

Public Audit Report

Activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Organizing Provision of Consular Services

23 December 2009 No VA-P-10-3-25

Vilnius

Summary

Audit started 2009-05-05

Audit concluded 2009-12-23

Full audit report in Lithuanian is available at the
National Audit Office internet site www.vkontrole.lt

Due to the increase of emigration demand for consular services for population in diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Lithuania is increasing. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs organises implementation of consular service provision in diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Lithuania, ensures control of provision of those functions, formulates and implements Lithuanian diplomatic staff policy and takes care of diplomatic staff training.

When evaluating organisation of consular service provision we analysed staff selection requirements for working at diplomatic missions, organisation of training for consular officers going to work abroad, their counselling system, work organisation of staff irregularly going to issue documents for simplified transit by train.

During the audit it was determined that insufficient time was devoted to practical training when organising training delivery for diplomats going to Lithuanian diplomatic missions to perform consular services. Grading system used in evaluation of foreign language proficiency for staff employed in diplomatic service does not correspond to evaluation of foreign language proficiency according to Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Language proficiency levels in some of job descriptions for staff going abroad to perform consular functions during first appointment are lower than it is determined in admission requirements for diplomatic service. When organising consular service provision the Ministry of Foreign Affairs does not ensure even distribution of human resources necessary for work in Lithuanian diplomatic missions (work load of some diplomats performing consular functions is higher than it is recommended in the European Union). Work of Ministry staff irregularly going to issue documents for simplified transit by train is organised without observing legal requirements.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was provided recommendations concerning training of diplomats going to perform consular functions in Lithuanian diplomatic missions, concerning system of counselling for officers providing consular services at diplomatic missions, concerning work organisation for Ministry staff irregularly going to issue documents for simplified transit by train.