

LITHUANIA REVIEW

1. Justice system

B. Quality of justice

Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff)

In its 2023 concluding observations, the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights regretted the lack of specialized training on the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the justiciability of the rights therein for judges, prosecutors, lawyers and law enforcement personnel and of awareness-raising activities for the relevant actors responsible for the implementation of the Covenant. The Committee also expresses concern regarding reports of discriminatory attitudes among some judges when delivering judgments. The Committee recommended Lithuania to provide judges, prosecutors, lawyers and law enforcement personnel with regular specialized training on the provisions of the Covenant and on the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights to ensure their independence and that the judges adjudicate without prejudice ([E/C.12/LTU/CO/3](#), paras. 4, 5).

II. Anti-Corruption Framework

A. The institutional framework capacity to fight against corruption (prevention and investigation / prosecution)

Safeguards for the functional independence of the authorities tasked with the prevention and detection of corruption

In its 2023 concluding observations, the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights noted the measures taken by Lithuania to address corruption. It was concerned, however, about reports that corruption was still persistent in the public procurement sectors, particularly in the health sector, and by the increase in the size of the shadow economy, which may negatively affect the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. The Committee regretted the lack of information on the sentences passed on those found to be involved in corruption. The Committee recommended that Lithuania to intensify its efforts to combat corruption and related impunity and ensure the effective implementation of anti-corruption laws, including by investigating and prosecuting corruption effectively. It further recommended to continue to enhance the investigative capacity and independent functioning of the Special Investigation Service and the public prosecutors ([E/C.12/LTU/CO/3](#), paras. 28, 29).

IV. Other institutional issues related to checks and balances

B. Independent authorities

Independence, resources, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

In its 2023 concluding observations the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights welcomed the accreditation to A status of the parliamentary ombudsmen's office, as well as the steady increase in its budgetary allocation, but was concerned that the office did not have an explicit mandate on economic, social and cultural rights. The Committee remained concerned that the office may still lack sufficient human, technical and financial resources to carry out its mandate effectively in relation to economic, social and cultural rights. The Committee regretted the lack of information about complaints of violations of economic, social and cultural rights received by the office, the resulting investigations and their outcome. The Committee recommended Lithuania to take measures to address the observations and recommendations made in March 2017 by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions. The Committee further recommended that the parliamentary ombudsmen's office be strengthened so it can discharge its mandate effectively and independently in full compliance with principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and that the mandate include appropriate attention to economic, social and cultural rights ([E/C.12/LTU/CO/3](#), paras. 6, 7).