



Vienna, 24 September 2013 Ref: 2013-outgoing-000982

Invitation to the Fundamental Rights Conference 2013: Combating hate crime in the EU, 12-13 November, Vilnius

Dear Madam/Sir,

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to take part in the 2013 Fundamental Rights Conference entitled 'Combating hate crime in the EU' on 12-13 November in Vilnius.

Europe's socio-economic crisis has proved fertile ground for prejudice and, in some cases, violence against the most vulnerable groups of our society, such as Roma, migrants, and ethnic and religious minorities. Evidence collected by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and other organisations shows that hate crime is a daily reality throughout the EU. Motivated by racism, xenophobia, religious intolerance or by bias against a person's disability, sexual orientation or gender identity, such crimes harm not only those targeted but entire communities. They thus strike at the heart of EU's commitments to democracy and the fundamental rights of equality and non-discrimination.

The Fundamental Rights Conference will invite decision makers and practitioners to explore effective strategies to combat hate crime through legal and policy measures at the national as well as EU level. Discussions will focus on monitoring and recording hate crime, victim support services, ensuring effective investigation and prosecution, the discriminatory aspects of hate crime, human rights education and remembrance, capacity building for law enforcement and criminal justice systems, the challenges presented by the relatively recent phenomenon of cyberhate, and many other issues.

The conference is FRA's key annual event, and will be hosted this year in cooperation with the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the EU. About 300 representatives from EU institutions and bodies, international organisations, national governments and parliaments, law enforcement authorities, criminal justice systems, national human rights bodies and civil society are expected to attend. Further information is enclosed in the draft programme.

We hope that you will be available to participate in this important event and look forward to seeing you in Vilnius.

Yours sincerely,

Juozas Bernatonis Minister of Justice

Lithuania

Morten Kjaerum Director FRA

Combating hate crime in the EU

Giving victims a face and a voice

Vilnius, Lithuania, 12-13 November 2013







FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS CONFERENCE 2013

Combating hate crime in the EU

Giving victims a face and a voice

12-13 November 2013, Vilnius, Lithuania Litexpo conference centre (Laisvès ave. 5)

The Fundamental Rights Conference (FRC) is a high level annual event, organised by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. In 2013 the conference will focus on **'Combating hate crime in the EU'** and will be hosted in cooperation with the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the EU.

The event will bring together over 300 policy makers and practitioners from the EU as well as national levels, among them representatives from EU institutions and bodies, international organisations, national governments and parliaments, law enforcement, civil society and many more.

Conference discussions will build on FRA's reports on *Making hate-crime visible in the European Union: acknowledging victims' rights*, and 'Minorities as victims of crime (EU-MIDIS Data in Focus 6)', as well as on findings of FRA's EU-LGBT and antisemitism surveys, among others.

OBJECTIVES

- To develop concrete proposals for follow-up on FRA's opinions pertaining to hate crime, as formulated in its reports on the subject;
- To explore practical solutions for victim support services tailored to specific situation and needs of the victims of hate crime;
- To stimulate debate on hate crime and exchange ideas and practices on how to combat it on an EU as well as Member State levels;
- To pool evidence and expertise of a variety of stakeholders in view of the foreseen review of Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law;
- To enhance cooperation between stakeholders at different levels to counter hate crime more effectively.

BACKGROUND

Violence and crimes motivated by racism, xenophobia, religious intolerance or by a person's disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and other biases – often referred to as 'hate crime' – are a daily reality throughout the EU, as data collected by FRA and other actors consistently show.

Hate crime harms not only those targeted. It also sends a signal to other persons who feel that they are at risk of being labelled and treated like the victim. Moreover, the bias motivated offence, when understood as a statement about persons who (are thought to) bear a certain characteristic, has the potential to incite followers. The impact of hate crime thus reaches far beyond the immediate interaction between offender and victim.

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As such hate crimes call into question the basic concept and self-understanding of modern pluralist societies, which is based on the notion of individual human dignity. Hence, it strikes at the heart of EU commitments to democracy and the fundamental rights of equality and non-discrimination.

However, victims of crimes motivated by bias and prejudice are often unable or unwilling to seek redress against perpetrators. Many of these crimes remain unreported, unprosecuted and, therefore, invisible. In such cases, the rights of victims of crime may not be fully respected or protected and Member States may not be upholding obligations they have towards victims of crime.

The Fundamental Rights Conference will therefore invite decision makers and practitioners to explore effective strategies to combat crimes motivated by hatred and prejudice at the national as well as EU level. Discussions will address the most pertinent issues relevant for policy making in the field, among them:

- · Existing evidence on the extent of hate crime;
- · Underreporting of crimes motivated by hatred and prejudice;
- · Gaps in hate crime monitoring and recording;
- · Legal instruments pertaining to hate crime in the EU;
- · Victim support services;
- · Effective practices of investigation and prosecution;
- · Discriminatory aspects of hate crime;
- · Human rights education and remembrance;
- Capacity building for law enforcement and criminal justice systems;
- · Challenges of cyberhate;
- · and other issues.

Existing legal and policy measures

Conference discussions will take place in the context of current legal and policy framework to combat crimes motivated by hatred and prejudice in the EU. Discussions will place particular focus on the implementation of the Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law aiming to inform the revision of this decision foreseen for the end of 2013; as well as recently adopted EU Victims' Directive (2012/29/EU), establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime.

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DRAFT PROGRAMME

MONDAY, 11 NOVEMBER

14.00 - 19.30

ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION

19.30

WELCOME RECEPTION

Hosted by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

(Hotel Crowne Plaza Vilnius, M.k. Čiurlionio str. 84)

TUESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER

08.30 - 9.30 Registration

09.30 - 10.00 WELCOME

Juozas Bernatonis, Minister of Justice, Lithuania

Morten Kjaerum, Director, FRA

10.00 - 10.30 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Cecilia Malmström, European Commissioner for Home Affairs

10.30 - 11.00 COFFEE BREAK

11.00 - 12.30 PANEL DEBATE:

Crimes motivated by hatred and prejudice - where are we today?

High level panel debate with policy makers and experts:

László Surján, Vice-President, European Parliament
Alan Shatter TD, Minister for Justice and Equality, Ireland
Christiane Taubira, Minister of Justice, France (tbc)
Cecile Kyenge, Minister of Integration, Italy (tbc)
Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic
Institutions and Human Rights

Focus:

- What is the nature of hate crime? What is the situation on the ground?
- What are the most pressing legal as well as practical challenges to combat hate crime effectively?

12.30 - 14.00 LUNCH

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14.00 – 15.15 REFLECTIONS IN THE PLENARY Different faces of hate crime

Panel debate with organisations representing victims of hate crime

Focus:

- How does hate crime look in reality? What are the experiences of those affected?
- What impact does it have on targeted communities and the society as a whole?

15.30 - 17.30 WORKING GROUPS

Chair: Christos Giakoumopoulos, Director for Human Rights, Council of Europe

Focus:

- How can the trust of victims and witnesses in law enforcement authorities and criminal justice system be increased?
- Which reporting mechanisms have proven to be most effective and why?
 What lessons can be learned from experiences in EU Member States?
- How does cooperation between law enforcement agencies, the criminal justice system and non-governmental organisations work in practice?
- How can monitoring of hate crime by civil society organisations and other actors be put to better use to make hate crime visible?

Working group II: Challenges of cyberhate

<u>Chair:</u> **Troels Oerting**, Head of European Cybercrime Centre (EC3) and Assistant Director, Operations Department, EUROPOL – European Police Office

Focus:

- What legal instruments, policies and measures are in place at Member State and EU level to address cyberhate?
- What is the role of different actors tackling cyberhate?
- What practical measures could be implemented by governments, internet providers, civil society organisations and citizens?

Working group III: Legal instruments pertaining to hate crime in the EU

<u>Chair:</u> Salla Saastamoinen, Head of Unit Fundamental rights and rights of the child, DG Justice, European Commission

Focus:

- What legal instruments are available to EU Member States to address hate crime at the EU and international levels?
- How robust is the existing legislative framework? What steps could be taken to improve the situation?
- What is the impact/direction of recent jurisprudence of ECHR as well as the CJEU?

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Working group IV: Assistance for victims of hate crime

<u>Chair:</u> **Paul Iganski**, Head of Department of Applied Social Science , University of Lancaster

Focus:

- · What are the needs of victims of hate crime?
- What assistance schemes are most effective public services, nongovernmental organisations, generic or specialist victim support services, or a mixture of systems?
- How does the legal system guarantee effective redress for victims of hate crime?

Working group V: Ensuring effective investigation and prosecution

Chair: Alinde Verhaag, Head of Case Analysis Unit, EUROJUST

Focus:

- Recognising hate crime/uncovering the motive what are the most effective strategies?
- How can we develop good hate crime indicators for law enforcement?
- How has cross-border judicial cooperation worked so far? What challenges remain?
- How is the Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia implemented at the national level? How does this impact on the investigation and prosecution of hate crime?
- Enhanced penalties vs. aggravating circumstances

19.30 EVENING RECEPTION

AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM PALACE OF THE GRAND DUKES OF LITHUANIA

Hosted by the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the EU

Opening by

Remigijus Motuzas, Deputy Chancellor, Office of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania

WEDNESDAY, 13 NOVEMBER

09.00 - 10.30

PANEL DEBATE:

EFFECTIVELY RESPONDING TO HATE CRIME - FROM LEGISLATION TO PRACTICE

Panel debate with policy makers and legal practitioners:

Emine Bozkurt, Chair of the Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup, Member of the European Parliament

Danuté Jočiené, Judge, European Court of Human Rights

Marinos Skandamis, Crime Policy Secretary General, Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights, Greece

Pierre Baussand, Director, Social Platform

Focus:

- How are legal obligations with regard to hate crime implemented in practice?
- What will the Victims Directive mean for victims of hate crime?
- The Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia: how well has it worked so far?
- Should subsequent legislation cover the same areas or be broadened?

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 What are the advantages and risks of more encompassing legislation in this area?

10.30 - 11.00 COFFEE BREAK

11.00 - 13.00 WORKING GROUPS

Working group I: Recording and monitoring hate crime: strategies to improve official data collection mechanisms

<u>Chair:</u> Floriane Hohenberg, Head of Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

Focus:

- What mechanisms of data collection are currently in place and how can they be improved?
- What are the current gaps in data collection? What can we learn from existing promising practices in EU Member States?
- Uncovering the dark figure of hate crime what is the role of crime victimisation surveys?

Working group II: Reflecting remembrance in human rights education and training

Chair: Pavel Tychtl, DG Communication, European Commission

Focus:

- How can remembering the past contribute to understanding the present?
- How can we best reflect remembrance of common European history in human rights education and training programmes?
- · What promising practices are there in this field?

Working group III: Vigilance and awareness: capacity building for law enforcement and criminal justice systems

Chair: Aija Kalnaja, Head of Training Unit, CEPOL - European Police College

Focus:

- What are the effective ways to build capacity for law enforcement and criminal justice systems?
- In what way should the specificity of hate crime be reflected in curricula for law enforcement agents and those involved in the criminal justice system?
- What type of training on the issue is currently available in EU Member States?
 What could/should be improved?

Working group IV: Connecting the dots – discrimination as a trigger for hate crime

<u>Chair:</u> **Karen Jochelson**, Director of Economy and Employment Programme, Equality and Human Rights Commission, United Kingdom

Focus:

- What are the discriminatory aspects of hate crime?
- How can equality and non-discrimination education help prevent/fight discriminatory crime?
- What are effective strategies to raise awareness about the detrimental effects of discrimination?

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Working group V: Gross trivialisation: negating crimes of the past

<u>Chair:</u> Françoise Tulkens, former Vice-President of the European Court of Human Rights

Focus:

- What is the discriminatory aspect of revisionism/negationism, as defined in the Art 1.1 of the Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia?
- · Why is it important for revisionism/negationism to be criminalised?
- How can we best acknowledge the rights of victims of crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes?

13.00 - 13.30 CLOSING REMARKS

Vytautas Leškevičius, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the EU

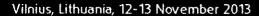
G.F. Ioannidis, Secretary General, Ministry of Interior, Greece

Manfred Nowak, Vice-Chairperson of the Management Board, FRA

13.30 - 15.00 LUNCH



'Combating hate crime in the EU'





PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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CONFERENCE VENUE

The Fundamental Rights Conference 2013 will take place on the 12-13 November 2013 in the Lithuanian Exhibition and Congress Centre in Vilnius.

Lithuanian Exhibition and Congress Centre (Litexpo)

Laisvės ave. 5 LT-04215 Vilnius, Lithuania http://www.litexpo.lt/en/home

You can reach the Litexpo using the following buses: 21, 23, 54 and trolleybuses: 11, 16, and 18. The stop is called *Parody rūmai*.



Shuttle service between the three conference hotels and the conference venue will be provided for all participants. Please see below the details for departure times.



The conference venue is accessible to persons with disabilities. In case you need further assistance, please get in touch with the organisers. We will make any effort to accommodate your needs.



Wireless Internet will be available throughout the entire conference venue. No password is needed. Several computer working stations with access to the Internet will be available in a dedicated area.

ACCOMMODATION

Some rooms were pre-booked by the organisers at the following hotels. Should you wish to use our group rate of 110 EUR (per night, including breakfast), please contact the organisers at <u>y.sobolik@mediaconsulta.com</u>



Crowne Plaza Vilnius

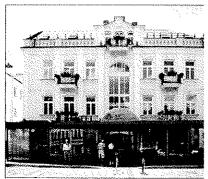
M. K. Čiurlionio 84

03100 Vilnius

Phone: +370 (5) 274 34 25

Website: www.crowneplaza.com/Vilnius

CHECKOUT TIME: 10.00 AM



Artis Centrum Hotel

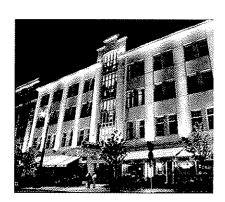
Liejyklos g. 11/23

01120 Vilnius

Phone: +370 (5) 266 0369

Website: www.centrumhotels.com

CHECKOUT TIME: 10.00 AM



Neringa Hotel

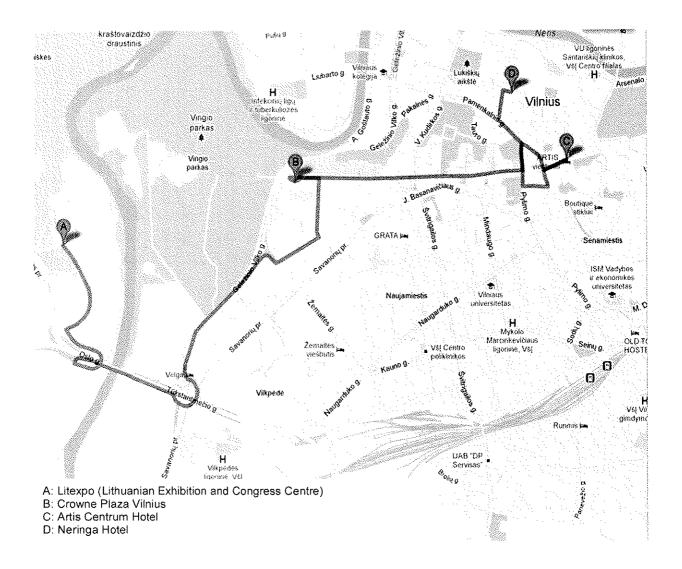
Gedimino ave. 23

01103 Vilnius

Phone:+ 370 (5) 212 22 88

Website: http://www.neringahotel.com/

CHECKOUT TIME: 11.00 AM



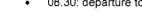
Shuttle service between Artis Centrum Hotel, Hotel Neringa, Crowne Plaza Vilnius and the conference venue (Litexpo) will be provided as follows (provisional time table):

Tuesday, 12 November:

- 08.00: departure to the conference venue. A bus will wait in front of the hotel.
- 17.45: departure to the hotel.
- 19.00: departure from the Crowne Plaza to the evening reception at the National Museum Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania
- 22.00 and 22.30: departure back to the Crowne Plaza

Wednesday, 13 November:

08.30: departure to the conference venue. A bus will wait in front of the hotel



INTERPRETATION

Simultaneous interpretation from/into French, Lithuanian and English will be provided during all the plenary sessions. Two out of five working groups will have French-English interpretation.

CATERING

On both conference days, lunches and coffee breaks will be served at the Lithuanian Exhibition and Congress Centre.

EVENING RECEPTIONS

MONDAY, 11 NOVEMBER

Welcome reception hosted by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

Hotel Crown Plaza Vilnius M. K. Čiurlionio 84

Start: 19.30

Dress code: business

SHUTTLE between Artis Centrum Hotel and the Hotel Neringa to the Crowne Plaza Hotel and back will be provided as follows (provisional time table):



- 11 November at 19.00: A bus will wait in front of the hotel.
- 11 November at 22.00: A bus will leave from the Crowne Plaza Hotel back to Hotel Neringa and Artis Centrum Hotel.

TUESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER

Reception hosted by the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the EU

National Museum Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania

Start: 19.30

Dress-code: business

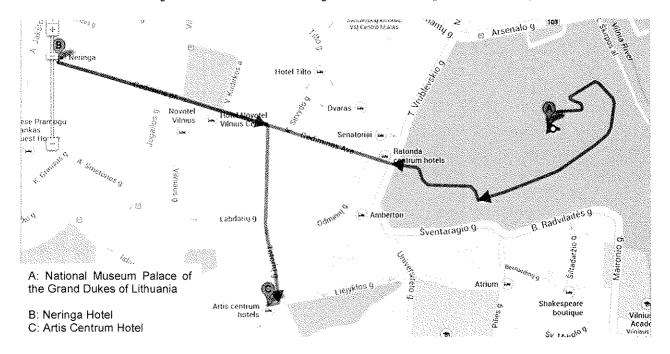


SHUTTLE service between the hotel Crowne Plaza Vilnius and the reception venue will be provided as follows (provisional time table):



- 12 November at 19.00: bus will wait in front of the hotel.
- 12 November at 22.00: bus will leave from the Palace of the Grand Dukes back to the Hotel Crown Plaza Vilnius.

The location is in the walking distance from the hotels Neringa and Artis Centrum (please see the map below).



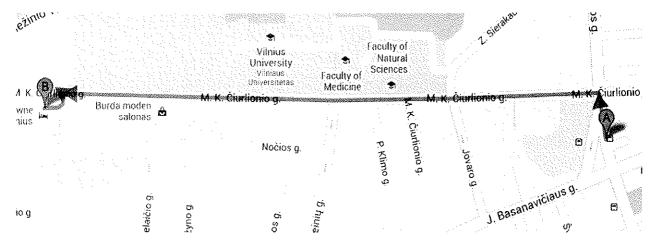
LOCAL TRANSPORT

Please note that there will be no shuttle service for your travel from the airport to the conference venue or to the hotels. We would kindly ask you to organise your travel independently. To get from and to Vilnius International Airport, you can use either public transport or taxi.

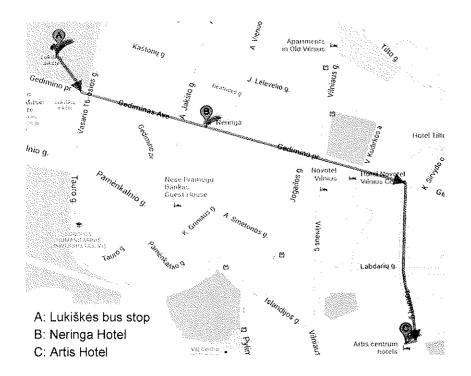
Public transport

With the City **bus No.** 3^G you can easily get from the airport to the city centre. The bus starts right outside the airport terminal (station: *Oro uostas*).

Mikalojaus Konstantino Čiurlionio bus stop is the 4th stop and from there **Hotel Crowne Plaza Vilnius** is in around 900 m walking distance (Direction Vingío parkas).



The following **bus stop** is **Lukiskes**: Walking around 300 m. straight across Gediminas avenue, **Hotel Neringa** will be seen on the right side. If you keep on walking straight until the Totoriu str. and turn right, **you will reach the Hotel Artis** Centrum.



The bus fare in Vilnius city is 2,20 LTL (30 min) 3,20 Litas (60 min); if purchased at newspaper kiosks or 3,5 LTL if bought directly from a driver (3,4 LTL = 1EUR).

Bus timetable (Monday - Friday): Kindly note that one ride takes about 30-40minutes depending on the traffic.

| Vilnius airport towards city centre: Bus 3 | Lukiškės bus stop towards the airport : Bus 3 |
|---|---|
| 9 04; 10; 17; 23; 29; 35; 42; 48; 54 | 9 01; 08; 13; 17; 23; 31; 40; 51 |
| 10 00; 06; 16; 25; 36; 46; 56 | 10 02; 12; 22; 33; 43; 53 |
| 11 07; 17; 27; 38; 49 | 11 04; 15; 26; 36; 46 |
| 12 00; 10; 23; 36; 46; 57 | 12 02; 12; 23; 34; 42; 51 |
| 13 08; 16; 25; 35; 45; 55 | 13 [01;11; 21; 31; 42; 53 |
| 14 05; 21; 29; 37; 49; 59 | 14 [03; 15; 25; 35; 45; 55 |
| 15 09; 19; 29; 40; 53 | 15 [06; 19; 27; 37; 49; 58 |
| 16 [01; 11; 23; 32; 40; 46; 53; 59 | 16 [06; 12; 19; 25; 31; 38; 44; 49; 55 |
| 17 06; 13; 19; 24; 30; 36; 42; 48; 54 | 17 [01; 07; 13; 19; 26; 33; 41; 49; 56 |
| 18 01; 09; 17; 25; 33; 40; 46; 52; 58 | 18 03; 10; 15; 22; 28; 34; 41; 48; 57 |
| 19 04; 10; 17; 23; 31; 40; 50 | 19 06; 16; 29; 40; 50 |
| 20 03; 14; 24; 34; 43; 54 | 20 [00; 09; 20; 29; 37; 48; 59 |
| 21 03; 11; 22; 33; 43; 54 | 21 09; 20; 30; 41; 53 |
| 22 04;15; 27; 37; 51 | 22 03; 17; 33; 52 |
| 23 07; 26 | |

Please refer to the website for more information on schedules and routes: http://www.stops.lt/vilniusliepa/index.html#vilnius2/en

Payment for the public transport and public transport schemes

You can pay for your journey on public transport by e-ticket card *Vilniečio kortelė* (Vilnius card) credited with an appropriate amount of money. 1 day and 3 day e-tickets are recommended. The price of 1 day ticket is 12 LTL (~3.50 EUR) and the price for a 3 day ticket is 21 LTL (~6 EUR). They are available for purchase by

credit card or cash at the kiosk at the arrival hall terminal A. One-way tickets at 3.50 LTL (1 EUR) are available for purchase at the driver. Please note that only Lithuanian currency can be used.

1 day ticket is valid 24 hours from the activation, a 3 day ticket is valid 72 hours from activation. The e-ticket must be scanned at the yellow composter on board of all public vehicles till the sound signal is attained.

Taxi

The airport can be reached by cabs of any of the taxi companies servicing the city. For your information we are providing a list of taxis in Vilnius that are of reasonable price and of better quality:

Taxi (service in English available)

| Ekipazas | (Tel. +370 5 2395539) |
|--------------|------------------------|
| Jazz Taxi | (Tel. +370 5248 0000) |
| Euro Taxi | (Tel. +370 5 277 1111) |
| Taxi 1424 | (Tel. +370 68222 222) |
| Taxi Vilnius | (Tel. +370 5 24444 44) |

There is a website www.etaxi.lt where taxis can be booked in advance.

Warning:

Taxis waiting at the airport are very expensive. It costs around 50-70 LTL (about 15 - 22 €) to go to the city centre. Taxis ordered by phone (see list above) are cheaper! It costs around 20 LTL (6 €) to go to the city centre.

<u>Tip</u>: Make sure that the taximeter is set to number one, this is a standard charge for a taxi that is called or ordered, if the taximeter shows another number please tell the taxi driver to change it back to number one.

INFORMATION ON VILNIUS AND LITHUANIA

More information about Vilnius and Lithuania can be found here:

http://www.eu2013.lt/en/Lithuania/quick_facts

http://www.vilnius-tourism.lt/en/

Currency and Exchange Rate (May 2013)

1 Lithuanian Litas (LTL) = 0,29 Euro (EUR)

1 Euro (EUR) = 3,45 Lithuanian Litas (LTL)

Local Time

In Baltic States Eastern European Time (EET) applies, which is one hour ahead of Central European Time (CET).

Language

Lithuanian is the official language of the Republic of

Lithuania, English and Russian are widely spoken.

Electricity Supply

220V

Smoking

Smoking is prohibited in all indoor public locations and

night clubs.

Dial Code for Lithuania

+370

Emergency Number

112 (EU-wide emergency number for police, fire

department and ambulance)

Information Number

118 or +370 700 55118 (paid service).

This service gives information about personal contacts and the contacts of companies contacts, transport schedules, leisure and entertainment, general types of enquiries. It is

possible to reserve flight tickets, hotels and taxi.

CONTACTS

For all logistical matters, please contact:

Yvonne Sobolik

Tel: +49-(0)30 65 000 - 170

E-mail: y.sobolik@media-consulta.com

Should you have any other questions, please consult the conference website <u>fra.europa.eu/en/frc2013</u> or get in touch with us at <u>frc@fra.europa.eu</u>.

We are looking forward to meeting you in Vilnius. Have a safe trip!



FRC - greener and more socially responsible!

The Fundamental Rights Conference aims to be a socially responsible and environment friendly event. To this end, all the conference documents will be printed on environmentally friendly paper. Moreover, we assessed greenhouse gas emissions linked to the energy consumption of the Fundamental Rights Conference and will compensate for carbon emissions by supporting a selected carbon project initiative.