

Public Audit Report

Activity of the State Border Guard Service

30 December 2009 No VA-P-40-2-27
Vilnius

Summary

Audit started: 2009-02-03
Audit concluded: 2009-12-30

Full report in Lithuanian is available at the
National Audit Office website www.vkontrole.lt

State border protection forms a constituent part of national security assurance system in the Republic of Lithuania. Assurance of inviolability of the state border and implementation of the state border protection policy is carried out by the State Border Guard Service at the Ministry of National Defence.

In 2002 the Programme for the Development of the State Border Protection System was approved which according to the Law on the Basics of National Security is one of the most important long-term national programmes for strengthening national security. The programme was not once revised since the date of its approval although many changes took place in Lithuania during this period that had a significant impact on the national security - Lithuania became a member of the European Union and NATO and joined the Schengen Area.

After Lithuania joined the Schengen Area in 2007 the state policy for state border protection underwent major changes therefore it was necessary to determine the State Border Guard Service capacities to satisfy the state border protection needs and the European Union requirements as well as to restructure organisation of state border protection.

During the audit we assessed restructuring of the State Border Guard Service and the use of state budget funding to implement the state border protection.

It was determined that restructuring of the the State Border Guard Service after Lithuania joined the Schengen Area was not provided the necessary legal conditions and this aggravated decision making process with regard to restructuring of the Service activity.

Due to weaknesses in legal regulation and organisation matters implementation of restructuring of the State Border Guard Service was insufficiently effective. The need for human resources to perform the changed border protection functions was not properly considered; therefore resources were not always managed appropriately.

Internal resources were not properly considered to contribute to strengthening the external border protection: border guards were distributed ineffectively at the internal and external borders, dog handlers and dogs were also used ineffectively therefore the number of unauthorised border crossings when offenders are not apprehended did not decrease.

Budget funds for staff training to work at the border were used ineffectively and inefficiently. In 2007–2009 the Border Guard School enrolment figures were not satisfactory, not all of the graduates worked in the Border Guard Service the set period of time. The Service did not ingather all the costs related to training at the Border Guard School from students who did not follow the contractual obligations.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and the State Border Guard Service were provided recommendations which implementation would ensure more effective organisation of state border control and more sparing use of state budget funds.

It was proposed to initiate changes in legislation that would determine long-term directions for planning state border protection system capacities to satisfy the border protection needs and the European Union requirements as well as to provide appropriate legal conditions for restructuring of the State Border Guard Service.

It is also necessary to consider weaknesses in restructuring of the State Border Guard Service determined during the audit and to take decisions concerning their elimination.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and the State Border Guard Service provided action plans for implementation of the recommendations.