

# Rapid profiling of migrants in Lithuania arriving from Belarus

30 August 2021

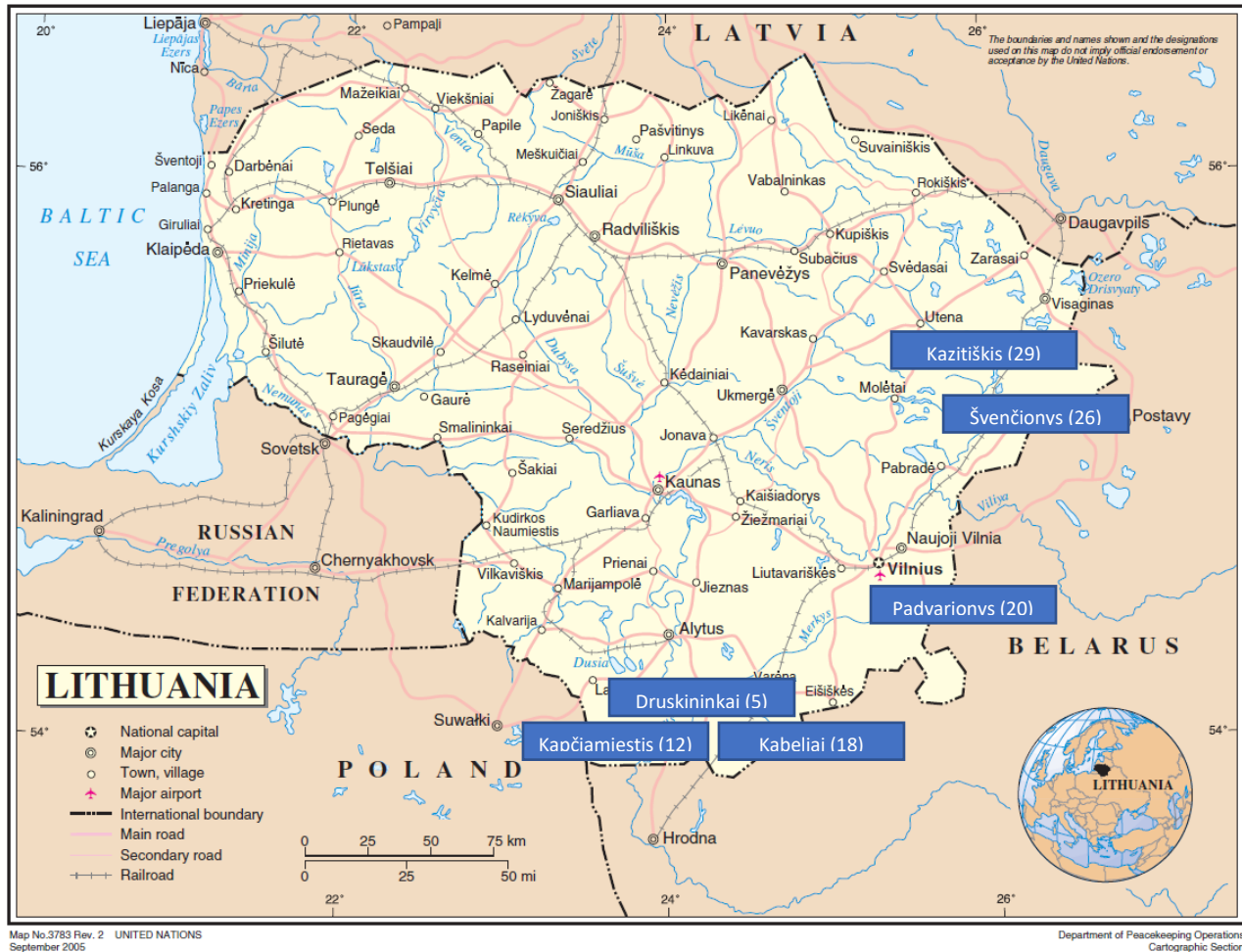
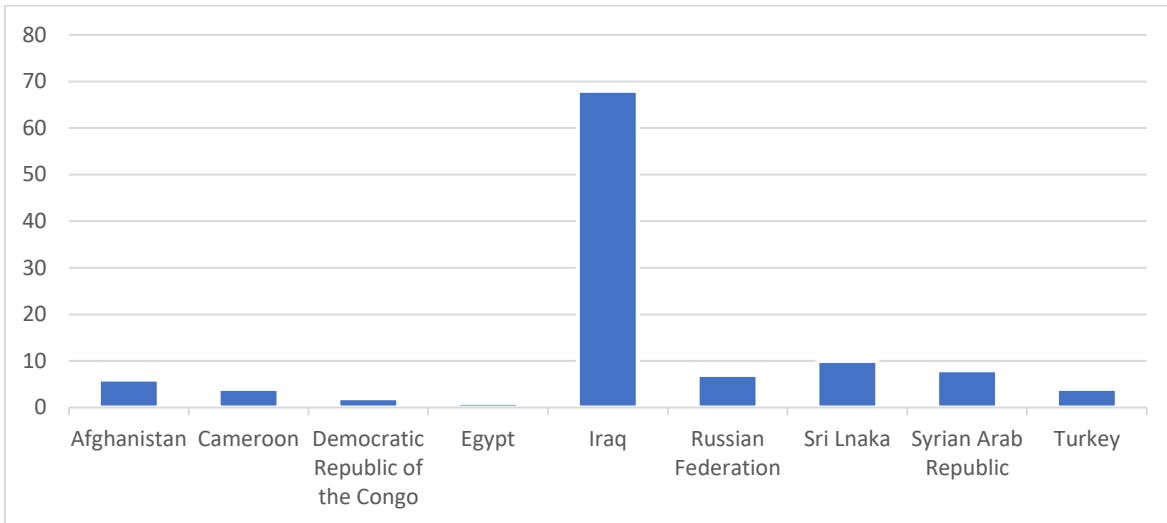


Figure 1: Map of Lithuania, visited locations (number of respondents)

Between 14 and 24 August, IOM has visited **6 sites** along the Lithuanian – Belarus border where migrants are accommodated in Lithuania and have spoken to **110 respondents** about their journey and to learn more about them and their intentions. Out of 110 spoken to, **62 are male** and **48 are female**.

Median age of all respondents is **28 years old**. 55 declared themselves as married (but not necessarily travelling with partners), 50 state they are single and 5 are widowed.

Top nationalities are: **1. Iraq, 2. Sri Lanka, 3. Syrian Arab Republic**. Interestingly, all but one Syrian national have recognized international protection in Russia and have started their journey from Russia.



Nationality	Female	Male	Grand Total
Afghanistan	2	4	6
Cameroon		4	4
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1	1	2
Egypt	1		1
Iraq	29	39	68
Russian Federation	2	5	7
Sri Lanka	8	2	10
Syrian Arab Republic	3	5	8
Turkey	2	2	4
	<b>48</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>110</b>

Figure 2: Nationalities

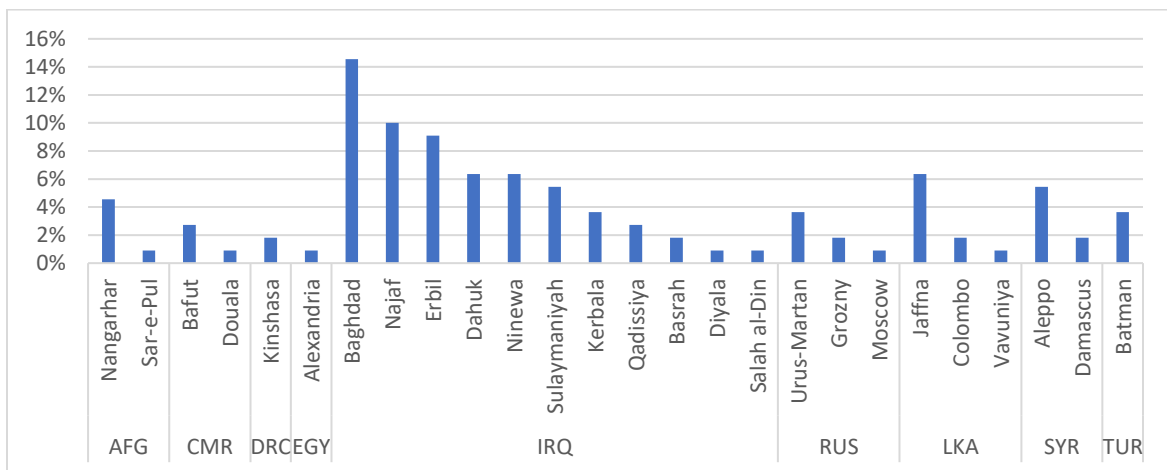


Figure 3: Regions of origin

Over **58%** report they **don't have documents anymore**, while other have handed them over to Lithuanian state authorities for the purpose of international protection procedure. Main reasons for not having travel documents anymore are that documents are either taken by smugglers at various points of journey or have been deposited in hotels in Belarus and not given back.

Main reason for leaving their country of origin or country of usual residence for 56% of respondents is **personal/ targeted violence or persecution**, followed by economic reasons and

war/conflict (each 14%), limited access to services (10%). Interesting, some migrants state **slow environmental change** as a reason to leave home (4%). Education or training is reason to migrate for 2% of respondents and marriage, family reunification or family formation for 1%.

**Migratory journey leads through Belarus** for 86%, while remaining difference lies in fact that migrants were not aware of countries they are transiting because of mode of transport. Over 84% of respondents have **crossed the Lithuanian border by walking**, and 16% have arrived using land vehicles, mainly hiding in trucks/containers.

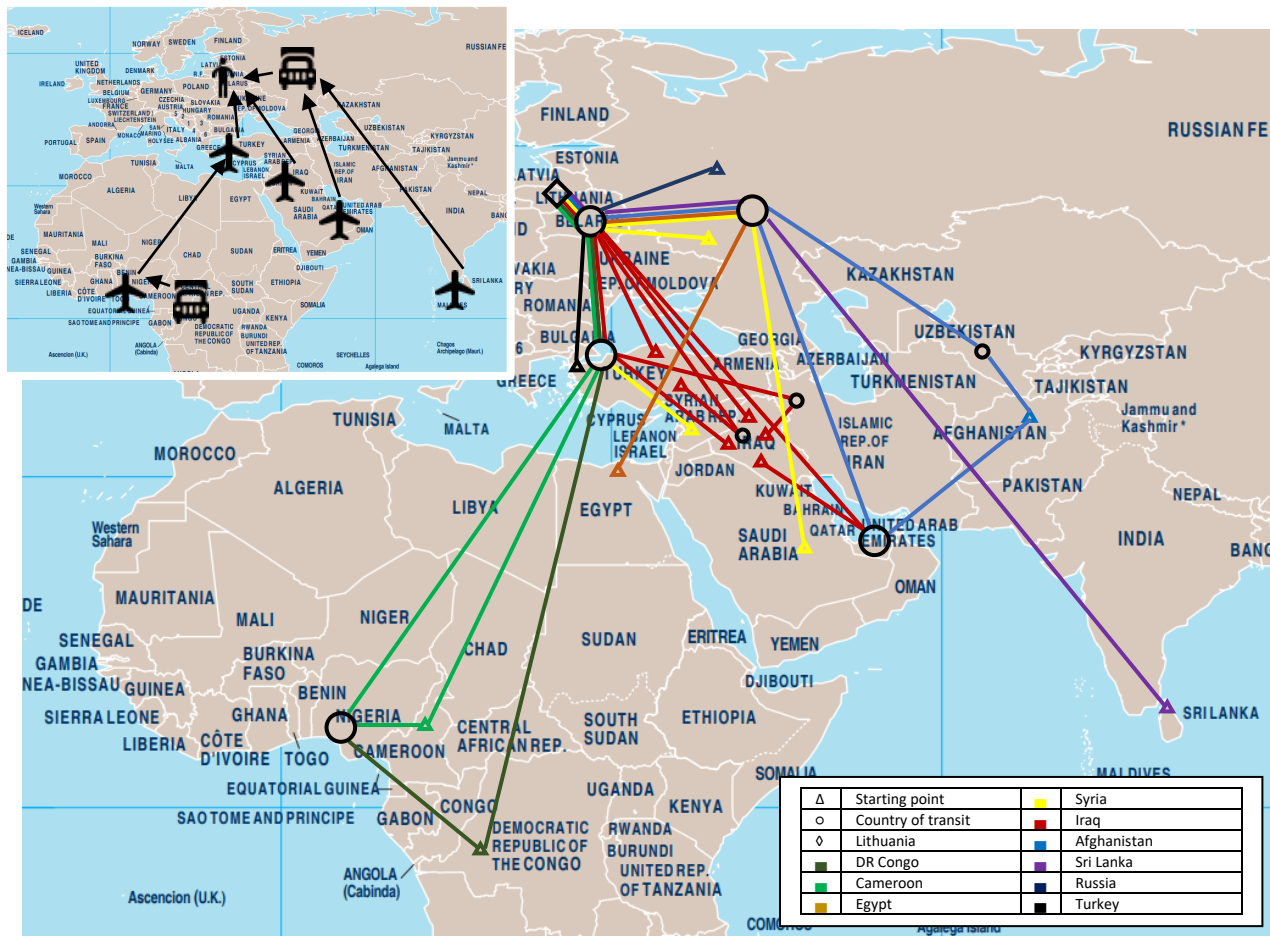


Figure 4: Map of travel routes and main modes of transport

Nationality	% of migrants	Country of departure	Countries of transit								% of route
Afghanistan	5,5%	AFG (all)	▶	▶	▶	▶	UAE	▶	RUS	BLR	3,6%
			▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	UZB	RUS	BLR	1,8%
Cameroon	3,6%	CMR (all)	NIG	▶	▶	TUR	▶	▶	▶	BLR	1,8%
			▶	▶	▶	TUR	▶	▶	▶	BLR	1,8%
Congo (the Democratic Republic of the)	1,8%	COD (all)	NIG	▶	▶	TUR	▶	▶	▶	BLR	0,9%
			▶	▶	▶	TUR	▶	▶	▶	BLR	0,9%
Egypt	0,9%	EGY (all)	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	RUS	BLR	0,9%
Iraq	61,8%	IRQ (59,1%)	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	BLR	51,8%
			▶	▶	▶	TUR	▶	▶	▶	BLR	0,9%
			▶	▶	▶	▶	UAE	▶	▶	BLR	1,8%
			▶	▶	IRN	TUR	▶	▶	▶	BLR	4,5%
		TUR (2,7%)	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	BLR	1,8%
			▶	IRQ	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	BLR	0,9%
Russian Federation (the)	6,4%	RUS (all)	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	BLR	6,4%
Sri Lanka	9,1%	LKA (all)	▶	▶	▶	▶	UAE	▶	▶	▶	9,1%
Syrian Arab Republic	7,3%	RUS (5,5%)	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶		BLR	5,5%
		SAU (0,9%)	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	RUS	BLR	0,9%
		SYR (0,9%)	▶	▶	▶	TUR	▶	▶	▶	BLR	0,9%
Turkey	3,6%	TUR (all)	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	BLR	3,6%

Figure 5: Overview of travel routes

Respondents state they have in average spent 500 USD for costs in Belarus only. For the whole journey, 30% have spent over 5.000 USD, followed by between 2,500 and 5,000 USD for 19%.

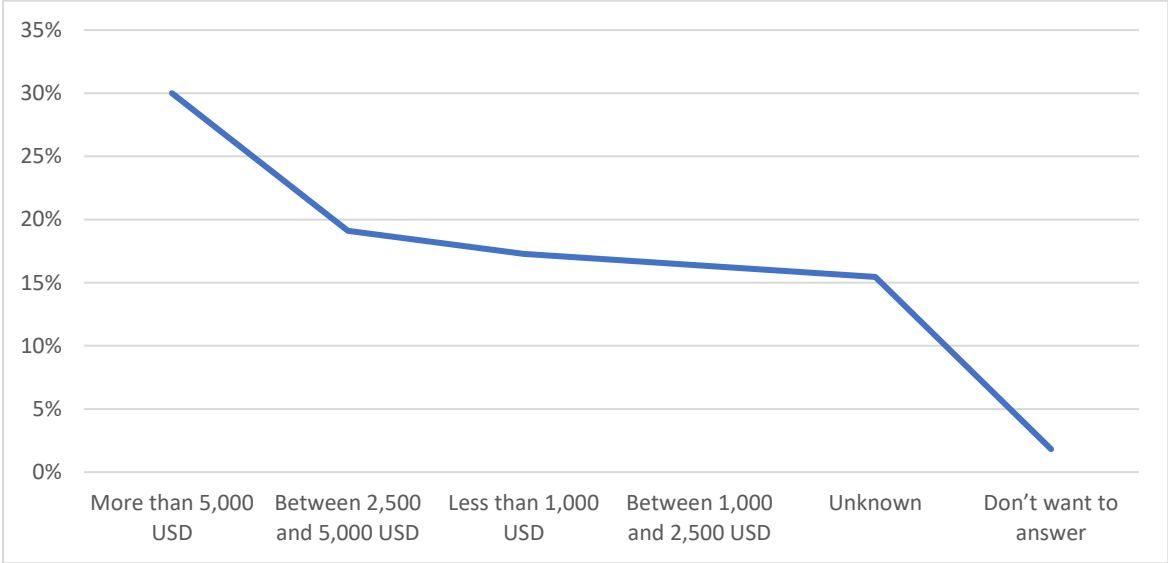


Figure 6: Cost of journey so far (total from departure)

Over half of respondents (**51%**) state **Lithuania as destination country**, followed by Germany for 27%. In lesser percentage other countries appear: United Kingdom (7%), Sweden (5%), Finland (3%), Austria and Norway (equally 2%), Switzerland, Belgium, and Italy (equally 1%).

Lithuania as destination country, some migrants report that they have an obligation to state so, otherwise they fear their asylum application will be end up rejected and they would be subject to forced return to their Country of Origin. Most usual response for 51% naming Lithuania would be “Lithuania or any other country in EU where I feel safe”.

Regarding high percentage of migrants stating

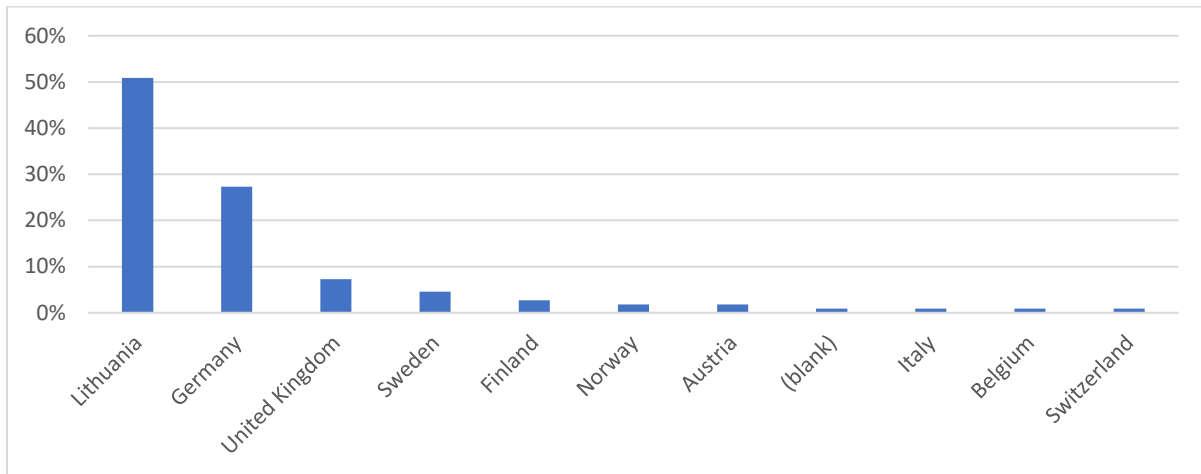


Figure 7: What was your intended final destination?

Almost all respondents state that they are not aware of options to travel onwards or haven't been approached and offered to travel from Lithuania to intended destination. Only two are aware or have been approached with such offer.

**migration/asylum policy in Lithuania.** 21% is seeking to join family in another EU country. Remaining respondents feel they ended in Lithuania by pure coincidence or because the person who has assisted them in travel proposed Lithuania. Very few names Lithuania a temporary destination until moving permanently to another host country.

Main reason to travel to Lithuania for **54%** respondent would be because of **rumors about**

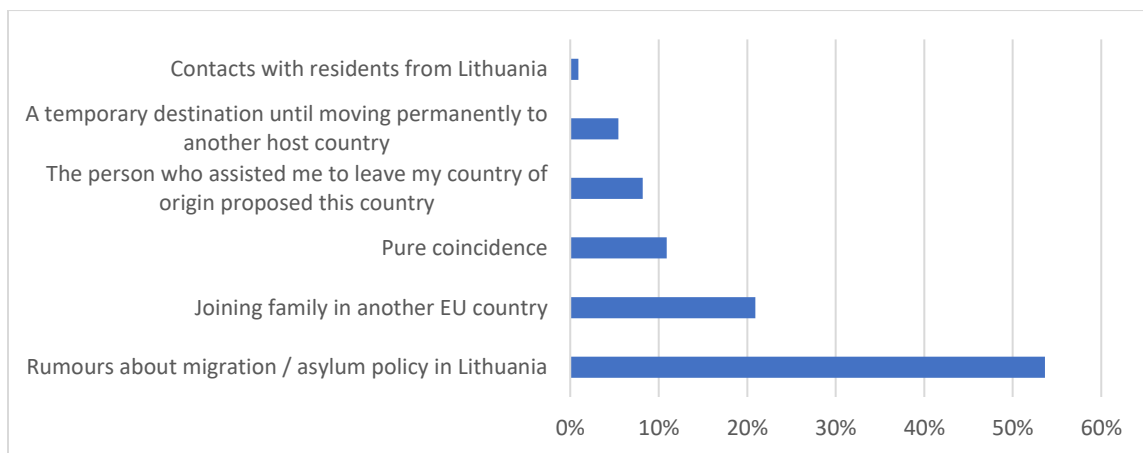


Figure 8: For what reason did you decide to come to Lithuania?

Only one respondent has considered returning to country of origin during journey, but **now no one considers returning**. Majority is not familiar with AVRR programme in Lithuania. All

respondents state they have claimed for asylum in Lithuania, and no one had any obligations to legalize their status in Belarus.

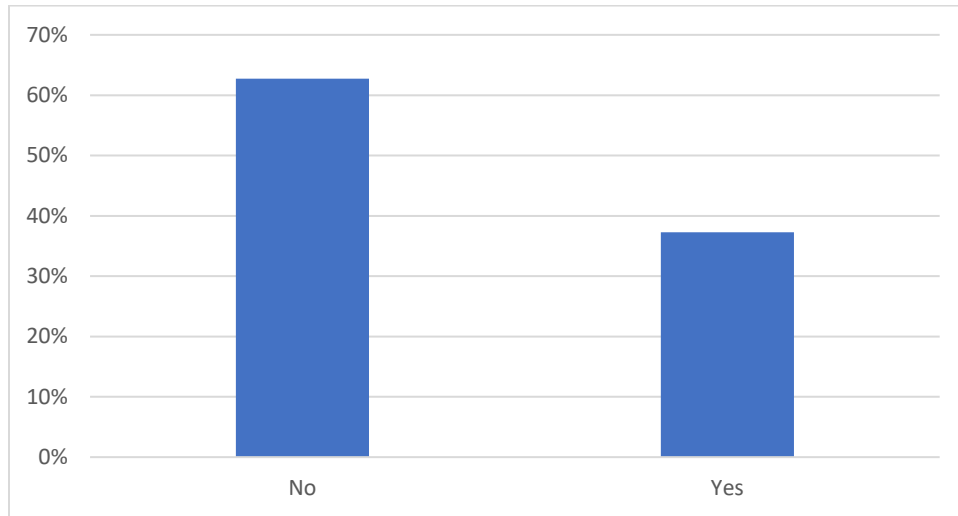


Figure 9: Are you aware there is AVRR programme in Lithuania?

Majority (72.92%) travel with family members, while 13.54% have travel on their own. Only few travelled in a group of people they do not know, or with friends. 86.46% state they are not aware of any family members or friends that would follow them to Lithuania. Among remaining 13.54% percent of respondents who said someone would follow them, in average 3 other persons would follow.

This is the first time they have left their country of origin for over the half of respondents (54%), while others (46%) have tried before living in another country.

Education level	%
Secondary school	46%
Primary school	24%
College/University	20%
No formal education	10%

Employment status	%
Unemployed and looking for a job	41%
Employed	32%
Student	15%
Self-Employed	11%

Figure 10: Education level and employment status prior to migration

Some 46% have secondary education, 24% have primary education, 20% has some form of university education and only 10% have no formal education at all. 41% were unemployed prior of journey to Lithuania, 32% have left a job, 15% were studying and 11% were self-employed.

Some 36% respondents state their social and economic situation in Country of Origin has been fair, for 24% it was good, and for 20% each it was either poor or very poor.

Majority, 67% of respondents state they have good relationship with their family, some 15% state relations are very poor, for 11% it is poor and only 6% state they have fair relationship with their family. It is important to state that migrants have families already living in EU,

therefor above relationship doesn't necessarily mean relationship with family in Country of Origin.

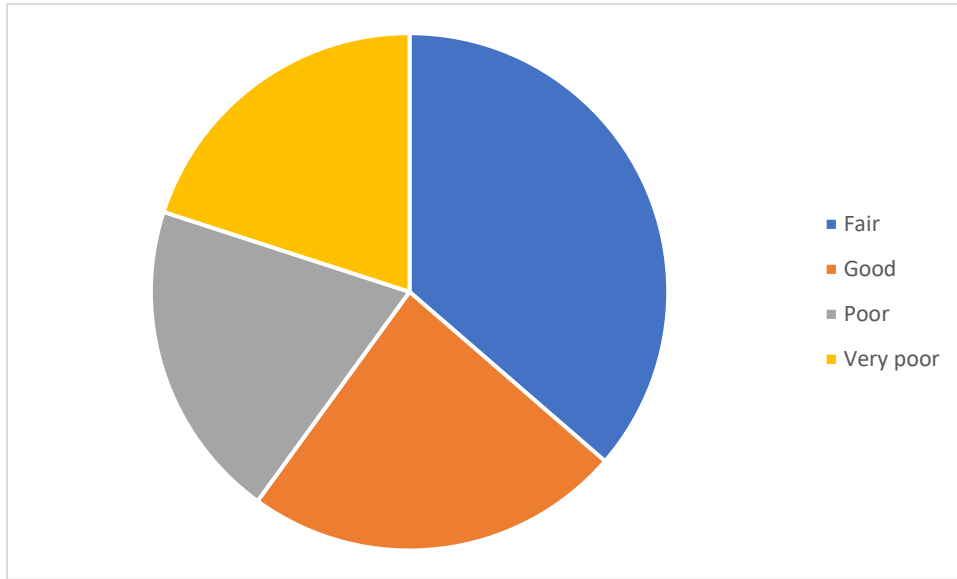


Figure 11: Social and economic conditions in CoO prior to departure

About 30% of respondents state that themselves or family members have a physical or mental disability, are currently sick or injured, or have some medical needs. Out of 30%, 9% of medical problems are unspecified, 5% are of coronary nature (heart and blood vessels), other are pointing to mental or physical disabilities, stress, allergies and respiratory problems.

Thirteen persons state they have serious **medical needs**, four minors are recognized as **unaccompanied single migrant children**, three migrants are **elderly**, there are two **single mothers with children**, one migrant with **serious psychosocial needs** and one **LGBTQ** migrant.

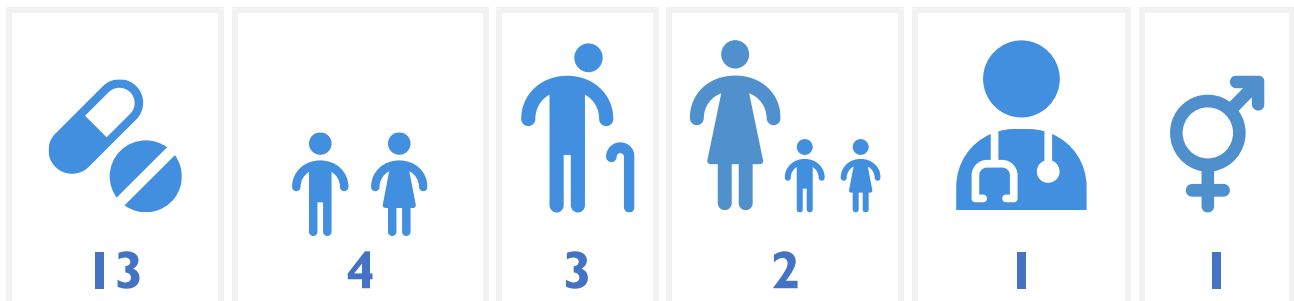


Figure 12: Identified vulnerabilities

Over 81% of respondents have been offered vaccinations against COVID-19 in Lithuania. Over **65%** of respondents **agrees to have vaccinations**

**against COVID-19 or has been vaccinated**, while equally both 17% would think about it, and doesn't consider it.

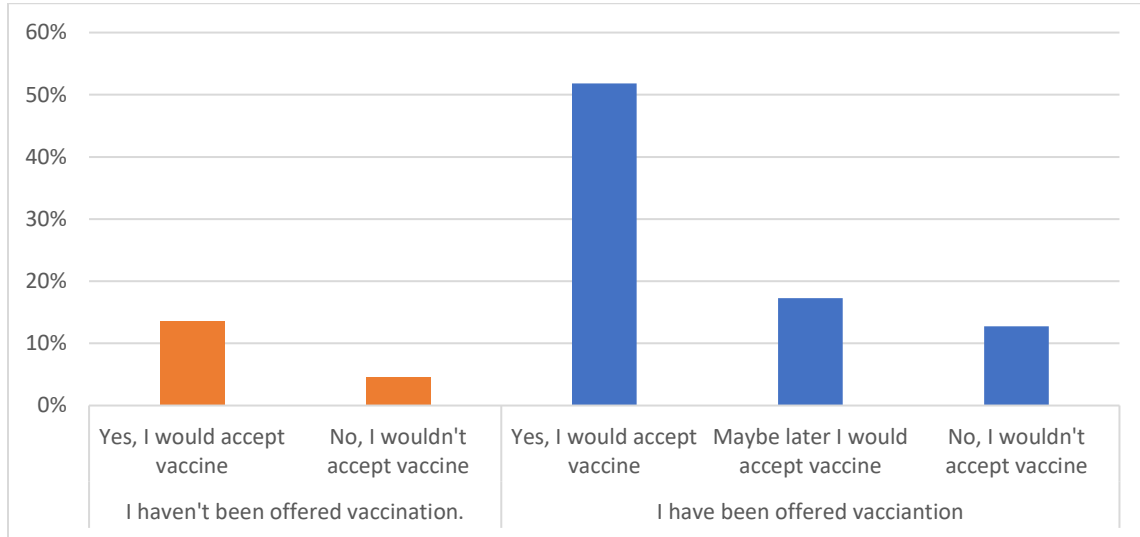


Figure 13: Have you been offered vaccination against COVID-19 in Lithuania and would you consider it?