

**Commission assessment of Lithuania’s application to host AMLA (Vilnius)**

***‘When selecting the location, the co-legislators have agreed that they will ensure that, given the nature of AMLA, the location enables the Authority to fully execute its tasks and powers, to recruit highly qualified and specialised staff, to offer adequate training opportunities for AML/CFT activities, where relevant, to allow for close cooperation with Union institutions bodies and agencies, and in order to avoid reputational risks, to consider how ML/FT risks are adequately addressed in the Member State based on publicly available, relevant and comparable information such as FATF reports.’***

	<b>Member State application</b>	<b>Commission assessment</b>
Description	<p>Vilnius offers a thriving financial sector ecosystem, underpinned by effective public-private collaboration, which stands ready to support AMLA in achieving its full potential. This ecosystem has a deeply rooted culture of excellence in AML/CFT compliance, which is the result of keeping the compliance issues at the top of the national policy agenda for many years as well as consistent and dedicated efforts by all key public institutions, as well as private market participants.</p> <p>With over 10,200 experts in the field of compliance, of which more than 7,700 specialize in financial services, banking, and related sectors within the financial domain, Lithuania demonstrates its commitment to fostering robust and sustainable growth of the financial sector. While most of AMLA’s employees will be recruited from all around the EU, local ecosystem will create a trustworthy synergy with the existing talent pool and entities operating as part of the broader ecosystem that will ensure the agency’s smooth take-off and fuel its’ journey towards a resounding success.</p> <p>We are dedicated to ensuring that our national compliance talent pool continues to grow both in size and quality. In pursuit of this goal, the Center of Excellence in Anti-Money Laundering was established in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Lithuania, alongside key players in the banking system. An innovative, progressive, and leadership-driven Center of Excellence is based on public and private sector cooperation, which encourages dialogue and finding the best solutions in response to specific real-life cases of ML/TF risks. It also significantly contributes to the promotion of compliance culture in Lithuania.</p> <p>To share the experience and elevate compliance standards across the entire financial sector, the Center, together with Mykolas Riomeris University, has prepared the Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Prevention Certification Program. It aims to ensure a smooth entry of new qualified specialists into the market. Upon successful completion of the course and passing the final examination, participants receive a Money Laundering Prevention Certificate, along with valuable internship opportunities in various public and private sector organizations.</p> <p>The Center of Excellence in Anti-Money Laundering maintains a steadfast commitment to providing abundant training opportunities for AML specialists, vital for keeping pace with the rapidly evolving financial landscape. As evidence of this dedication, the Center organised sixteen highly successful complimentary training sessions for financial market participants last year attracting nearly 4,500 eager participants. It is foreseen to proceed further with this successful initiative, with a focus on increasing the number of trained highly qualified specialists.</p> <p>Additionally, there are private training opportunities for newcomers to the labour market and those who want to start their career in the ML/TF prevention field. Introductory, periodic, individual or specific training courses are offered by private market players, such as ECOVIS Proventus Law, Mokymų Klubas, Lewben, Countline and Mokymų LAB. Some of these companies can also offer qualification improvement courses such as an AML Certification Programme (Mokymų LAB). Upon request, the possibility of having any training or certification program conducted in English is entirely at the disposal.</p> <p>An important part of the financial ecosystem in Lithuania is the developed Fintech sector. Since Lithuanian government set itself an ambitious vision to become a Fintech Hub in 2017, Vilnius has witnessed rapid growth in the number of Fintech companies. Currently, there are over 250 Fintech companies licensed in</p>	<p><b><i>[the location enables the Authority to fully execute its tasks and powers]</i></b></p> <p>The application refers to Lithuania’s financial sector ecosystem and effective public-private collaboration.</p> <p><b><i>[to recruit highly qualified and specialised staff]</i></b></p> <p>The application indicates the presence of over 10,200 experts in the field of compliance, of which more than 7,700 specialise in financial services, banking, and related sectors within the financial domain as existing talent pool. It also indicates that 85% of young professionals are fluent in English (see below under Criterion 4, 4). In indicates that there is a Fintech sector in Lithuania with over 250 Fintech companies.</p> <p><b><i>[to offer adequate training opportunities for AML/CFT activities, where relevant]</i></b></p> <p>The application indicates that a Centre of Excellence in Anti-Money Laundering was established in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, the Bank of Lithuania, and key players in the banking system. Together with Mykolas Riomeris University, this Centre has prepared the Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Prevention Certification Program, which includes courses and internship opportunities. The application indicates that, in 2022, this Centre has organised 16 complementary training sessions for financial market participants attracting nearly 4,500 participants.</p> <p>Private training opportunities for newcomers to the labour market or ML/TF prevention are available, as well as qualification improvement courses, including on AML matters.</p> <p><b><i>[to avoid reputational risks, to consider how ML/FT risks are adequately addressed in the Member State based on publicly available, relevant and comparable information such as FATF report]</i></b></p> <p>The application indicates that Lithuania offers a deeply rooted culture of excellence in AML/CFT compliance combining efforts by all key public institutions as well as private market participants, with extensive experience covering Fintech business models.</p> <p>The application states that the Lithuanian regulator is innovative and actively promoting RegTech and SupTech solutions.</p> <p>The application underlines that Lithuania is fully compliant on 3 important FATF recommendations and has no ‘non-compliant’ technical requirements in the last available FATF report, and that all 11 Immediate Outcomes on effectiveness vary from moderate to high. The application also mentions that a dedicated inter-institutional working group has been established - under the steering of a political level committee - with consistently implementing the recommendations provided by Moneyval/FATF.</p> <p>The application indicates that, in the Basel AML 2022 index, Lithuania is ranked as one of the TOP 5 European Union Member States and is in the global TOP 10 countries with the lowest ML/TF risks.</p> <p>The application also indicates that the Lithuanian FIU has agreements with all Lithuanian institutions responsible for the implementation of the preventive measures of ML/TF and has close cooperation with foreign and international institutions active on ML/TF.</p>

Lithuania and operating in a wide array of areas, including international payment and remittance services, digital banking, online investments, peer-to-peer lending, crowdfunding, and more.

The rapid expansion of the Fintech sector has contributed to the accumulation of relevant expertise among public authorities. As a result, Lithuania has extensive regulatory and supervisory experience in addressing AML/CFT risks not only in conventional banking system, but also in the innovative segment of the financial system, related to various Fintech business models. Having in mind the fact that FinTechs typically operate across borders, both within and beyond the EU, such a way of operation presents a unique challenge for regulators and public authorities responsible for managing risks stemming from different business models. The local Lithuanian experience gained in this process would be particularly relevant to the functioning of AMLA.

The growth of the Fintech sector also required Lithuania's regulatory environment and supervisory systems to keep pace with rapidly changing financial innovations. Currently, the Lithuanian regulator is considered to be at the frontier of innovation, with projects such as the Newcomer Programme and Regulatory Sandbox. Moreover, RegTech and SupTech solutions are employed to ensure high regulatory standards and reporting requirements, promoting comprehensive risk management without hindering the sustainable development of the financial system.

Lithuania has commendable track record in effectively tackling and mitigating ML/TF risks. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations, related to International Cooperation (Instruments), Financial Intelligence Units and Responsibilities of Law Enforcement and Investigative Authorities in Lithuania, which are particularly relevant for AMLA functioning and essential for the financial sector, are fully compliant without any shortcomings. Overall, Lithuania has no non-compliant (red) technical requirements of the FATF recommendations. The latest MONEYVAL evaluation by FATF also showed improvements in measures combating ML/TF and demonstrated significant progress in compliance with FATF standards. Accordingly, Lithuania has no immediate outcomes in low (red) level of effectiveness, and all of the outcomes vary from moderate to high.

While FATF evaluation differs among countries in timing and exhibit substantial disparities of up to 3-4 years or even more (which is a very long period in terms of risk assessment, innovations and technologies, as well as changes in relevant legislation and regulatory standards), the Basel AML 2022 index comprehensively encompasses data from 18 publicly accessible sources, thereby complementing the FATF assessment and providing a broader context with more cross-sections. The index also provides a ranking list of countries.

According to the Basel AML 2022 index, which incorporates FATF data and its' 4th-round methodology, Lithuania attained an outstanding position as one of the TOP 5 European Union member states and the TOP 10 globally characterized by the lowest ML/TF risks (positioning 121 place of 128 countries and having 3.43 overall score - 1st being the highest risk with 8.30 and 128 lowest risk country with 2.88 score). This underscores Lithuania's robust expertise in effectively managing risks associated with both the conventional banking sector and innovative Fintech.

Lithuania continuously strives to improve the compliance system by consistently implementing the recommendations provided by international organizations and, when necessary, proactively seeking innovative solutions on its own. In order to ensure the effective implementation of MONEYVAL (FATF) recommendations, a dedicated inter-institutional working group has been established. Recently, a political-level steering committee has also been established to steer this working group and monitor implementation of all the relevant recommendations aimed at mitigating financial risks. This demonstrates the strong political commitment from Lithuanian authorities to implementing the recommendations and reducing risks in the financial sector.

<p>Moreover, over the past year, Lithuania adopted changes to national legislation related to cryptocurrency assets to increase the transparency of the regulatory system in this segment and prevent emerging new risks without waiting for the EU-level Markets in Crypto-Assets (MiCA) regulation to enter into force. Further improvements to the national cryptocurrency sector regulatory framework are currently being considered by the national authorities, ensuring timely and robust risk management in this fast-evolving sector.</p> <p>Seeking to ensure cooperation and exchange of available information, avoid duplication of inspection activities of the entities, Lithuanian FIU have agreements with all Lithuanian institutions responsible for the implementation of the preventive measures of ML/TF. Seeking to improve AML system in Lithuania and to remain consistent with international standards the national FIU has close cooperation with foreign and international institutions, bodies and agencies, such as Egmont group, MONEYVAL, Financial Action Task Force (FATF), EUROPOL, and active participation in EU Financial Intelligence Units' Platform, FIU.NET, Expert Group on Money Laundering and terrorist financing.</p> <p>In order to manage and mitigate various risks, the Ministry of Finance initiated and signed the Memorandum on Cooperation and Exchange of Information in Risk Management in Financial Innovation and Financial Technology together with other 8 national institutions (Ministry of the Interior, Bank of Lithuania, Special Investigation Service, Financial Crime Investigation Service, Police department, State Tax Inspectorate, State Data Protection Inspectorate, state company Deposit and Investment Insurance) in March 2019. The Memorandum aims to strengthen administrative abilities and raise competence in the field of monitoring and management of potential risks of financial innovations and financial technologies, including cyber security and other risks which are most relevant for the FinTech sector.</p> <p>Finally, Lithuania places significant emphasis on ML/TF risk management and the pursuit of sustainable growth in the financial technology sector, along with a strong commitment to compliance. The Lithuanian government has prepared the National FinTech Sector Development Guidelines for the next five years to sustain the sector's successful growth from 2023 to 2028. This strategic roadmap aims to secure Lithuania's prominent position among the world's leading FinTech countries. The primary objective of this new strategy is to promote the high-quality development of the FinTech sector and maintain the highest compliance and risk management standards. Collaboration is a fundamental factor in Lithuania's FinTech success. Unique among strategies worldwide, Lithuania's FinTech strategy has been developed and will be implemented as a joint effort involving all interested parties, including market participants.</p>	
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Premises 1		
Criterion 1 - 'The date on which AMLA can become operational on site after the entry into force of the Regulation'		
Building		
Sub criterion	Member State application	Commission assessment
1) Description of the proposed premises 1 (address and general description)	<p>Vilnius proposes a remarkable opportunity to have brand new premises as a home for AMLA, located at the heart of the city centre. The Class A business centre Yellowstone is situated at 14 J. Jasinskio str. within the prestigious Business Triangle, which serves as a hub for numerous esteemed corporations and enterprises. The 9-storey building stands on the left side of the Neris River, where the city of Vilnius meets its urban arteries.</p> <p>The Yellowstone building was designed by a Lithuanian Architect Professor Rolandas Palekas, who was awarded the National Prize for Culture and Art for achieving harmony between the city and nature through architecture.</p> <p>The state-of-the-art facility surpasses the highest standards set for Class A business centres. The Yellowstone building is developed in accordance with the international</p>	<p>The application indicates the availability of the business centre Yellowstone situated at 14 J. Jasinskio str. as proposed premises. It indicates that the 9-storey building is new and stands on the left side of the Neris River, in the city centre.</p> <p>The application indicates that the premises ensure safety and restricted access to entrances for AMLA's staff. Information is provided on amenities of the building, including a restaurant and café space, an inner courtyard and a panoramic terrace. The application indicates that AMLA's staff will be able to use the 2-storey underground parking for cars, bikes and e-scooters, including electric car parking and charging spaces.</p> <p>The application indicates that the premises are positioned in close proximity to other key Lithuanian institutions, the Parliament Information Office and the European</p>

BREEAM (EXCELLENT) standard for sustainable buildings. Advanced engineering systems are to be installed to meet the BREEAM standard and to be managed according to individual needs. Class A energy efficiency, which encompasses renewable energy (solar power plant), environmentally friendly LED lighting and large windows for plenty of natural light, will ensure extremely low energy consumption. AMLA staff will be able to use the 2-storey underground parking for cars, bikes and e-scooters, including electric car parking and charging spaces.

The premises are projected taking into account requirements for AMLA's needs, ensuring complete safety and restricted access to entrances for solely Agency's staff. The ground floor to be designated for restaurant and café space, while a vibrant inner courtyard will offer a pleasant and rejuvenating space for employees to relax and take breaks. In addition, the proposed AMLA building features a breath-taking panoramic terrace, providing stunning views from above. Such investment in creating a harmonious work environment will not only foster contentment among AMLA employees but will also enhance their productivity.

The proposed premises for AMLA are also conveniently positioned in close proximity to other key Lithuanian and European institutions. With only 5 min of walking distance from the Parliament of Lithuania, 10 min from the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and 15 min from the Government and other governmental institutions, including the EU bodies such as the Parliament Information Office and the European Commission's Representation in Vilnius, AMLA will be perfectly integrated within other institutional structures.

The AMLA building will also enjoy its prestigious location, encompassed by a variety of high-class accommodations, including the Art City Inn Hotel situated within a mere 2 min stroll, the Ratonda Centrum Hotel with just a 4 min walk, and the conveniently located Hilton Garden Inn Vilnius City Centre accessible with just a 5 min walk. In addition, a multitude of 3-4 star hotels, all within a short walking distance at the UNESCO-listed city centre will further enhance the appeal of a convenient environment and staying options for AMLA staff and guests.

The proposed premises for AMLA are also very conveniently accessible by any type of transport. Situated only 10 meters (less than 1 min stroll) from the Yellowstone entrance, the bus stop named J. Jasinskio allows effortless access to any part of the city. It takes only 18 minutes by bus (3G fast line bus) or less than 20 min by Taxi, Bolt, Uber, car share service or any other type of motor vehicle transport to get to the International Airport of Vilnius. Similarly, it takes only 14 minutes by bus (1 and 7 lines) or Taxi, Bolt, Uber or car to get to the closest international train station in Vilnius.

Vilnius ranks 1st as the greenest city in the EU, third in the world (HUGSI Index) and recently was awarded the title of the European Green Capital 2025. Vilnius provides an oasis of greenery at every glance, with nearly half of the city filled with parks, squares, and forests, which allows everyone to immerse in nature without leaving the city or even the Old Town.

Inspired by the city itself, the prioritization of AMLA staff's well-being and satisfaction has been the foremost consideration, placing a particular emphasis on integrated cutting-edge innovations and advanced engineering systems, while choosing the premises.

Commission's Representation in Vilnius. The application provides information on the accessibility of the premises, on accommodation (both covered further below) and aspects related to the well-being of staff.

**Availability of the premises**

1) Timeline of the availability of the premises (before fit-out and necessary adaptation works) as soon as possible after the entry into force of the Regulation	The proposed premises for AMLA are available immediately. The availability of premises including fit-out and necessary adaptation works is envisaged in Q2 2024.	The application indicates the immediate availability of the premises, including fit-out and necessary adaptation works envisaged in Q2 2024.
2) Estimated time needed for fit-out and adaptation works (expressed in months)	5	The application indicates that 5 months is the estimated time needed for fit-out and adaptation works.
<b>Organisation of the premises</b>		
<i>Indicatively, and depending on the final number of staff (between 250 and 400 staff members), the size of the AMLA's premises should be between 6.000 to 10.000 square meters gross floor area above ground.</i>		
1) Total surface of the premises (expressed in m <sup>2</sup> )	6591	The application indicates that the total surface of the premises is 6,591 m <sup>2</sup> .
2) Staff capacity (expressed in maximum number of staff)	400	The application indicates that the hosting capacity of the premises is 400 staff members.
3) Availability of one large conference room (including for the meetings of the General Board) (approx. 300 m <sup>2</sup> )	Yes	The application indicates the availability of 1 large meeting room.
4) Number of meeting rooms for more than 40 persons	2	The application indicates that there are 2 meeting rooms for more than 40 persons.
5) Number of meeting rooms for 13-15 persons	1	The application indicates that there is 1 meeting room for 13-15 persons.
6) Number of meeting rooms for 25-35 persons	2	The application indicates that there are 2 meeting rooms for 25-35 persons.
7) Availability of a lounge area for lunch and/or dinner catering	Yes	The application indicates that there is a lounge area for lunch and/or dinner catering.
8) Availability of a dedicated area for FIU (around 30 individual offices)	Yes	The application indicates that there is a dedicated area for FIU.
9) Internal archives capacity of the premises	Yes	The application indicates that there is internal archives capacity of the premises of 315.63 m <sup>3</sup> .
9.1) Archives volume (expressed in m <sup>3</sup> )	315.63	
10) Number of parking spaces (inside and outside) - Available for AMLA	100	The application indicates that there are 100 parking spaces (inside and outside) available for AMLA.
11) Possibilities for extension of office space in its original premises or the nearby area	Yes	The application indicates that there is a possibility for extension of office space in its original premises or the nearby area by 2,682 m <sup>2</sup> .
11.1) Surface for possible extensions (expressed in m <sup>2</sup> )	2682	
12) Are the premises EMAS verified?	Yes	The application indicates that the premises are EMAS verified.
13) Description of the general compliance with the Manual of Standard Building Specifications of the premises including for environment performance standard	The building to host AMLA in Vilnius was chosen through national rental and public procurement selection procedure for administrative premises. The selection process involved thoroughly assessing candidates to ensure they met the Technical Specifications for AMLA premises, which the European Parliament and the Council jointly approved. Additionally, the selection procedure was based on the guidelines outlined in the Manual of Standard Building Specifications of the European Commission. Therefore, the building chosen to be the future home for AMLA (Yellowstone Business Centre) complies with the requirements of these standards.	The application indicates that the building to host AMLA in Vilnius was chosen through a national rental and public procurement selection procedure for administrative premises based on the guidelines set out in the Manual of Standard Building Specifications, which involved a thorough assessment of the candidates to ensure that they met the technical requirements.  The application indicates compliance with the BREEAM (EXCELLENT) standard for sustainable buildings.

One of the main principles guiding this project's developing and building phases is high sustainability standard. The Class A Yellowstone project is being developed following the international BREEAM (EXCELLENT) standard for sustainable buildings. Advanced engineering systems will be installed to meet the standard and will be managed according to individual needs. The aim is to ensure the comfort and well-being of building users, as well as the optimization of energy resources. The main elements proving the high sustainability of the project are class A energy efficiency ensuring extremely low energy consumption, using renewable energy (solar power plant) to generate energy for the building, individual air ventilation, electric car parking and charging spaces as well as environmentally friendly LED lighting to be used in the building.

This reflects the goal set in the Manual of Standard Building Specifications to ensure the high quality of the buildings hosting EU institutions and agencies as regards environmental performance standards. This state-of-the-art facility exceeds the highest standards set for Class A business centres by prioritizing the well-being and satisfaction of employees, placing special emphasis on incorporating cutting-edge innovations and advanced engineering systems.

The principle of health-consciousness is reflected in such features as thoughtfully designed spaces, with expansive windows providing the interiors with plenty of natural light, high quality adjustable indoor lighting, innovative sound insulation and acoustic solutions, ventilation solutions that meet the highest hygiene standards, a modern cooling system for space cooling and partial heating. The building will also be equipped with individual air ventilation, status sensors, temperature and CO2 sensors, air filters, BMS Building Management Systems, modern cooling system for space cooling and partial heating, innovative solutions for acoustics and sound insulation as well as air circulation solutions that meet the highest standards.

In addition to that the location of Yellowstone Business Centre provides great opportunities for leisure, healthy lifestyle and maintaining a good work-life balance to the staff working in the building. The Yellowstone project encompasses a green and lively inner square with a restaurant and café terraces. Future employees would also be able to enjoy breath-taking panoramic terrace, offering a captivating view from the rooftop of the building. Employees working in the building could also benefit from opportunities of physical activity outdoors with the biggest park in Vilnius, Vingis park, only 10 minute walk away. The Neris River with newly reconstructed riverside paths for walking and cycling is reachable just in 2 minutes on foot.

It is also important to note that in line with the Manual of Standard Building Specifications, the Yellowstone itself, the surrounding area and its facades fits perfectly into the particular urban environment in central part of Vilnius. The design is inspired by the character of the surrounding natural framework: the slope and the river, which are separated from each other in this location. The new structure of the internal spaces of the quarter is dictated by the pedestrian path from the central Gediminas Avenue to the J. Jasinskio bus stop and its possible continuation. Another distinctive feature of the project is a square designed as part of the pedestrian walkway next to the J. Jasinskio bus stop.

The spatial organisation of the building proposed to become home for AMLA offers efficient use of space and has optimised internal and interior/exterior flows with multiple access options including the main pedestrian access from the street, car and bicycle access to the parking space and off-street delivery area for technical services. The

The application indicates the focus on health-consciousness in the features of the premises and opportunities for leisure, healthy lifestyle and maintaining a good work-life balance. It indicates that the building will also be accessible for people with reduced mobility.

	<p>building will also be conveniently accessible for people with reduced mobility.</p> <p>The Yellowstone office centre building can also comfortably accommodate a required number of offices, meeting rooms of different sizes and other specific zones such as a restaurants, toilets, kitchenettes, archives etc. in the proposed surface of 6591 square meters in line with individual requirements of floor area per person, set in the Manual of Standard Building Specifications.</p>	
<p>14) Description of the digital security and connectivity with regard to physical and IT infrastructure</p>	<p>In the steadfast commitment to enhancing both digital security and connectivity within the AMLA building, a comprehensive approach has been implemented, encompassing both physical and IT infrastructure. In addition to the robust Wi-Fi network, an advanced optical (fiber) network has been strategically integrated within the premises. This ensures swift and reliable data transmission while reinforcing the capacity to meet the growing demands of the digital age.</p> <p>Furthermore, the protection of critical server rooms is managed with the utmost seriousness. Access to these vital areas is fortified through a rigorous access control system, granting entry permissions solely to the authorized personnel. This rigorous access control not only will safeguard data assets but also will bolster the overall cybersecurity framework, underscoring a dedication to maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of the digital resources entrusted to vigilant care.</p> <p>The proposed premises for AMLA will be meticulously designed to align with the specific requirements mandated for the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and FIU-related functions. This entails the establishment of a dedicated area comprising approximately 30 individual offices, governed by strict national confidentiality regulations. In accordance with the requirements, the premises will encompass 3 analysis facilities. These secure and isolated operational rooms will serve as meeting rooms where multiple analysts will be able to convene, equipped with access to joint analysis data and analytical software. These designated spaces will be accessible exclusively to authorized personnel and will be outfitted with IT terminals. The paramount attention will be given to the assurance of adequate IT and security infrastructure within the premises, ultimately aimed at ensuring the effective and efficient management of all FIU-related operations.</p> <p>In general, given the increasing importance of cybersecurity, Vilnius has made efforts to strengthen its capabilities in this field. This includes fostering cybersecurity research and education and attracting cybersecurity firms to the city. Lithuania has also a commitment to comply with the EU and NATO recommendations on ensuring the security of 5G infrastructure and other 5G Development Guidelines (2020-2025) underlying the maintenance of highest security standards and a coordinated approach. Lithuania and Vilnius in particular now ranks 2nd globally in the National Cybersecurity Index and 6th in the ITU Global Cybersecurity Index, and offers both EU-leading connectivity and internet speeds, and a strong pipeline of dedicated IT specialists. To deliver best-in-class services for AMLA activities, Vilnius will be able to provide fast, reliable infrastructure and smart, flexible IT talent pool.</p> <p>Moreover, Vilnius boasts excellent Internet connectivity with widespread access to high-speed fiber. This infrastructure makes Vilnius one of the world's best-connected cities, which offers free WiFi hotspots in hotels, venues and public spaces. Vilnius benefits from extensive 4G and 5G mobile network coverage, firmly establishing itself as the leading European country (OpenSignal). Moreover, Lithuania is increasing the spread of 5G internet by reaching 99% of country's territory coverage in July 2023.</p>	<p>The application indicates the availability on the premises of physical and IT infrastructure, including an integrated Wi-Fi network, an optical (fibre) network, and an access control system for critical server room protection.</p> <p>The application indicates that the premises will be aligned with the specific requirements mandated for FIU and FIU-related functions. It also indicates that the dedicated area for FIU will be governed by strict national confidentiality regulations. It indicates that the premises will also encompass 3 analysis facilities.</p> <p>In addition, the application provides information on cybersecurity capabilities in Vilnius, including Lithuania's commitment to comply with EU and NATO recommendations on ensuring the security of 5G infrastructure and other 5G Development Guidelines (2020-2025) and references to rankings in Cybersecurity Indexes.</p> <p>The application also provides information on internet connectivity in Vilnius with widespread access to high-speed fiber.</p> <p>The application offers information on the spread of 5G internet in Lithuania and reaching 99% of country's territory coverage in July 2023. In addition, it provides information in relation to e-government and digital inclusion in Lithuania.</p>

	<p>Lithuania has a strong tradition of e-government, with many public services accessible online. Residents can interact with government agencies, pay taxes, and access important documents through a user-friendly digital platform. According to the European Commission's European e-Government Benchmark 2023, Lithuania ranks 7th and is among the leading countries in terms of the most technologically advanced public e-services. Currently, Lithuania's e-Government Gateway portal <a href="http://www.epaslaugos.lt">www.epaslaugos.lt</a> offers more than 650 electronic services. In 2022, 79.6% of the Lithuanian population aged 18-74 used the portal, which shows that digital connectivity is friendly enough for any age group.</p> <p>The city of Vilnius also recognizes the importance of digital inclusion and has implemented programs to ensure that all residents have access to digital services and are equipped with the necessary skills to participate in the digital economy. Vilnius positions as 1st globally for digital skills availability (IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2023 rating). With 42,100 ICT professionals actively contributing to the city's technological advancement and innovation, and an additional 10,600 IT students diligently prepare to join their ranks, Vilnius stands as a testament to the remarkable potential and growth in the field of information and communication technology.</p>	
<b>Financial terms</b>		
1) Description of the financial terms	The lease agreement between the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania and the real estate developer will have duration of 5 years. The parties involved may agree to extend the rental period for another 5 years with the same terms and conditions. To do so, a written notice to the real estate developer should be provided no later than 12 months before the end of the lease agreement. The extension of the lease agreement will be formalized by signing a new agreement by parties involved.	The application indicates that the lease agreement between the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania and the real estate developer will have a duration of 5 years (extendable for a further 5 years under the same conditions, following written notification to the property developer no later than 12 months before the end of the contract, concluded after signature by the parties).
2) Monthly rental cost (expressed in EUR)	148429.32	The application indicates that the monthly rental cost is EUR 148,429.32.
3) Does the applicant Member State intend to cover the rent?	Yes	The application indicates that Lithuania intends to cover the rent for 5 years.
3.1) Will the applicant Member State cover the rent	For a given period of time	
3.2) If yes, for how many years?	5	
4) Monthly maintenance costs (expressed in EUR)	3.29	The application indicates that the monthly maintenance costs are 3.29 EUR/m <sup>2</sup> .
5) Does the applicant Member State intend to cover the maintenance costs?	Yes	The application indicates that Lithuania intends to cover the maintenance costs.
6) Fit-out costs (expressed in EUR/m <sup>2</sup> )	7.72	The application indicates that the fit-out costs are: 7.72 EUR/m <sup>2</sup> .



7) Does the applicant Member State intend to cover the fit-out costs?	Yes	The application indicates that Lithuania intends to cover the fit-out costs.
8) Does the applicant Member State intend to cover the future upgrade and extension?	Depends	The application indicates that Lithuania may cover the future upgrade and extension.
9) Financial conditions of future upgrades and extensions	On 11 October 2023 the Government of Lithuania took decision to cover all the cost related to the AMLA premises for the period of 5 years based on the provided information for building requirements. Future upgrades and extensions would be subject to consideration, as it would depend on the timing, specific requirements and the scope of adjustments needed.	The application indicates that on 11 October 2023 the Government of Lithuania took the decision to cover all the cost related to the AMLA premises for the period of 5 years based on the provided information for building requirements. Future upgrades and extensions would be subject to consideration, as it would depend on the timing, specific requirements and the scope of adjustments needed.
10) Duration of the lease (expressed in years)	5	The application indicates that the duration of the lease is of 5 years.
11) Financial conditions of termination before the end of the lease	<p>The lease agreement between the tenant and the landlord outlines several circumstances under which it may be terminated without legal intervention. These include non-payment of rent, utility bills or other taxes specified in the lease agreement within 10 working days of the due date. In such cases, the landlord must provide a written notice at least 15 business days before terminating the lease. The lease will remain in force if the tenant clears the arrears within 15 working days of receiving the notification.</p> <p>The tenant may terminate the lease agreement without legal intervention if the landlord fails to meet their obligations and does not rectify any violations committed within 30 working days of receiving a request from the tenant. In case the breach cannot be corrected within 30 working days due to circumstances beyond the landlord's control, the deadline for rectifying the breach can be extended by mutual agreement of both parties. If the breach is not corrected within the agreed extended period, the tenant can still terminate the lease agreement.</p> <p>The lease agreement can also be terminated if the premises become wholly or partly unsuitable for use due to circumstances beyond the control of the parties (force majeure). If such circumstances last longer than 60 calendar days, the parties may terminate the lease agreement by mutual accord.</p> <p>The parties may also terminate the lease agreement by written agreement due to unforeseen objective reasons that make executing the lease agreement difficult or impossible for one of the parties (the circumstances as force majeure specified in the contract).</p> <p>The rental agreement may also be terminated based on the grounds established in the Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania.</p>	The application indicates that the lease agreement between the tenant and the landlord may be terminated under certain circumstances without legal intervention. These include non-payment of rent, failure to meet obligations, failure to rectify violations, force majeure, and unforeseen objective reasons. The lease can also be terminated by mutual accord if the premises become unsuitable for use or if the parties cannot execute the agreement due to force majeure. The Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania also allows for grounds of termination.
12) Description of any special conditions with regard to the costs and dedicated infrastructure	<p>On 11 October 2023 the Government of Lithuania took decision to cover all the cost related to the AMLA premises for the period of 5 years.</p> <p>The lease contract includes a visible facade logo and rebranding Yellowstone Business Centre building into AMLA HQ. The cost is already included into rental price.</p> <p>The communal fees will be calculated based on the actual use and currently are not included in the rental costs.</p>	<p>The application indicates that the lease contract includes a visible facade logo and rebranding of the Yellowstone Business Centre building into AMLA HQ. The cost is included in the rental price.</p> <p>It also indicates that the communal fees will be calculated based on the actual use and that they are currently not included in the rental costs.</p>

Summary Criterion 1		<p><b>Lithuania proposes the Yellowstone Business Centre in Vilnius, Lithuania, a 9-storey building, as premises. It indicates that the building meets certain sustainability standards and offers amenities such as a restaurant, café, and underground parking. The application indicates that the premises are available immediately, and that the 5 months for fit-out and adaptation works could be finished in Q2 2024. The premises have a total surface of 6,591 m<sup>2</sup>, accommodating 400 staff. The application indicates the availability of meeting rooms (2 for more than 40 persons, 1 for 13-15 persons and 2 for 25-35 persons), a lounge area for lunch and/or dinner catering, a dedicated area for FIU, internal archives capacity of 315.63 m<sup>3</sup> and 100 parking spaces. The extension of office space in its original premises or the nearby area is possible by 2,682 m<sup>2</sup>.</b></p> <p><b>The application indicates that the building is EMAS certified and meets the Manual of Standard Building Specifications. It indicates that the building is equipped with physical and IT infrastructure, including Wi-Fi and optical fibre networks and an access control system for critical server rooms. The premises meet specific requirements for FIU and FIU-related functions, and Lithuania is committed to complying with EU and NATO recommendations on 5G infrastructure security.</b></p> <p><b>The application indicates that the lease agreement will be concluded between the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania and the real estate developer for a duration of 5 years. The application indicates that the monthly rental cost is EUR 148,429.32, with Lithuania covering rent, fit-out costs and monthly maintenance costs for 5 years, with future upgrades and extensions subject to consideration.</b></p>
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<b>Criterion 2 – ‘Accessibility of the location’</b>		
<b>Sub criterion</b>	<b>Member State application</b>	<b>Commission assessment</b>
<b>Public transportation</b>		
<p>1) Description of the access to air and rail transport linking the location with European capitals</p>	<p>Lithuania is connected with Europe and the rest of the world via three international airports, located in the capital city of Vilnius, the industrial hub of Kaunas, and the port city of Klaipėda/Palanga. Serving the administrative and financial capital, Vilnius Airport is the main gateway to Lithuania, conveniently positioned less than 3 hours away from most European capitals.</p> <p>Situated just 7 km from the UNESCO-listed city centre, Vilnius Airport offers reliable and convenient connectivity across Europe and beyond. As a testament to the growing significance of Vilnius and Lithuania for business travel, major European carriers such as airBaltic, Austrian Airlines, Business Airlines, Lufthansa, SWISS, Finnair, LOT Polish Airlines and SAS are expanding their presence, offering increasingly more frequent flights to their respective hubs.</p> <p>A wide range of airline carriers ensures reliable, convenient and frequent direct air connectivity between Vilnius and Riga, Tallinn, Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Frankfurt, Munich, Paris, Zurich, Helsinki, Vienna, Warsaw, and a host of other significant cities across Europe. The connectivity between Vilnius and certain major EU cities can vary up to 34 direct flights per week. Besides that, with a connecting flight, any corner of Europe can be reached with ease and comfort. Within a commute of less than one and a half hours, another airport is situated in Kaunas.</p> <p>For Lithuania, maintaining and improving air connectivity with easy access is of key importance. Via diversified and attractive incentive schemes, dedicated marketing</p>	<p>The application indicates that Lithuania has three international airports, including Vilnius Airport, which is located 7 km from the city centre, and is less than 3 hours flight away from most European capitals, with up to 34 direct flights per week, between Vilnius and European capitals and cities.</p> <p>Besides air connections, the application indicates daily train connections to Warsaw indicating that this train route is linked with other train connections in Poland, Western European countries and as of December 2023 a new train route between Vilnius and Riga.</p>

	<p>efforts and joint efforts with key local stakeholders, Lithuanian Airports are actively working on improving and expanding Lithuania's air connectivity with Europe and the rest of the world. In 2023, Lithuanian airports boasted 98 direct connections, of which almost 60 were at Vilnius Airport, with plans to increase the total number of routes to 110 by the end of 2024.</p> <p>Lithuania has an ambitious strategy to further improve air connectivity. Lithuanian Airports, along with the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Ministry of the Economy and Innovation, are collaborating on a strategic roadmap to increase the number and frequency of flights to European and international destinations. On 30 October 2023, Vilnius City Municipality joined the ministries and signed a highly significant agreement on promoting routes important for business and inbound tourism. The agreement aims to pool and coordinate the capabilities of the different authorities to ensure sustainable flights and passenger flows along strategic routes.</p> <p>According to the agreement, Lithuania will allocate around 10 million euros next year to increase the frequency of flights between European cities of interest to business and inbound travellers. The list includes 27 destinations, with 23 flights from Vilnius. Priority destinations include major European capitals like Copenhagen, Brussels, Berlin, Helsinki, Paris, Madrid, Dublin, Lisbon, Amsterdam, Warsaw and other European cities. As a result of the ongoing joint efforts of the institutions and Lithuanian Airports, more flights are expected already this winter.</p> <p>No less significant is Lithuania's ambition to offer reliable, convenient and sustainable air connectivity. Lithuanian Airports have committed to reaching Net Zero emissions by 2050, whereas Vilnius Airport is the only airport in the Baltics to reach Level 3 Optimisation in the Airports Council International Airport Carbon Accreditation programme. Over the past years, Vilnius Airport has invested greatly in sustainable infrastructure solutions such as green energy, LED lighting and emissions reduction. Alongside improved infrastructure, the airport is building a new, state-of-the-art departures terminal that will enhance passenger experience through sustainable design and the latest technological innovations.</p> <p>Like Lithuania, Vilnius Airport is an ambitious, capable and reliable partner for continuous air connectivity and events important for the whole region. In July 2023, Vilnius Airport became the safest and most secure airport in the world as world leaders gathered for the annual NATO Summit. Vilnius Airport meticulously planned and flawlessly executed the arrival and departure of the world's largest and most important aircraft, such as the Air Force One carrying the US President.</p> <p>Besides air connections, daily train connections between Vilnius and Warsaw offer environmentally friendly transportation foster cultural and social links. This train route is linked with other train connections in Poland, facilitating easy travel to other Polish cities and Western European countries. Starting December 2023, a modern PESA 730ML train (142 seats, hot snacks, drinks, Wi-Fi and adapted for people with special needs) will operate daily on a new train route between Vilnius and Riga, with a swift journey time.</p>	
2) Availability and types of public transport connections from the closest airport to the premises	Bus	The application indicates the availability of bus connections from the premises to the closest airport.

Frequency of bus connections (expressed in minutes)	8	The application indicates that the frequency of the bus connection is of 8 minutes and the duration 18 minutes.
Duration of bus connections (expressed in minutes)	18	
3) Availability and types of public transport connections from the closest international/national train station to the premises	Bus	The application indicates that bus connections are available from the closest international/national train station to the premises.
Frequency of local bus connections (expressed in minutes)	6	The application indicates that the frequency of the bus connections is of 6 minutes and the duration 14 minutes.
Duration of local bus connections (expressed in minutes)	14	
4) Other	<p>Vilnius is a compact capital city and has the advantage of the Airport conveniently located only 7 km from the centre. This gives a rare opportunity to reach most destinations in the city within 30 minutes and the old town within 15 minutes after landing in the Lithuanian capital. It is a major time-saving, CO2 emission-cutting and comfort-enhancing benefit that Vilnius can offer for AMLA staff and guests. Such comfort, easy and fast connectivity can hardly be found in any other capital of an EU member state. The city boasts a modern and integrated public transportation infrastructure, trolley buses and buses connecting every corner of the city. Multiple direct bus lines run from and to Vilnius Airport: bus line 3G runs every 8 minutes or less, bus lines 1, 2 and 88 run every 20-30 minutes. The line 88N bus runs throughout the night from 22:30 to 5:30, every 30 minutes. Public transport tickets can be conveniently purchased via mobile applications and also from the bus drivers. The prices of public transport in Vilnius are very affordable with single ticket costing between EUR 0.65 (30 min. ticket) and EUR 0.90 (60 min. ticket), tickets cost 1 euro when bought from the drivers. There is always flexibility for your preferred payment method, whether it is in cash or by card. Vilnius is number one between EU capitals by mobility alternatives compared to the population. Besides using public transport, locals and guests of the city can choose to get around by taxi, Uber/Bolt or using car sharing (CityBee, Bolt Drive), bike sharing and electric scooter sharing platforms. The journey from the airport to the proposed AMLA premises by Taxi, Uber or Bolt takes less than 20 min and is budget-friendly, with the fare not exceeding 10 euros. Residents in Vilnius also have the valuable opportunity to use bicycles not only for leisure but also for their daily transportation needs within the city. A few years back, Vilnius started a significant bicycle path development programme to build and rebuild bicycle paths. Currently, Vilnius has a network of around 150 km of high-quality cycle paths connecting different parts of the city and covering 58% of the urbanised area within a radius of 250 metres. By the end of 2025, this figure is expected to increase to 90%, with around 190 km of paths making cycling or moving by any other type of motorless vehicle even more convenient. Moreover, Vilnius stands out as a very convenient city to get around by walking – it is among top 5 European capitals for short commuting. Such important locations as the main bus and train stations can also be reached by foot from the city centre within 10 minutes while admiring the charming Vilnius old town on the way. It is also noteworthy that all of these transportation choices within Vilnius city are environmentally friendly. As the global and European push for a green transformation is driving a reconsideration of transportation modes, travel habits and sustainable innovation, Vilnius has committed itself to turning the capital into a climate-neutral city until 2030. Such a vision includes electromobility, alternative fuels, and sustainable</p>	<p>The application indicates that the Vilnius airport is located 7 km from the centre, allowing to reach most destinations in the city within 30 minutes and the old town within 15 minutes. The application indicates that the city offers an integrated public transportation infrastructure, trolley buses and buses. It indicates that multiple direct bus lines run from and to Vilnius Airport. Information on transport prices is given, as well as information on mobility alternatives, including bikes and walking, indicating that Vilnius has a network of around 150 km of cycle paths connecting different parts of the city and covering 58% of the urbanised area within a radius of 250 metres.</p> <p>In addition, the application indicates that Vilnius has committed itself to turning the capital into a climate-neutral city until 2030.</p>

	<p>mobility. To support this mission, Vilnius City Council approved the development of the production and use of green hydrogen in public and citizen transport and the investment of 16 hydrogen-powered buses to replace diesel-powered buses. Moreover, Vilnius is expanding the electric vehicle charging infrastructure and plans to have 60,000 access points by 2030. Such a clear vision and tangible actions have garnered recognition for Vilnius, resulting in the prestigious title of European Green Capital 2025.</p>	
<b>Accommodation facilities in the vicinity of the premises</b>		
1) Number of 3 star hotels at walking distance from the premises	6	The application indicates the presence of 6 three star hotels at a walking distance from the premises.
2) Number of 4 star hotels at walking distance from the premises	9	The application indicates the presence of 9 four star hotels at a walking distance from the premises.
3) Number of 5 star hotels at walking distance from the premises	0	The application indicates that there are no five star hotels at a walking distance from the premises.
4) Number of 3 star hotels beyond walking distance in the vicinity of the premises	22	The application indicates the presence of 22 three star hotels in the vicinity of the premises.
5) Number of 4 star hotels beyond walking distance in the vicinity of the premises	16	The application indicates the presence of 16 four star hotels in the vicinity of the premises.
6) Number of 5 star hotels beyond walking distance in the vicinity of the premises	6	The application indicates the presence of 6 five star hotels in the vicinity of the premises.
7) Description of available facilities for events and conferences outside AMLA premises	<p>From traditional to modern, Vilnius has an array of unique venues for events and conferences outside AMLA premises to choose from. While the city is known for its exceptional collection of historical locations, contemporary and unconventional sites (such as Arenas, Conference &amp; Exhibition Centres, Academic and Museum venues) continue to grow. Regardless of the venue chosen, event planners will be welcomed to well-equipped venues managed by professional teams.</p> <p>Vilnius offers a wide variety of event and conference facilities not only by type but also by number. There are 55 special venues capable of accommodating gatherings ranging from 70 to an impressive 13,000 attendees. In addition, Vilnius provides access to 236 venues for events and conferences by a range of prestigious hotels. These options come from 6 well-known 5-star hotels, 21 distinguished 4-star hotels and 18 sound 3-star hotels, including options for using their rooftop terraces as event venues. These multipurpose venues can accommodate anywhere from 20 to 900 people, ensuring that the event needs are met with a wide range of choices.</p>	<p>The application provides information on available venues for events and conferences outside AMLA premises. It indicates that there are 55 conference venues capable of accommodating gatherings ranging from 70 to 13,000 attendees. The application also indicates that Vilnius provides access to 236 venues located in various hotels with capacities between 20 and 900 people.</p>
Summary Criterion 2		<p><b>The application indicates that Lithuania has three international airports, including Vilnius Airport which is less than 3 hours flight away from most European capitals and is situated 7 km from the city centre. The application indicates up to 34 direct flights per week between Vilnius and European capitals and cities. In addition, the application refers to plans to expand Lithuania's air connectivity. The application indicates daily train connections between Vilnius and Warsaw, linked with other train connections to travel to other Polish cities and Western European countries and as of December 2023 a new train route between Vilnius and Riga.</b></p> <p><b>The application indicates the availability of bus connections (8 minutes frequency, 18 minutes duration) from the premises to the closest airport. The application also indicates bus connections (6 minutes frequency, 14 minutes duration) from the closest international/national train station to the premises.</b></p> <p><b>The application indicates that the Vilnius airport allows to reach most destinations in the city within 30 minutes and the old town within 15 minutes, and that the city offers an integrated public transportation infrastructure and a network of cycle paths.</b></p>

		<p>The application indicates the presence of 6 three star hotels and 9 four star hotels at a walking distance from the premises. It indicates the presence of 22 three star, 16 four star hotels and 6 five star hotels beyond a distance of one km from the premises. The application also lists 6 three star hotels and 9 four star hotels in the vicinity of the premises. The application lists 55 venues for events and conferences outside AMLA premises accommodating between 70 and 13,000 attendees and 236 venues in hotels in Vilnius, accommodating between 20 and 900 people.</p>
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**Criterion 3 – ‘Existence of adequate education facilities for the children of AMLA’s staff’**

Sub criterion	Member State application	Commission assessment
1) Number of nurseries	328	The application indicates the presence of 328 nurseries.
2) Language options offered by nurseries	French; Lithuanian; Spanish; English; Polish	The application indicates that English, French, Lithuanian, Polish and Spanish are the languages offered by the nurseries.
3) Additional information concerning nurseries (names, location, language regimes offered, etc.)	<p>Vilnius offers a wide range of options for the pre-school (kindergarten) education. With a total of 328 facilities providing pre-school education, including both public and private facilities, Vilnius ensures that children of AMLA’s staff have access to a variety of choices for their early education. Among these facilities, 308 are kindergartens and 20 are schools with preschool (zero) grades. AMLA employees would have a flexibility to choose between public or non-public (private) pre-school educational institutions for their children.</p> <p>Public (municipal) pre-school educational institutions are the cornerstone of early education in Lithuania. The majority of these institutions in Lithuania are founded and supported by local municipal councils. Vilnius holds a centralized system for admitting children to public kindergartens that simplifies the enrolment process.</p> <p>Public (municipal) pre-school (nursery and kindergarten) education system in Vilnius operates on a shared funding model. This means that the cost is divided among multiple sources: partial public funding through the student's basket and the remaining part by the municipal and parental contributions. The average cost is around 80-90 Euros per month for one child. In addition to the core curriculum, many kindergartens offer supplementary non-formal education opportunities, such as dance classes, ceramics workshops, music lessons, various sports activities, and language learning. Parents have the flexibility to choose these extra activities for their children, with separate fees for each, tailoring their child's education to their interests and preferences. Children of AMLA’s staff can experience a multilingual environment as Lithuanian, Russian and Polish (20 kindergartens) languages are used in public nurseries in Vilnius.</p> <p>Vilnius also offers a wide array of possibilities for private preschool institutions that provide exceptionally high-quality early education. Currently, there are 164 registered pre-school education facilities ready to welcome children of AMLA’s staff.</p> <p>Private kindergartens accept admissions all year round, so there is no need to wait to enrol until the new semester in September. Each kindergarten has its own schedule regarding its daily opening hours – some provide full day supervision, some offers half day, while others may work only on certain days of the week. To enrol your child in a private nursery, parents</p>	<p>The application indicates that Vilnius offers a range of 328 facilities providing pre-school (kindergarten) education, including both public and private facilities. Among these facilities, 308 are kindergartens and 20 are schools with preschool (zero) grades. The application indicates that Lithuanian, Polish, and in addition Russian languages are used in public nurseries in Vilnius (20 of them being kindergartens).</p> <p>It also indicates that Vilnius offers different possibilities for private preschool institutions that provide early education. Currently, there are 164 registered pre-school education facilities.</p> <p>The application provides details on costs on preschools. It indicates that in some private kindergartens, education is provided in languages other than Lithuanian. There are 11 kindergarten companies offering education and childcare in English, 2 in French, one in Spanish and in addition one in Russian/Belorussian.</p> <p>The application indicates that Lithuania pledges to guarantee international schools and kindergarten vacancies for children of AMLA’s staff, and state-funded pre-school and secondary education to children of AMLA’s staff, equivalent to that granted to Lithuanian citizens.</p>

	<p>should contact the administration of the nursery directly.</p> <p>The cost of private kindergartens varies from 170 Euros to 1600 Euros per month. Vilnius municipality reimburses all parents whose children attend private kindergartens up to 120 Euros of a monthly fee per child. The reimbursable amount is paid regardless of the parents' income. To qualify, you need to provide a declaration of residence proving that at least one parent is a resident of the municipality.</p> <p>In some private kindergartens education is provided in languages other than Lithuanian. There are 11 kindergarten companies offering education and child care in English (Vilnius International School, British International School Vilnius, The American International School of Vilnius, Vilnius Montessori Pre-School, Mažųjų valdos, Kindermusik, Saulės gojus, Clever Monkeys, Royal Russel School Vilnius, KD International School of Vilnius, Vilnius Private Gymnasium), 2 in French (Lycée International Français de Vilnius, Mažųjų valdos), one in Spanish (Mažųjų valdos) and one in Russian/Belorussian (Stembridge). It is also very common in private kindergartens for children to engage in foreign language activities and lessons in English, Spanish and other languages.</p> <p>With AMLA in Vilnius, Lithuania is committed to ensuring the availability and access of vacancies in international schools and kindergartens for children of the staff. In addition, Lithuania will ensure the availability of state-funded pre-school and secondary education to children of AMLA's employees, equivalent to that granted to Lithuanian citizens. With many high-quality public and private kindergarten options in Vilnius, there will be no difficulties in finding a place for AMLA's staff children based on each individual's needs.</p>	
4) Availability of European Schools or accredited European Schools	No	The application indicates that there are no European or accredited European schools.
5) Number of international schools providing primary and secondary education	14	The application indicates the presence of 14 international schools providing primary and secondary education.
6) Language options offered by the international schools	French; English; Polish	The application indicates that English, French and Polish are the languages offered by the international schools.
7) Additional information concerning international schools (names, location, language regimes offered, etc.)	<p>Vilnius offers a number of private international schools available to foreigners and locals. There are 11 school companies providing high quality primary and secondary education in English such as: Vilnius International School, British International School Vilnius, Royal Russel School Vilnius, KD International School of Vilnius, Erudito licėjus, Guliverio akademija, Queen Morta school, International Meridian School, Vitlis Vilnius Engineering and Technology Lyceum, Vilnius Private Gymnasium and the American International School of Vilnius, which is the only international school in the Baltic states with dual international accreditation by the Council of International Schools and the Middle States Association. There are also private schools where children of AMLA's employees can receive primary and secondary education in French (Lycée International Français de Vilnius) and Polish (Marina Mižigurskaya private gymnasium). In case there is no preferred language of instruction, international schools may offer supplementary language practicing opportunities such as Spanish language classes (available at KD International School and some others).</p> <p>All the above mentioned international schools are located in the central part of the city, within a 15-minute driving range from the proposed AMLA premises. Tuition fees vary, ranging from 4,000 euros to 17,000 euros per school year.</p>	<p>The application indicates that Vilnius offers a number of private international schools, indicating that 11 schools provide primary and secondary education in English and that there are also private schools offering primary and secondary education in French and Polish, all located in the central part of the city, within a 15-minute driving range from the proposed AMLA premises. It indicates that there are also two public (municipal) schools that offer international baccalaureate (IB Diploma) classes and provide education in English in senior classes. Vilnius also offers education in public schools in Polish language for children of various ages, with a total of 14 schools in Vilnius municipality.</p> <p>The application provides information on enrolment and fees. The application indicates that Lithuania is committed to ensuring availability in international schools for children of AMLA's staff and that it will ensure availability of state-funded school education for children of AMLA's staff, equivalent to that granted to Lithuanian citizens.</p>

	<p>There are also two public (municipal) schools that offer international baccalaureate (IB Diploma) classes and provide education in English in senior classes (Vilnius Lyceum and Vilnius Vytautas Magnus Gymnasium). Vilnius can also offer education in public schools in Polish language for children of various ages, with a total of 14 such schools in Vilnius municipality. Education in municipal schools is free of charge.</p> <p>Private schools have the rolling admissions policy and accept applications throughout the school year. The annual turnover of students is around 15-20 percent therefore children of AMLA's employees would not face difficulties enrolling in international schools in Vilnius.</p> <p>Lithuania is committed to ensure the availability of places in international schools for children of AMLA's staff. In addition, Lithuania will ensure availability of state-funded school education to children of AMLA employees, equivalent to that granted to Lithuanian citizens.</p>	
8) Number of higher education facilities (university level or equal)	<b>10</b>	The application indicates the presence of 10 higher education facilities (university level or equal).
9) Language options offered by higher education facilities	French; German; Lithuanian; English; Polish	The application indicates that English, French, German, Lithuanian and Polish are the languages offered by the higher education facilities.
10) Description of higher education facilities (Universities and academic disciplines)	<p>Lithuania has a long-standing tradition of higher education and offers a welcoming environment for foreigners. A wide variety of Lithuanian universities provide more than 500 study programmes taught in English across various fields that foreign students can choose from. Students have option to choose between full-time or part-time studies. Several universities offer spring intake.</p> <p>In Vilnius there are 10 education facilities offering university level education and committed to delivering world-class education, such as Vilnius University, European Humanities University, General Jonas Žemaitis military academy of Lithuania, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Mykolas Romeris University, ISM University of Management and Economics, International School of Law and Business, Vilnius Academy of Arts, Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, Kazimieras Simonavicius University. What sets Vilnius apart is its commitment to global education, with 9 out of 10 universities offering a diverse array of study programmes in English. The diplomas from all these universities are internationally recognized and valued by employers in Lithuania and beyond as well as providing opportunities to continue studies in other countries worldwide.</p> <p>Foreign students coming to Vilnius can also pursue higher education in one of the colleges which have study programs in English (Vilniaus kolegija / University of Applied Sciences (VIKO), Vilnius College of Technologies and Design, University of Applied Social Sciences, Vilnius Business college).</p> <p>Higher education degrees are offered in three cycles: Bachelor, Master and PhD. EU citizens who have a right of permanent residence in Lithuania can be accepted to the state-funded study place in Lithuanian higher education institutions or apply for scholarships in accordance with the procedures established by the applicable legislation.</p> <p>On average, the cost of studies at an institution of higher education in Vilnius is within a range of 1,248 – 11,587 Euros per year for 1st cycle (Bachelor) studies, and from 2,242 to 12,581 Euros per year for 2nd cycle (Master) studies. These figures include costs for both public and private universities, making world-class education accessible and affordable to everyone.</p>	<p>The application indicates that Lithuanian universities provide more than 500 study programmes taught in English across various fields, with 10 education facilities offering university level education in Vilnius and 9 out of these offering a choice of study programmes in English. It indicates that the diplomas from all these universities are internationally recognised.</p> <p>The application indicates the presence of colleges with study programmes in English and provides details on tuition fees and scholarships.</p>



	<p>High-performing students in Lithuanian higher education facilities are awarded scholarships. The National Law on Education and Science also provides the possibility for high-performers to pursue studies financed by the Lithuanian state (by providing a free tuition) or to get a refund of the tuition fee. It may be granted to any EU member country citizen. The majority of newly enrolled students in higher education facilities study for free in Lithuania.</p> <p>According to the latest data, two universities in Vilnius (four in Lithuania) have achieved international recognition among the top universities in the world: Vilnius University (400 place) and Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (751-800 place).</p> <p>A compelling validation that Vilnius is a great place for international studies is the high number of foreign students from more than 70 different countries. The Migration Department estimates that the number of international students is increasing by every year. It is not surprising as Vilnius offers an environment that is favourable to academic growth, cultural exchange and personal development.</p>	
Summary Criterion 3		<p><b>The application indicates the presence of 328 nurseries, with English, French, Lithuanian, Polish and Spanish offered. The 328 facilities include both public and private facilities. Among these facilities, there are 308 kindergartens and 20 schools with preschool (zero) grades. The application also indicates the presence of 164 registered pre-school education facilities, detailing that there are 11 kindergarten companies offering education and childcare in English, 2 in French, one in Spanish and other languages. The application provides information on costs and indicates that Lithuania is committed to ensuring the availability and access of vacancies in international schools and kindergartens for children of AMLA’s staff.</b></p> <p><b>The applications indicates that there is no European or accredited European school, it indicates the presence of 14 international private schools providing primary and secondary education, of 11 school companies providing primary and secondary education in English, of one that offers primary and secondary education in French and of one that offers it in Polish, within a 15-minute driving range from the proposed premises. It indicates that there are two public schools that offer international baccalaureate (IB Diploma) classes and provide education in English in senior classes and 14 public school that offer education in Polish. The application provides information on enrolment and fees.</b></p> <p><b>The application indicates the presence of 10 higher education facilities (university level or equal) offering English, French, German, Lithuanian and Polish and more than 500 study programmes in English, and that 9 out of the 10 universities offer a choice of study programmes in English. It indicates that the diplomas from all these universities are internationally recognised. The application indicates the presence of colleges with study programmes in English and provides details on tuition fees and scholarships.</b></p>

<b>Criterion 4 – ‘Appropriate access to the labour market, social security and medical care for both children and spouses’</b>		
<b>Sub criterion</b>	<b>Member State application</b>	<b>Commission assessment</b>
1) Number of hospitals available in the vicinity of the premises	5	The application indicates the presence of 5 hospitals in the vicinity of the premises.
2) Description of access to medical care (access to hospitals and other medical facilities, doctors, spoken languages, etc.)	Lithuania boasts a comprehensive healthcare system comprising both public and private healthcare institutions. Every individual, regardless of insurance status, enjoys access to these healthcare facilities.	The application indicates that Lithuania’s healthcare system comprises both public and private healthcare institutions and that every individual, regardless of insurance status, enjoys access to these healthcare facilities.

	<p>Public healthcare institutions are integral components of Lithuania's national healthcare system, providing services free of charge to individuals covered by compulsory health insurance. Many public clinics offer medical services in Russian and English as the availability can differ depending on the attending physician. There are 10 municipality clinics in Vilnius, which offer a comprehensive range of healthcare services. These facilities provide primary outpatient healthcare services, including family medicine, dentistry, and home care, as well as secondary specialized outpatient healthcare services and day hospital services.</p> <p>Private healthcare institutions in Lithuania operate under licenses issued by the Ministry of Health. Their pricing structures are determined through internal procedures and established agreements with private health insurance companies, ensuring direct reimbursement of healthcare service fees. Depending on the doctor's qualification, private healthcare institutions provide medical consultations in English, Russian or Polish languages, facilitating effective communication and enhancing the patient experience.</p> <p>Vilnius hosts an extensive network of 8 private specialized medical clinic chains, providing a wide range of healthcare services and treatments, such as Endemik, Euroclinic, InMedica, Medica Clinic, Neuromeda, Health Clinic, Family Medicine Center and Šnipiškių Medicine Center. These clinic chains have agreements with the National Health Insurance Fund and provide free services to individuals covered by compulsory health insurance. Vilnius also hosts 5 top-tier private health clinic chains, such as Affidea, Baltic American Clinic, Kardiolita, Medical Diagnostic and Treatment Centre, and Northway. These facilities provide the highest quality of family medicine, laboratory, diagnostic, therapeutic outpatient, and, where appropriate, inpatient and day-case healthcare services. In Vilnius, primary health care and family medicine are provided not only by the above mentioned institutions but also by other private or individual health care institutions.</p> <p>In Vilnius, there are 15 state and municipality hospitals, bolstered by an additional 5 specialized hospitals specializing in dentistry, oncology, obstetrics, and psychiatric care. This robust healthcare infrastructure ensures a comprehensive and diverse range of medical services for the community.</p> <p>Emergency services are provided free of charge to all permanent residents of Lithuania, regardless of their nationality or whether they are covered with compulsory health insurance. Emergency and urgent care is available at Vilnius University Hospital Santaros Clinics, Vilnius University Hospital, and emergency psychiatric care is available at Vilnius Psychiatric Hospital and Vilnius City Mental Health Centre.</p>	<p>It indicates that many public clinics offer medical services in English and in addition Russian. The application indicates that in Vilnius, there are 15 state and municipality hospitals and an additional 5 specialised hospitals in dentistry, oncology, obstetrics, and psychiatric care and 10 municipality clinics in Vilnius, which offer a comprehensive range of healthcare services.</p> <p>The application indicates that private healthcare institutions in Lithuania operate under licenses issued by the Ministry of Health and, depending on the doctor's qualification, provide medical consultations in English, Polish or in addition Russian. The application indicates that Vilnius has 8 private specialised medical clinic chains, providing a wide range of healthcare services and treatments and that they have agreements with the National Health Insurance Fund and provide free services to individuals covered by compulsory health insurance. Vilnius also hosts 5 private health clinic chains.</p> <p>The application indicates that emergency services and emergency psychiatric care are provided free of charge to all permanent residents of Lithuania.</p>
<p>3) Description of access to medical care and social security for AMLA children and spouses not covered by the EU Staff Regulations (benefits, conditions, assistance, etc.)</p>	<p>The medical assistance provided remains largely the same as previously described. The EU nationals working and living in Lithuania have full access to the Lithuanian healthcare system, which can be ensured via national public or private health insurance schemes.</p> <p>Every resident is suggested to register with a dedicated family doctor, responsible for their healthcare, including treatment and the organization of preventive health services and check-ups, addressing both medical conditions and general well-being. The patient has the right to choose both the healthcare facility and the doctor. When a situation arises where the family doctor cannot provide the necessary treatment or when specialized expertise is needed, the patient will be referred for a consultation with a specialist. This consultation can take place within the same healthcare facility or at another healthcare institution.</p> <p>For individuals with insurance coverage, the payment process adheres to the terms outlined in their insurance policy. Typically, the patient initially covers the cost of services at the</p>	<p>The application indicates that EU nationals working and living in Lithuania have full access to the Lithuanian healthcare system, which can be ensured via national public or private health insurance schemes.</p> <p>The application provides information on the conditions for individuals with insurance coverage.</p>

	<p>healthcare facility. Following the payment, documentation, often provided in English, is issued for these expenses. Subsequently, the insured person can submit the documentation to their insurance company for reimbursement, aligning with the provisions of their policy.</p>	
<p>4) Situation of the national labour market and its capacity to offer international job opportunities (number and capacity of international companies acting in the region) for children and spouses of AMLA staff</p>	<p>In Lithuania, international companies, local business and startups offer exciting career opportunities and a chance to make a real impact. Technology-driven and globally-minded, Vilnius is a place to tackle global challenges: from life sciences to developing FinTech and cybersecurity products used by millions around the globe.</p> <p>With unemployment rate of 6,2% (2023 Q3) and the vacancy rate close to historic highs (1,9% in 2023 Q2), the labour market in Lithuania is highly favourable for individuals seeking new job opportunities. GDP per capita in the capital region of Vilnius well exceeds the EU average (reaching 126 % in 2021 according to the latest available Eurostat data), providing plenty of economic opportunities which could also benefit family members of AMLA staff.</p> <p>Vilnius has been named the most business-friendly city in emerging Europe, topping the 2023 Business-Friendly City Perception Index. Vilnius scored particularly well in the business climate, pool of talent, infrastructure and connectivity, and quality of life categories. A notable 85% of young professionals exhibit fluency in the English language. Furthermore, 90% of public sector services have undergone digitalization, exemplifying a robust commitment to efficiency, accessibility, and modernization in the delivery of essential government services.</p> <p>International companies in Technologies, Finance and Engineering are thriving in Lithuania. Fortune 500 superstars and tomorrow's unicorns are looking for the drive and knowledge any family member of AMLA staff can bring. An up-to-date tool to search for highly qualified jobs at international companies in Vilnius can be found here: <a href="https://workinlithuania.com/">https://workinlithuania.com/</a></p> <p>The Work in Lithuania platform is dedicated to encouraging highly-skilled professionals living abroad to build their careers in Lithuania. It works as a link between people looking to land their dream job and international companies keen to hire specialists from abroad. The platform sees a constant growth, with the number of monthly visitors to the platform rising to more than 27,000 and more than 1,300 monthly applications. The community of employers using the platform to look for global talent has also expanded from 190 to over 250. While the number of international employers still outside the platform might be even more significant.</p> <p>Currently, international companies offer positions in many fields of work, such as Accounting and Financial Services, Analytics, Aviation Engineering, Consulting and research, Education and Training, Engineering, Graphic Design, Human Resources, Information Technology and Services, Legislative Office, Life Sciences, Logistics and Supply Chain, Management, Manufacturing or Production, Marketing and Advertising, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, Operations and Customer Service, Project or Product Management, Public Relations and Communication, Research/Development, Sales, Software engineering. The type of positions also varies from an Intern or Entry-level specialist to the position of General Manager.</p> <p>Lithuania is 8th in the world among the best countries in terms of remote work conditions.</p>	<p>The application indicates the existence of international companies, local businesses and startups. It indicates an unemployment rate of 6,2% (2023 Q3) and vacancy rate of 1,9% (2023 Q2). It indicates that the GDP per capita in the capital region of Vilnius reached 126 % in 2021 according to the latest available Eurostat data.</p> <p>The application refers to a tool to search for jobs at international companies in Vilnius and provides information on currently offered positions.</p> <p>In addition, the application provides information on Lithuania's track record in relation to remote working conditions and the emphasis on work-life balance.</p>

	<p>According to NordLayer index, Lithuania performs extremely well in legal actions (1st place), responds well to emerging cyber threats (2nd place) and demonstrates excellent cyber security (3rd place). In addition, Lithuania is strong in terms of infrastructure (4th place), is attractive to tourists (10th place).</p> <p>Work-life balance is also a key part of the Lithuanian work culture. Here, both employers and employees value quality leisure time, and create plentiful opportunities for it. Instead of wasting hours on long commutes, individuals have the opportunity to pursue activities of their preference. Whether it is a brisk morning run in the park or a coffee break at a local café, the absence of a lengthy commute allows for a more fulfilling use of their time.</p>	
5) Availability of services assisting expatriates and foreign nationals in seeking jobs	<p>Vilnius, the city's official tourism and business development agency, and Work in Lithuania, a talent attraction programme encouraging foreign talent to pursue careers in Lithuania. International House Vilnius (IH) offers free consultations and services related to relocation to Lithuania and living in Vilnius, from residence permits and social insurance, to employment services, taxes, starting a business, and much more.</p> <p>IH has united the Migration Department, Tax Inspectorate, Social Insurance Agency and Employment Service, all of which have representatives working at IH Vilnius and serving foreign clients as a one-stop shop, creating huge benefits for customers. As such, foreigners receive all the necessary services in one visit and specialists from different institutions can consult with each other and jointly find the best solutions to unusual situations.</p> <p>International House Vilnius is ready to assist newcomers with anything they might encounter on their way towards integrating seamlessly in Lithuania's capital.</p>	<p>The application indicates the availability of public/private bodies for assisting expatriates and foreign nationals in seeking jobs (the 'Vilnius' agency and the talent attraction programme 'Work in Lithuania').</p> <p>In addition, it indicates that 'International House Vilnius' offers free consultations and services related to relocation to Lithuania and living in Vilnius.</p>
Summary Criterion 4		<p><b>The application indicates the presence of 5 hospitals in the vicinity of the premises. It indicates that EU nationals working and living in Lithuania have full access to the Lithuanian healthcare system, via national public or private health insurance schemes. The application indicates that Vilnius has 15 state and municipality hospitals, 5 specialised hospitals and 10 municipality clinics in Vilnius. The application indicates that many public clinics offer medical services in English and other language. The application indicates that private healthcare institutions operate under licenses issued by the Ministry of Health, offering consultations in English or Polish. It indicates that Vilnius has 8 private specialised medical clinic chains, providing a wide range of healthcare services and treatments, as well as 5 private health clinic chains, that emergency services and emergency psychiatric care are free of charge to all permanent residents.</b></p> <p><b>The application provides information on career opportunities in Vilnius referring to the existence of international companies, local businesses and startups. The application refers to a tool to search for jobs in international companies in Vilnius and the availability of public/private bodies for assisting expatriates and foreign nationals in seeking jobs and services related to relocation.</b></p>

Criterion 5 – 'Geographical balance'		
Sub criterion	Member State application	Commission assessment
Description	Geographical balance should be one of the primary criteria in assessing location selection for AMLA, as the distribution of EU agencies carries significant implications, not just	The application indicates that Lithuania currently hosts the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). It indicates that in Lithuania's view geographical balance should be one

	<p>economically but also politically. First and foremost, it can be viewed as an indicator reflecting the degree of member states' integration within the EU. Therefore, the decision regarding AMLA's location must contribute to enhancing the geographical diversification of EU agencies and avoiding further concentration of EU institutions, which can be detrimental to the sense of equality among member states. The importance of geographical balance has been emphasized by the Joint Statement of the European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the European Commission on decentralised agencies of 19 July 2012, by stating that the spread of agencies beyond Brussels and Luxembourg adds to the visibility of the Union in the different Member States. The Joint Statement also recalled the European Council conclusions of December 2003 that when deciding the seat of new agencies, priority should be given to new Member States. This was also reiterated in the European Council conclusions of 19/20 June 2008 stressing that seats of future agencies should be primarily located in the Member States that acceded to the Union in or after 2004, while appropriate priority should be given to the Member States that do not already host an EU office or agency. The existing distribution of EU agencies among member states is highly uneven not only in terms of the number of agencies located in each country, but also in the number of personnel and the size of budget allocated. Lithuania currently hosts one of the smallest agencies in the EU - the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), which employs 43 people and has an annual budget of 7.8 million euros. Meanwhile, there are member states where the number of EU agency employees exceeds a thousand, with budgets reaching several hundred million euros. This demonstrates that the core values of geographical balance and equal treatment within the Union are far from attained and decision on AMLA's location is an opportunity to reduce these stark imbalances. Embracing the vision set in the aforementioned European Council Conclusions and the Joint Statement of the European Parliament, the Council of the EU, and the European Commission, establishing AMLA in Vilnius is an opportunity to demonstrate EU's unwavering commitment to the principle of geographical balance.</p> <p>When deciding on the location of AMLA, it is also crucial to consider the broader geopolitical context.</p> <p>When deciding on the location of AMLA, it is also crucial to consider the broader geopolitical context. Lithuania is an EU frontier country situated relatively close to the largest war in Europe since World War II. Hosting such a significant EU agency would send a powerful signal of confidence and solidarity, indicating that Lithuania and the broader region is getting more deeply integrated in the EU institutional framework.</p>	<p>of the primary seat selection criteria and refers to the Joint Statement of the European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the European Commission on decentralised agencies of 19 July 2012 and European Council Conclusions of December 2003 and June 2008 on seats of agencies.</p>
Summary Criterion 5		<p><b>The application indicates that Lithuania is hosting the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). It indicates that geographical balance should be one of the primary seat selection criteria in Lithuania's view and refers to the Joint Statement of the European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the European Commission on decentralised agencies of 19 July 2012 and European Council Conclusions of December 2003 and June 2008 on seats of agencies.</b></p>

<b>Any privileges in addition to Protocol 7</b>		
<b>Sub criterion</b>	<b>Member State application</b>	<b>Commission assessment</b>
1) Does the applicant Member State offer additional privileges?	Yes	The application indicates that Lithuania offers additional privileges to those in Protocol 7.
1.1) If yes, which ones?	The Lithuanian government ensures the complete application of Protocol 7 on the privileges and immunities of the European Union.	The application indicates that the Lithuanian government ensures the complete application of Protocol 7 and that the Lithuanian Ministry of Finance can sign additional agreements with EU institutions and also with AMLA to offer more favourable conditions for indirect tax application, including non-Lithuanian citizens purchasing a car or other goods free of VAT.

	<p>In addition, the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania has the right to conclude additional agreements on behalf of the government, which provide EU institutions with more favourable conditions concerning the application of indirect taxes. It is also applicable in the case of AMLA. For instance, AMLA's personnel will have the right, provided they are not Lithuanian citizens, to buy a car and other goods free of VAT during one year.</p>	
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<b>Headquarters Agreement</b>		
<b>Sub criterion</b>	<b>Member State application</b>	<b>Commission assessment</b>
Applicant Member State's commitment to confirming the conditions included in the application in a headquarters agreement with AMLA (!)	Yes	The application indicates that Lithuania commits to confirm the conditions included in the application in a headquarters agreement with AMLA.