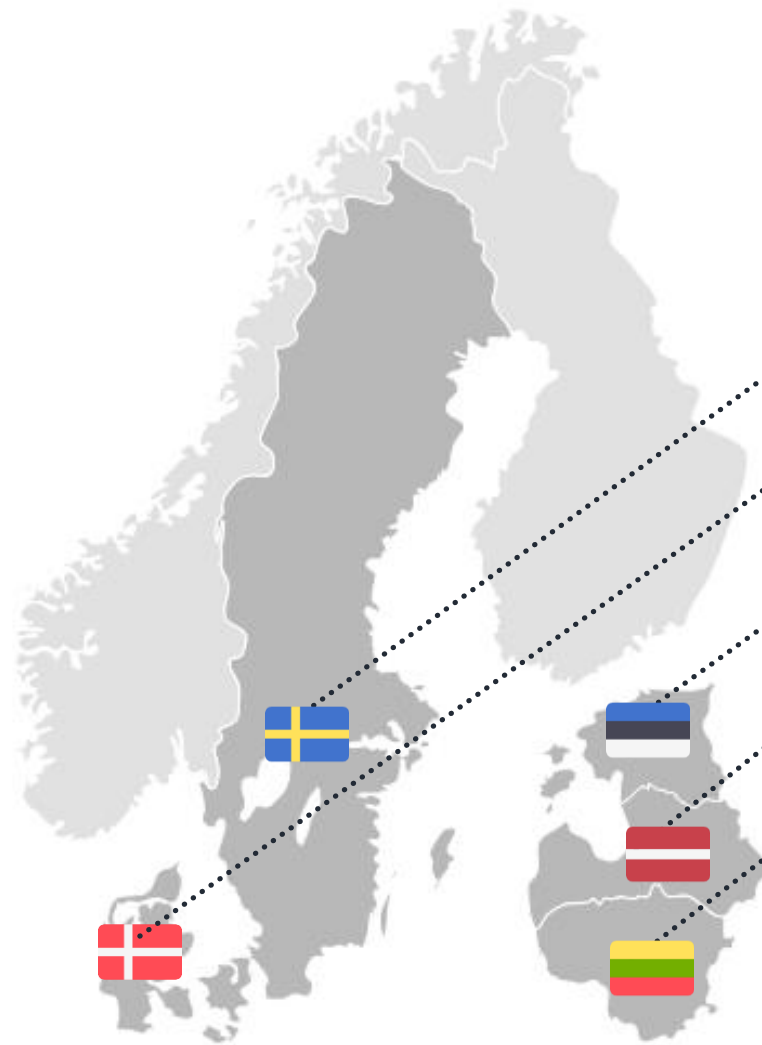
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