

Legal questionnaire completed by Ellex Valiūnas and Partners • November 2025

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Is this jurisdiction a European Union (EU) Member State or otherwise subject to EU laws/regulations (such as an overseas territory or department of an EU Member State)?

Yes

1. What laws and regulations contain legal definitions of the following terms or corresponding terms in your local jurisdiction (links to existing U.S. legal definitions are included, where relevant, as background for comparison – please include definitions of any corresponding terms in your jurisdiction):

a. **child or minor (18 U.S.C. 2256(1), <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/2256>)**

Child – a human being under 18 years, except in cases when under applicable law the person's majority is recognized earlier. If the person's age is unknown and there are reasons to believe that they are a minor, such person is considered a child until the contrary is determined. This definition is established in the Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child (hereinafter referred to as – LFCRP) Article 2(12) ([I-1234 Lietuvos Respublikos vaiko teisių apsaugos pagrindų įstatymas](#)).

Minor – In practice, the term minor is synonymous with any person under 18. Additionally, Lithuanian Civil Code Article 2.5 ([VIII-1864 Lietuvos Respublikos civilinio kodekso patvirtinimo, įsigaliojimo ir įgyvendinimo įstatymas. Civi...](#)) confirms that full civil capacity (majority) begins at 18 years of age, meaning anyone younger is a minor in legal terms.

b. **child sexual exploitation (Missing Children's Assistance Act of 2023, Section 2, (a)(1)(9), <https://www.congress.gov/118/bills/s2051/BILLS-118s2051es.pdf>)**

LFCRP (Article 3(3)) ([I-1234 Lietuvos Respublikos vaiko teisių apsaugos pagrindų įstatymas](#)) provides that forms of violence against a child include sexual violence, i.e., intentional criminal acts, as defined in the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as – **Criminal Code**), Chapter XXI "Crimes and Misdemeanors against the Sexual Freedom and Integrity of a Person" ([VIII-1968 Lietuvos Respublikos baudžiamojo kodekso patvirtinimo ir įsigaliojimo įstatymas. Baudžiamasis kod...](#)), committed against a child, as well as profiting from a child's prostitution, involving a child in prostitution or pornographic performances, showing pornography to a child, coercing a child into prostitution, exploiting a child for pornography or handling pornographic material in which a child is depicted or a person is presented as a child, involving a child in sexual slavery, and other forms of child



sexual exploitation, including acts regulated by Criminal Code ([VIII-1968 Lietuvos Respublikos baudžiamojo kodekso patvirtinimo ir įsigaliojimo įstatymas. Baudžiamasis kod...](#)) Articles 149 (Rape), 150 (Sexual Coercion), 151 (Compelling to Engage in Sexual Intercourse), 151¹ (Satisfaction of Sexual Desire Violating a Minor's Sexual Freedom or Integrity), 152 (Sexual Harassment), 152¹ (Enticement of a Person under Sixteen), and 153 (Sexual Intercourse with a Person under Sixteen). In addition, Article 162 of the Criminal Code establishes liability for the exploitation of a child for pornography, including involving a child in the production of pornographic material, participation in pornographic performances, and distribution of such material.

c. sexually explicit conduct (18 U.S.C. 2256(2), <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/2256>)

Under Lithuanian law, there is no single universal legal definition; however, in practice, “sexual acts” are understood as any acts of a sexual nature carried out without the informed and freely given consent of the other person. This encompasses a broad range of conduct – from sexual harassment to sexual assault and rape. The term may apply to acts committed against both adults and children, and the Criminal Code (e.g., Articles 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 162) ([VIII-1968 Lietuvos Respublikos baudžiamojo kodekso patvirtinimo ir įsigaliojimo įstatymas. Baudžiamasis kod...](#)) criminalizes various forms of such conduct, including: (i) sexual violence—any acts of a sexual nature without consent, including sexual assault, coercion, rape, and sexual harassment; (ii) sexual violence against children—acts directed at a child with the purpose of obtaining sexual gratification or profit from the child's sexual services; (iii) sexual coercion—sexual activity using threats, deception, or physical force; (iv) sexual harassment—unwanted and inappropriate sexual behavior, comments, or physical actions, including in the workplace or social settings; (v) cyber sexual violence—acts of a sexual nature committed in the online environment (e.g., cyber flashing, sending sexual messages or images without the recipient's consent); (vi) voyeurism—obtaining sexual gratification by observing the intimate acts of others without their consent; and (vii) exhibitionism—displaying one's genitals to others or in the online environment for the purpose of sexual gratification. Under this approach, sexual acts are considered to encompass any sexual activity or behavior that occurs without informed and freely given consent, regardless of whether it takes place in the physical or online environment.

d. child sexual abuse (18 U.S.C. 2243(a), <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/2243>)

In Lithuania, child sexual abuse is addressed in the Criminal Code ([VIII-1968 Lietuvos Respublikos baudžiamojo kodekso patvirtinimo ir įsigaliojimo įstatymas. Baudžiamasis kod...](#)) and the LFCRP Article 3(3) ([I-1234 Lietuvos Respublikos vaiko teisių apsaugos pagrindų įstatymas](#)), which defines it as any intentional act of a sexual nature committed against a child without informed and free consent, whether physically or via electronic means, for the gratification of the offender or a third party. The age of consent is 16; any sexual activity with a person under this age is a criminal offense, with harsher penalties for acts involving children under 14. Relevant Criminal Code ([VIII-1968 Lietuvos Respublikos baudžiamojo kodekso patvirtinimo ir įsigaliojimo įstatymas. Baudžiamasis kod...](#)) provisions (e.g., Articles 149, 150, 151, 153) cover rape, sexual assault, coercion, and lewd acts with minors, including cases involving threats, violence, or exploitation of dependency. Lithuanian law distinguishes direct abuse from sexual exploitation (e.g., use of a child in prostitution or pornography) and criminalizes online sexual abuse and the distribution of child sexual abuse material (CSAM).



Any sexual touching, act, or involvement of a child in sexual activities constitutes child sexual abuse, regardless of whether physical force is used.

- e. **child pornography or child sexual abuse material (CSAM) (18 U.S.C. 2256(8), <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/2256>)**

Lithuanian law criminalizes the production, distribution, possession, and dissemination of pornographic material involving children. According to the Criminal Code, it is unlawful to create, acquire, possess, distribute, or advertise any pornographic content in which a child is depicted, or a person is presented as a child. Under Criminal Code Article 309(2) ([VIII-1968 Lietuvos Respublikos baudžiamojo kodekso patvirtinimo ir įsigaliojimo įstatymas. Baudžiamasis kod...](#)), such conduct is punishable by up to four years' imprisonment, with an aggravated penalty of up to five years if the material involves a young child (generally under 14) or a large quantity of material. Criminal Code Article 162 ([VIII-1968 Lietuvos Respublikos baudžiamojo kodekso patvirtinimo ir įsigaliojimo įstatymas. Baudžiamasis kod...](#)) further criminalizes involving a child in the production of pornographic material or performances.

- f. **computer-generated images or videos of child pornography or CSAM (created by artificial intelligence or morphed) (18 U.S.C. 2256(8) & (9), <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/2256>)**

Under the Criminal Code (Article 309(2)) ([VIII-1968 Lietuvos Respublikos baudžiamojo kodekso patvirtinimo ir įsigaliojimo įstatymas. Baudžiamasis kod...](#)), it is unlawful to create, acquire, possess, distribute, or advertise any pornographic content in which a child is depicted, or a person is presented as a child. This provision covers computer-generated, morphed, or artificial intelligence (AI) – created images and videos where children, or persons presented as children, are involved in sexual activities. Article 162 of the Criminal Code ([VIII-1968 Lietuvos Respublikos baudžiamojo kodekso patvirtinimo ir įsigaliojimo įstatymas. Baudžiamasis kod...](#)) further criminalizes involving a child in the production of pornographic material or performances. Any pornographic material featuring a child, whether real or digitally created, is illegal.

- g. **enticement or grooming (encouraging, persuading, or coercing a child to engage in sexual activity or to create child pornography or CSAM) (18 U.S.C. 2422(b), <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/2422>)**

Lithuanian law does not use the specific term “grooming”, but such conduct is criminalized under several provisions of the Criminal Code. Any act of encouraging, enticing, or coercing a child to engage in sexual activity or to produce pornographic material is a criminal offense.

Criminal Code Article 152¹ ([VIII-1968 Lietuvos Respublikos baudžiamojo kodekso patvirtinimo ir įsigaliojimo įstatymas. Baudžiamasis kod...](#)) provides that an adult who propositions a person under 16 to meet for the purpose of sexual intercourse, other sexual gratification, or exploitation for producing pornographic material, and who thereafter takes concrete steps to make the meeting happen, is punishable by community service, a fine, restriction of liberty, arrest, or imprisonment of up to one year. Legal persons are also liable, i.e. entities that have legal capacity under Lithuanian law, such as companies, institutions, or organizations. Under the Lithuanian Criminal Code, legal persons can be held criminally liable if the offense is committed on their behalf or in their interests by an authorized person (for example, a



manager or representative). Criminal liability arises only if the perpetrator takes concrete actions after making the proposal; a mere proposal without further steps may be classified as an attempt.

This provision complements other Criminal Code articles, such as Article 153 ([VIII-1968 Lietuvos Respublikos baudžiamojo kodekso patvirtinimo ir įsigaliojimo įstatymas. Baudžiamasis kod...](#)), which criminalizes sexual acts or other lewd behavior with a person under 16, and Article 162, which prohibits persuading or recruiting a child to participate in pornographic performances or content creation. Article 157 also covers the recruitment or transportation of a child for sexual exploitation.

Lithuania has implemented Directive (EU) 2011/93 ([Directive - 2011/93 - EN - EUR-Lex](#)), which requires criminalizing the solicitation of children for sexual purposes, including online enticement.

h. legal age of consent for sexual activity – are there laws and regulations, if so, what ages are specified?

In Lithuania, the legal age of consent is 16. Criminal Code Article 151¹ ([VIII-1968 Lietuvos Respublikos baudžiamojo kodekso patvirtinimo ir įsigaliojimo įstatymas. Baudžiamasis kod...](#)) makes it a crime for an adult (18 or older) to have sexual intercourse or satisfy sexual desire with a person under 16, punishable by up to five years in prison. If the victim is under 14, any sexual act is treated as statutory rape or sexual abuse of a young child under Criminal Code Articles 149 or 150 ([VIII-1968 Lietuvos Respublikos baudžiamojo kodekso patvirtinimo ir įsigaliojimo įstatymas. Baudžiamasis kod...](#)). There is no “close-in-age” exception, so even a small age gap (e.g., 19 and 15) is criminal. Related provisions include Article 152¹ (enticement of a person under 16), Article 153 (corruption of a minor), and Article 162 (child exploitation for pornography). Mistaken belief about age is not a defense, and Lithuania applies strict protections in line with the Lanzarote Convention ([CETS 201 - Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse](#)).

i. Sextortion (extorting money or sexual favors from a child by threatening to share sexually explicit, child pornography or CSAM images of the child) (Missing Children’s Assistance Act of 2023, Section 2, (a)(1)(8), <https://www.congress.gov/118/bills/s2051/BILLS-118s2051es.pdf>)

In Lithuanian law, the term “sexual extortion” – meaning the coercion of a child by threatening to share their sexually explicit images to obtain money, other benefits, or additional such material—is not explicitly defined, but such conduct is criminalized under existing legislation. Sexual extortion typically involves elements of extortion (Criminal Code Article 181 ([VIII-1968 Lietuvos Respublikos baudžiamojo kodekso patvirtinimo ir įsigaliojimo įstatymas. Baudžiamasis kod...](#))) and child pornography offenses. Article 181 criminalizes the demand for property or other benefits by threatening to disclose information or using other threats, and the use of a child’s intimate images as a means of coercion falls within its scope.

If an offender threatens to release a child’s sexually explicit images unless the child provides more images or sexual services, they may be held criminally liable both for extortion and for child pornography offenses (possession, distribution, or handling of such material). Although “sexual extortion” or “revenge pornography” are not separately listed as crimes, distributing



pornographic material depicting a minor without consent is illegal, and acts carried out to harm or coerce a child fall under multiple criminal provisions.

For example, if the offender publishes the child's sexually explicit images, this constitutes a crime under Criminal Code Article 309 (distribution of child pornography) ([VIII-1968 Lietuvos Respublikos baudžiamojo kodekso patvirtinimo ir įsigaliojimo įstatymas. Baudžiamasis kod...](#)). If the offender only threatens to do so to coerce the child, it is considered extortion, for which stricter penalties may apply, especially if the victim is a minor or if sexual assault has been committed. Although there is no specific statute solely for sexual extortion, existing extortion and child sexual exploitation provisions fully cover such conduct. Moreover, if the act is committed online, cybercrime and harassment laws may also apply, and the fact that the victim is a minor is considered an aggravating circumstance when imposing a sentence.

2. Please explain any legal or regulatory requirement or recommendation for Online Platforms to undertake any of the following activities on their systems to protect children online from sexual exploitation:

a. review, screen, moderate, or detect content to identify child pornography or CSAM content

Lithuanian national legislation does not impose an obligation on Online Platforms to proactively monitor, investigate, or search for facts and circumstances that may indicate illegal activities or content related to child pornography or CSAM.

b. review, screen, moderate, or detect content to identify enticement, grooming, or sextortion of a child

Lithuanian national legislation does not impose an obligation on Online Platforms to proactively monitor, investigate, or search for facts and circumstances that may indicate illegal activities or content related to enticement, grooming, or sextortion of a child.

c. report child pornography, CSAM, enticement, grooming, or sextortion that they become aware of or are notified about on their systems to a law enforcement or government agency or nongovernmental organization

Under Article 18 of the Digital Services Act (Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 ([Regulation - 2022/2065 - EN - DSA - EUR-Lex](#))), hosting service providers (which include Online Platforms) are legally obliged to promptly inform law-enforcement authorities of any information giving rise to a suspicion of serious criminal offenses involving a threat to the life or safety of persons. This obligation covers offenses mentioned above, as such offenses clearly constitute serious crimes threatening the safety of children.

In Lithuania, this requirement is explicitly mirrored in Article 17 of the Law on Information Society Services ([X-614 Lietuvos Respublikos informacinės visuomenės paslaugų įstatymas](#)), which provides that hosting service providers must immediately notify the police if they become aware of any information that gives rise to suspicions of a criminal offense posing a threat to the life or safety of a person, in line with Article 18 of the Digital Services Act (Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 ([Regulation - 2022/2065 - EN - DSA - EUR-Lex](#))).



The non-official translation provided below:

"Article 17. Notification of Suspected Criminal Activity

Hosting service providers are obliged to immediately notify the police if they become aware of any information giving rise to a suspicion that a criminal offence has been, is being, or is likely to be committed that poses a threat to the life or safety of one or more persons, in accordance with Article 18 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2065."

d. remove or take down any child pornography, CSAM, enticement, grooming, or sextortion that they identify, become aware of, or are notified about

Under Article 15(1) of the Lithuanian Law on Information Society Services ([X-614 Lietuvos Respublikos informacinės visuomenės paslaugų įstatymas](#)) (mirroring the Digital Services Act (Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 ([Regulation - 2022/2065 - EN - DSA - EUR-Lex](#))), Online Platforms as service providers are considered aware of illegal activities or content when they have reliable factual information indicating that the service recipient's activities or content are illegal. Such information may come from the provider's own investigation or from reports by users, authorities, or other parties, provided the reports are accurate, detailed, and substantiated, allowing the provider to assess the content and take appropriate action. Requirements for notifications by users or other parties apply *mutatis mutandis* under Article 16(2) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 ([Regulation - 2022/2065 - EN - DSA - EUR-Lex](#)).

To determine whether content is illegal, the service provider can request an explanation from the service recipient or consult the relevant authorities. If no response is received within a reasonable time from the service recipient, or the explanation is unjustified, the service provider classifies the content as illegal and restricts access to it.

According to Article 15(3) of the Lithuanian Law on Information Society Services ([X-614 Lietuvos Respublikos informacinės visuomenės paslaugų įstatymas](#)), individuals whose rights are infringed by information transmitted and/or stored by a service provider, or by activities related to such information, may submit a complaint to the service provider, seek resolution through pre-litigation dispute procedures, or bring a case to court to have the violation ceased or prevented, even though the service provider is not liable for such infringement (the liability exemptions for providers of mere conduit, caching, and hosting services are set out in Articles 4–6 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 ([Regulation - 2022/2065 - EN - DSA - EUR-Lex](#))).

Furthermore, under Article 15(5) of the Lithuanian Law on Information Society Services ([X-614 Lietuvos Respublikos informacinės visuomenės paslaugų įstatymas](#)), authorities that identify illegal content may issue binding instructions to account holders of internet platforms – whether natural or legal persons who have created and managed a personal account to access platform services – to remove the illegal content they have posted or any illegal comments beneath it, in accordance with the procedures established by Lithuanian laws or other legal acts regulating the restriction and control of illegal content.

The non-official translation of Article 15 of the Lithuanian Law on Information Society Services is provided below:



"Article 15. Illegal Content

- 1. A service provider shall be deemed to have become aware of the illegal activity of a service recipient or of illegal content when it has reliable factual data regarding the illegal activity of the service recipient or regarding illegal content transmitted and/or stored by the service provider, and becomes aware of facts and circumstances from which it is obvious that the activity or content of the service recipient is illegal. The service provider may obtain factual data regarding the illegal activity or illegal content of the service recipient on its own initiative, after conducting an investigation, or from service recipients, supervisory authorities, natural persons, or legal persons through submitted notifications, provided that such notifications are accurate, detailed, and substantiated so that the service provider can assess the potentially illegal content and take the necessary actions. To determine whether published information constitutes illegal content, the service provider may request the service recipient to provide an explanation and/or refer to an authority designated under the laws of the Republic of Lithuania or other legal acts regulating the restriction and control of illegal content. If the service provider does not receive a response from the service recipient within a reasonable period or finds that the provided explanation is not substantiated, it shall determine the information to constitute illegal content and restrict access to such content. The requirements for submitting notifications by service recipients, natural persons, and legal persons shall apply mutatis mutandis in accordance with Article 16(2) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2065.*
- 2. Hosting service providers, having determined that the information provided by the service recipient constitutes illegal content and having restricted access to such content, shall provide the service recipient within one working day with a reasoned explanation regarding the decisions made in accordance with Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2065, if the electronic contact details of the service recipient are known to the service provider. Service recipients subject to restrictions imposed by the hosting service provider may, in response to such decisions, make use of the remedies set out in point (f) of Article 17(3) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2065, such as internal complaint-handling mechanisms, out-of-court dispute resolution, and judicial appeal procedures. Complaints regarding the protection of rights referred to in Article 50(1) of the Law on Provision of Information to the Public shall be examined in accordance with the procedure established in Article 50 of that Law.*
- 3. Individuals whose rights are infringed by information transmitted and/or stored by a service provider or by activities related thereto may submit a complaint to the service provider, resolve it through pre-litigation dispute procedures, or bring a case to court to have the violation carried out using information society services referred to in Article 14 of this Law ceased or prevented, notwithstanding that the service provider is not liable for such infringement under Article 14 of this Law.*
- 4. When the account holder of an internet platform, whether a natural or legal person who has created and manages a personal account in order to access the platform's services (hereinafter – "internet platform account holder"), removes an illegal content comment posted under their own created post, the obligations under Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 to provide a reasoned explanation to the author of the comment shall not apply to that internet platform account holder. The obligation to*



provide a reasoned explanation under Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 to affected service recipients applies to the internet platform when it makes decisions regarding restrictions on service recipient-generated content, including comments.

5. *Internet platform account holders are not subject to a general obligation to monitor information, nor are they required to actively seek facts or circumstances regarding illegal content or activity on these accounts. Authorities designated under the laws of the Republic of Lithuania or other legal acts regulating the restriction and control of illegal content, having identified illegal content, shall issue binding instructions to account holders to remove the illegal content they have created or any illegal comments beneath it, in accordance with the procedures established by the laws of the Republic of Lithuania or other legal acts regulating the restriction and control of illegal content."*

e. review content by human moderators to screen or moderate for child pornography or CSAM

Lithuanian national legislation does not impose a legal obligation on Online Platforms to review content through human moderators specifically to screen or moderate for child pornography or CSAM.

f. remove child pornography, CSAM, enticement, grooming, or sextortion from their systems when notified of its presence by a victim, nongovernmental organization, law enforcement, or government agency

Answer to question 2(d) above applies.

g. use any specific technology to detect, remove, block, or take down any child pornography, CSAM, enticement, grooming, or sextortion, including:

- i. "Hashing technology" (<https://www.thorn.org/blog/hashing-detect-child-sex-abuse-imagery/>). Many Online Platforms hash and tag images and videos of child pornography or CSAM and then use hashing technology to scan content on their systems to detect the distribution of child pornography or CSAM online so it can be removed.
- ii. Artificial intelligence or machine learning tools to detect the presence of child pornography, CSAM, enticement, grooming, or sextortion.

There are no additional national requirements mandating the use of particular technologies for detection of activities mentioned above.

h. if the applicable laws or regulations require some, but not all, Online Platforms to perform any of the above activities, describe how the differing requirements apply. For example, are differences based on the number of online users, types of services offered, etc.?

Not applicable.

3. Are Online Platforms legally required or recommended to implement any method to verify the age of a user before allowing access to an online platform?

Lithuania does not have any national legislation that explicitly requires Online Platforms to implement a specific process or technology for verifying a user's age before granting access to their services.

However, Lithuania's national legal framework implements the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) requirements on children's consent for data processing. Under Article 8(1) of the GDPR ([Regulation - 2016/679 - EN - gdpr - EUR-Lex](#)), specific conditions apply to a child's consent for the processing of personal data in relation to information society services offered directly to a child. The general rule requires that consent is valid only where the child is at least 16 years old; for younger children, consent must be provided or authorized by the holder of parental responsibility. Member States may, however, set a lower age threshold, provided it is not below 13. In Lithuania, this discretion has been exercised through Article 6 of the Law on Legal Protection of Personal Data (hereinafter referred to as – **LLPPD**) ([I-1374 Lietuvos Respublikos asmens duomenų teisinės apsaugos įstatymas](#)), which establishes the national threshold at 14 years of age. The non-official translation is provided below:

"Article 6. The age of the Child to Give a Consent who is Offered with Services of Information Society

When information society services are directly offered to a child, the processing of the child's personal data is legal if consent is given by a child older than 14 years of age in accordance with Article 6 (1) (a) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679."

4. Are Online Platforms legally required or recommended to implement any method to obtain parental consent before a child uses the services of such Online Platforms?

In Lithuania, there is no dedicated law similar to the U.S. Children's Online Privacy Protection Rule that broadly requires parental consent before a child can use an Online Platform. However, Article 6 of the LLPPD ([I-1374 Lietuvos Respublikos asmens duomenų teisinės apsaugos įstatymas](#)) and Article 8 of the GDPR ([Regulation - 2016/679 - EN - gdpr - EUR-Lex](#)) establish that, where information society services are offered directly to a child, the processing of the child's personal data is lawful only if consent is given by the child's parent or guardian, where the child is under 14 years of age. In other words, platforms must obtain parental or guardian consent before processing the personal data of a young user. In practice, this means that if an Online Platform relies on user consent as the legal basis for processing personal data (common in social networks, apps, etc.), and the user is under 14, the platform must have a mechanism to reliably verify parental or guardian consent. This may include email confirmation, a consent form, or another method that demonstrates "reasonable efforts" to ensure that consent was given by the parent. The service can only be provided once such consent is obtained.

This rule applies to information society services offered directly to children, where the child registers and provides personal data, such as social networks, messaging apps, forums, or content-sharing sites. Exceptions apply to services that do not rely on consent as a legal basis or to preventive or counseling services for children.

Outside of data-protection rules, Lithuanian law does not require parental consent simply for children to use the internet or a particular platform. Children aged 14 and older may provide consent for their own data processing, and platforms have no other legally binding obligations in this regard. In practice, many platforms impose their own minimum age limits (often 13+), but this is voluntary

self-regulation, not a legal requirement. The State Data Protection Inspectorate supervises compliance with the GDPR and LLPPD. Platforms that fail to obtain parental consent for users under 14 may face investigations and fines. Parental consent may also be treated as acceptance of the platform's terms of service when combined with consent to data processing.

5. Are there legal remedies for children who have been victimized by online child sexual exploitation? This may include children who are victimized by the distribution of child pornography or CSAM imagery in which they are depicted, or children victimized by enticement, grooming or sextortion. If such legal remedies exist, do they include:

a. The ability to stop the publication of the pornography or CSAM imagery by the Online Platform?

The liability for possession and distribution of pornography items containing images of children is provided in Article 309(2) of the Criminal Code ([VIII-1968 Lietuvos Respublikos baudžiamojo kodekso patvirtinimo ir įsigaliojimo įstatymas. Baudžiamasis kod...](#)).

The non-official translation is provided below:

"Article 309. Handling of Pornographic Material

- 1. Anyone who, with the intent to distribute, produces or acquires, or distributes pornographic material, shall be punished by community service or a fine, or restriction of liberty, or imprisonment for up to one year.*
- 2. Anyone who produces, acquires, possesses, displays, advertises, offers, or distributes pornographic material in which a child or a person presented as a child is depicted, or, using information and communication technologies or other means, acquires or provides access to pornographic material in which a child or a person presented as a child is depicted, shall be punished by a fine, or restriction of liberty, or arrest, or imprisonment for up to four years.*
- 3. Anyone who, with the intent to distribute, produces or acquires, or distributes a large quantity of pornographic material in which a minor child is depicted, shall be punished by imprisonment for up to five years.*
- 4. Anyone who displays or advertises pornographic material commits a criminal offense and shall be punished by community service or a fine, or restriction of liberty, or arrest.*
- 5. A legal entity is also liable for the acts provided for in paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of this Article."*

However, Lithuanian national law does not explicitly create a clear procedure for requiring Online Platforms to preemptively scan or block content that has not yet been published.

b. An obligation on the part of the Online Platform to take active steps to remove the pornography or other imagery from their servers?

Please refer to the regulation discussed in the answer to question 2(d) (however, the regulation does not cover the issue of removal of the content from the Online Platform's servers).

The main points under the mentioned regulation are:



- (i) Online Platforms are considered aware of illegal content when they have reliable factual information that the service recipient's activity or content is illegal, whether obtained through their own investigation or from user, authority, or other third-party reports; upon becoming aware, the platform can restrict access to or remove the content without instructions from court or authorities;
- (ii) individuals whose rights are infringed by illegal content may submit a complaint to the platform, seek resolution via pre-litigation dispute procedures, or bring a case to court to have the violation ceased or prevented; and
- (iii) authorities that identify illegal content may issue binding instructions to account holders of internet platforms to remove the illegal content they have posted.

c. An ability to get an injunction or other court order against the Online Platform to stop them from publishing the pornography or imagery?

Yes, Article 15(3) of the Lithuanian Law on Information Society Services ([X-614 Lietuvos Respublikos informacinės visuomenės paslaugų įstatymas](#)) provides that individuals whose rights are infringed by information transmitted and/or stored by a service provider or by activities related thereto may submit a complaint to the service provider, resolve it through pre-litigation dispute procedures, or bring a case to court to have the violation carried out using information society services ceased or prevented. Please refer to legal norms provided in the answers to questions 2(d) and 5(b).

d. A protective order or other court order that prohibits the person who posts the pornography or imagery from doing so in the future on the same or other Online Platform?

In a criminal case, the device that was used to commit the offense can be confiscated; however, this does not constitute an effective measure to ensure that the individual will never post illegal content again on the same Online Platform or another Online Platform.

e. the ability to seek financial damages or any sort of monetary recovery from an offender who has shared the child's image or video, either in a civil or a criminal proceeding?

Yes, the victim or their representative could file a civil claim for compensation based on general civil liability provisions (if this is not done during the criminal proceedings). However, the more effective way is to submit the civil claim during the criminal proceedings, since the court then considers it together with the criminal case.

The non-official translation of relevant articles of Code of Criminal Procedure of the Republic of Lithuania ([IX-785 Lietuvos Respublikos baudžiamojo proceso kodekso patvirtinimo, įsigaliojimo ir įgyvendinimo įstat...](#)) are provided below:

"Article 109. Civil claim in criminal proceedings

A person who has suffered property or non-property damage due to a criminal offense has the right, in criminal proceedings, to file a civil claim against the suspect or accused, or against persons materially liable for the actions of the suspect or accused. The court examines it together with the criminal case. When a civil claim is filed during the pre-trial investigation, data confirming the basis and amount of the filed civil claim must be collected during the pre-trial investigation."



"Article 112. Filing a civil claim

- 1. A civil claim is filed by submitting the claim to the pre-trial investigation officer, prosecutor, or court at any stage of the proceedings, but no later than before the commencement of the examination of evidence in court. A victim who has not filed a civil claim in the criminal case has the right to file a claim under civil procedure. (...)"*

"Article 116. Securing a civil claim

During the proceedings, the pre-trial investigation officer, prosecutor, or court must take measures to secure a possible civil claim: locate property belonging to the suspect or accused, or to persons materially liable for the actions of the suspect or accused, and temporarily restrict ownership rights to it."

f. the ability to seek any other forms of victim compensation/recovery/services provided for under the law and/or by a government-funded source?

In Lithuania, the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Assistance to Victims of Criminal Acts ([XIV-169 Lietuvos Respublikos pagalbos nuo nusikalstamos veikos nukentėjusiems asmenims įstatymas](#)) is in force, which regulates the provision of assistance to persons who have suffered from criminal acts. The purpose of the law is to ensure that natural persons who have suffered from a criminal act committed in the territory of the European Union, before the criminal proceedings, during them, if necessary - after them, and in all cases when criminal proceedings are not initiated, or who have suffered from a criminal act committed outside the territory of the European Union, when the criminal proceedings take place in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania, while being in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania, receive assistance (information, consultations, and/or services), taking into account their individual needs, the needs arising due to the committed criminal act, and the nature of the criminal act.

State-funded assistance enables persons to receive comprehensive support: the staff of assistance services assess the needs of the victim, jointly draw up a plan of assistance measures and organize the provision of assistance, provide information about the rights of victims and the institutions that can ensure them, inform them about institutions where social and health care services can be received, provide emotional and psychological support, etc.

g. notification to a victim when an offender is arrested for distributing child pornography or CSAM in which the child is depicted?

Yes, if a person is recognized as a victim in a criminal case.

Under Article 28(2) of the Lithuanian Criminal Procedure Code, one of the rights of the victim is that the victim and their representative have the right to receive information about the status of the criminal proceedings concerning them.

The non-official translation of Article 28 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Republic of Lithuania ([IX-785 Lietuvos Respublikos baudžiamojo proceso kodekso patvirtinimo, įsigaliojimo ir įgyvendinimo įstat...](#)) is provided below:

"Article 28. Victim



1. *A victim is a natural person who has suffered physical, property, or non-property damage as a result of a criminal offense, or, in the case of a deceased or forcibly disappeared natural person, a family member or close relative who has suffered physical, property, or non-property damage due to the death or forced disappearance of that person. A person is recognized as a victim by a pre-trial investigation officer, prosecutor's decision, or court ruling.*
2. *The victim and their representative have the right: to receive information about the status of the criminal proceedings related to them; to submit evidence; to submit motions; to raise disqualifications; to participate in assessing their special protection needs; to familiarize themselves with the case during the pre-trial investigation and in court; to participate in the trial in court; to appeal the actions of the pre-trial investigation officer, prosecutor, pre-trial investigation judge, and court, as well as to appeal the court judgment or ruling; to deliver a closing statement. The victim also has the right to refuse to receive information about the status of the criminal proceedings related to them, unless such refusal violates the rights of the suspect or accused.*
3. *The victim is obliged to give testimony. They take an oath and are responsible for false testimony as a witness."*

6. "Safety by Design" is defined as tools or processes that are built into an Online Platform to protect children by making it easier for the relevant Online Platform to detect or prevent the distribution of child pornography or CSAM.

a. Are Online Platforms legally required to incorporate "Safety by Design" into their systems?

General Obligation: there is no overarching law in Lithuania that explicitly mandates all Online Platforms to implement "Safety by Design" features before launch or in general. Unlike some countries, Lithuania has not legislated this concept as a broad requirement. That said, elements of Safety by Design appear in certain sector-specific regulations. The main area is for video-sharing platforms (hereinafter referred to as – VSP), as Lithuania transposed the EU Audiovisual Media Services Directive in 2020. Under the amended Law on Provision of Information to the Public, VSP providers (like YouTube, TikTok, or any platform primarily hosting user videos) must take measures to protect minors by design. Specifically, Article 40⁴ ([I-1418 Lietuvos Respublikos visuomenės informavimo įstatymas](#)) requires VSPs to implement a suite of measures, including: age-verification systems for potentially harmful content, easy-to-use mechanisms for users to report or flag inappropriate videos, content rating systems, and parental control tools. These measures are essentially "safety by design" as they must be built into the platform's functionality. For example, a video-sharing site is expected to pre-classify or allow creators/users to classify content (e.g., mark content as "adult only") and then restrict minors' access (via age-gating) to content marked as harmful. They are also expected to provide parents with control features (e.g., the ability to filter out content by age rating). Another built-in safety measure mandated is a user reporting and complaint system for inappropriate content, which the platform must handle transparently.

i. If so, must these steps be taken before the launch of an Online Platform?

There is no legal requirement that a platform must undergo a safety compliance check or implement specific tools *before* launching to the public, except that any platform falling under the VSP category would be expected to



comply from the moment it begins offering services in Lithuania. In practice, when the law took effect in 2021, established platforms had to ensure these measures were integrated (more on timeline in (ii)). If a new VSP were to launch now, it would be obliged to have these protective measures from the outset—otherwise it could face sanctions from the Lithuanian Radio and Television Commission (hereinafter referred to as – RTCL) (the regulator for VSPs). For other types of platforms (social media, messaging), since there is no explicit Safety by Design law, there is no pre-launch legal requirement to bake in such features. However, generally, privacy and security by design is required under GDPR for all platforms processing personal data, which implicitly includes some safety aspects (e.g., requiring data minimization, perhaps stricter defaults for minors). But no content-safety-by-design law exists for social networks or chat applications at launch in Lithuania.

ii. If so, if an Online Platform has already been in public use, when must they have incorporated “Safety by Design” measures?

For VSPs already operating when the law changed, the requirement was effectively immediate as of the law’s effective date. Platforms were expected to “have incorporated Safety by Design measures by 2021.” The RTCL engaged with VSPs to ensure compliance. For example, YouTube’s age-verification prompts and content rating in Lithuania can be seen as a result of this regulatory environment (and EU-wide requirements). If an existing VSP had not incorporated the required measures, the RTCL could order it to do so. Article 40⁴(5) gives the regulator power to evaluate and *require specific measures* if the platform’s chosen measures are inadequate ([I-1418 Lietuvos Respublikos visuomenės informavimo įstatymas](#)). Indeed, the law states that if a VSP has chosen not to implement certain measures from the menu in the law, and the regulator finds the protection insufficient, it can compel the platform to implement additional measures. So, any platform operating without, say, an age-verification system for adult content would likely have been instructed to add one. Outside the VSP context, *existing* social-media platforms are not under a legal mandate to retrofit safety features, but they often do so voluntarily or under pressure from EU law (for instance, Facebook and others voluntarily use hash databases to detect CSAM even if not legally mandated).

iii. For each of 6(a)(i) or (ii) above, please describe the legal requirement or recommendation.

Under the Law on Provision of Information to the Public Article 40⁴ ([I-1418 Lietuvos Respublikos visuomenės informavimo įstatymas](#)), VSP providers are legally required to implement measures to protect minors and the public from harmful audiovisual content. These mandatory measures include establishing transparent and user-friendly mechanisms for users to report or flag content harmful to minors or otherwise illegal, implementing age-verification systems to restrict access to content that may negatively impact minors, providing parental control tools that allow parents or guardians to manage access to harmful content, maintaining transparent, accessible, and effective complaint-handling and dispute-resolution procedures, and applying the strictest access



controls to the most harmful content in proportion to the risk level. Additionally, platforms may implement optional measures to further enhance safety, such as content rating or classification systems that allow video uploaders to indicate commercial communications or potentially harmful material, providing explanations to users about how reported content was handled, and adopting broader Safety by Design practices. While these recommended measures are not legally binding for platforms outside the VSP category, regulators and EU guidance encourage their use for any platform with minor users to uphold the “best interests of the child” principle. Mandatory measures apply specifically to platforms defined as video-sharing services, where the primary purpose is user-generated video content, whereas other platforms, such as social media or messaging services, are not explicitly required to implement these measures under Article 40⁴([I-1418 Lietuvos Respublikos visuomenės informavimo įstatymas](#)), although GDPR privacy and security-by-design obligations implicitly cover some safety aspects for minors.

b. Please include information about the parameters for monitoring, management, and enforcement of any legal or regulatory requirements for the Online Platform’s incorporation of “Safety by Design”?

In contexts where safety-by-design measures are required, primarily for VSPs and, to some extent, for data protection of minors, there are defined oversight and enforcement mechanisms. The RTCL regulates VSPs under the Law on Provision of Information to the Public, assessing whether platforms’ measures—such as age verification, content flagging, and parental controls are adequate. If measures are insufficient or codes of conduct ineffective, RTCL can issue binding instructions requiring improvements; failure to comply may result in administrative penalties, including fines or suspension of service. Platforms may also be required to report on their implementation practices, enabling the regulator to monitor compliance. Users, including parents and non-governmental organizations, can submit complaints if safety measures fail, which the regulator may consider when evaluating adherence. The Communications Regulatory Authority, managing the Lithuanian Safer Internet Center, monitors illegal content online and can issue takedown orders, indirectly reinforcing compliance. Data protection for minors is enforced by the State Data Protection Inspectorate under GDPR Article 25 ([Regulation - 2016/679 - EN - gdpr - EUR-Lex](#)), ensuring platforms implement “data protection by design and by default”; non-compliance may lead to fines or corrective orders. Industry codes of conduct on child protection, if approved and followed, can count as compliance, but the regulator can intervene if these codes prove ineffective. Since these obligations were introduced in 2021, enforcement has mainly been collaborative, with the legal authority to impose sanctions remaining fully available.