

Assessment CCC - Offer by Lithuania (LT) - Vilnius		
GENERAL INFORMATION	INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THE APPLICATION	COMMISSION ASSESSMENT
Member State (applicant)	LITHUANIA	
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INFORMATION ABOUT THE FULFILMENT OF CRITERIA		
Criterion 1: The date on which the Centre can become operational on site after the entry into force of the Regulation. <i>'This criterion concerns in particular the availability of appropriate office premises, as well as the ability to redeploy and host the relevant staff, in time for the Centre to become operational. This should include the necessary logistics and sufficient space for offices, meeting rooms and off-site archiving, high-performing telecommunication and data storage networks, as well as appropriate physical and IT security standards.'</i>	AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY	
1.1 Availability of appropriate office premises, including the proposed options of premises and estimated timeline of availability for each option (e.g. premises 1 to be finished in Q)	Lithuania offers an exceptional location for the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre (ECCC) – premises at the Vilnius TV Tower building. The offered premises are available immediately, the ECCC could start its operational activities in 2 months from the formal decision to establish its headquarters in Vilnius. In the first stage, we offer office space for up to 20 staff members. In the second stage (in 10 to 12-month period after the decision), the premises could be fully fitted/adjusted to the ECCC needs based on technical and security requirements. Additional information: See the Brochure on 'exceptional infrastructure' p.12	The application indicates the availability of premises in the Vilnius TV Tower building, which can be made operational for 20 staff members within 2 months from the formal decision and fully adjusted to the Centre's needs within 10 to 12 months from the decision, based on technical and security requirements.
1.1.1 Necessary logistics and adequate office space (indicatively, around 2000 m2 gross floor area above ground), corresponding to the scenario of up to 60 staff members (additional parking space for staff and visitors according to relevant local legislation)	Offices, meeting rooms and other administrative spaces could be situated on the ground floor (400 square meters) and the first floor (1,400 square meters). There is more office space available in the building for future expansion if needed (total available office space in the building - 2,800 square meters). The Vilnius TV Tower building also hosts a restaurant with a panoramic view on the 19th floor which could be used by the ECCC for representational purposes, as well as for the daily meal supply to employees. The Vilnius TV Tower has 80 dedicated parking spaces in a lot next to the building, more parking spaces are also available (free of charge) in the area, a two-storey parking garage is planned to be built next to the TV Tower by 2023.	The application indicates the availability of premises of 1 800 m ² , with 400m ² in the ground floor and 1 400m ² of the 1st floor, with possibility for extension by up to 2 800m ² . The application indicates the availability of 80 parking spaces next to the premises.
1.1.2 Common infrastructure and rooms to accommodate for meetings (space and logistics for meeting rooms, including the number and size of offered meeting rooms)	The 400-square meter ground floor area can be used for meeting rooms. Three meeting rooms are planned in the current space, including the big meeting room of 230 square meters. Additional smaller meeting rooms could be installed on the first floor. Additional information: See point 1.1.1.	The application indicates the availability of meeting rooms on the ground floor of the premises (400 m ²) and indicates that this surface is planned to be divided into 2 rooms without indication of the surface, and a 3rd meeting room of 230 m ² . The application indicates the availability of possible additional smaller meeting rooms on the 1st floor without indication of surface. The application indicates that the building hosting the premises also includes a restaurant on the 19th floor which could be used by the Centre for representational purposes.
1.1.3 Off-site archiving capacities	Lithuania will provide off-site archiving capacities if needed.	The application indicates the availability of off-site archiving capacities if needed.
1.1.4 Security and safety standards of the offered premises, in particular cybersecurity standards, equivalent to those of the EU Institutions	The Vilnius TV Tower is one of the main hubs of the national and governmental communications network and residence for the governmental data centre. As a result, it meets the highest physical and IT security standards. The building is guarded by armed security 24/7. The premises are equipped with an access control system, the area is under video surveillance. Rapid response crews are called in in case of an incident risk. The TV tower is in the list of infrastructure of importance to national security of the Republic of Lithuania.	The application provides detailed information on how the premises meet IT security and safety standards, without providing information as to cybersecurity standards
1.1.5 The financial terms for the Centre's use of the premises (whether the Member State would pay the rent for a given period of time or indefinitely)	Lithuania offers a substantial national contribution and will cover the rent cost of the ECCC premises for at least a 5-year period.	The application indicates that LT will cover the rent costs of the premises for at least 5 years.
1.1.6 The terms concerning maintenance of the building, including upgrading and future extensions if needed	In addition, Lithuania will cover maintenance costs for the ECCC premises for at least a 5-year period. The owner and manager of the allocated premises will bear all costs of transforming it according to the ECCC needs, including future extensions if needed.	The application indicates that LT will cover the maintenance costs of the premises for at least 5 years. The application indicates that the costs for transformation and extension of the premises will be covered by the owner and manager of the premises.
1.1.7 Any special conditions offered with regard to all costs and dedicated infrastructures	See the above.	The application does not indicate that any special conditions will be offered other than those concerning rent, maintenance and transformation and extension of the premises as referred to in 1.1.5. and 1.1.6.
1.1.8 Estimated timeline for setting up an operational Centre on site after the entry into force of the Regulation, on the basis of the availability of appropriate office premises and the ability to redeploy and host the relevant staff	The premises can be set up for the operational activities of the ECCC within 2 months after the formal decision to establish its headquarters in Vilnius.	The application indicates that the premises can be set up for the operational activities of the Centre within 2 months after the decision to establish the Centre is adopted.
1.1.9 The total estimated cost for set up and the expected annual average thereafter		The application does not provide information on the estimated costs for set-up and the expected annual average thereafter.

1.2 General compliance with the requirements set out in the Commission's Manual of Standard Building Specifications	The building meets the general requirements set out in the Commission's Manual of Standard Building Specifications, including high reliability of electricity and connection supply (2 electrical inputs of first reliability category, 9 fibre optic cable entries from independent suppliers, full communication reservation), accessibility to persons with disabilities, etc. Internal premises will be fully fitted/adjusted to the ECCC needs based on technical and security requirements.	The application indicates that the premises comply with the Commission's Manual of Standard Building Specifications, in particular as regards reliable electrical inputs, accessibility for persons with disabilities, security and accreditation.
1.3 Other		
SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OF CRITERION 1		The application indicates the availability of premises in the Vilnius TV Tower building, with a surface of 1 800 m ² , which can be extended up to 2 800m ² . The application indicates that the premises can be made operational for 20 staff members within 2 months of the decision and could be fully adjusted to the Centre's needs within 10 to 12 months. The application indicates that 3 meeting rooms are available on the ground floor of the premises, including 2 rooms without specification of the surface, and a 3rd meeting room of 230 m ² . The application indicates that additional meeting rooms, without specification of the surface, are available on the first floor and that the building's restaurant on the 19th floor could be used by the Centre for representational purposes. The application indicates the availability of 80 parking spaces next to the premises. The application provides detailed information on compliance with security and safety standards, without providing information as to cybersecurity standards. The application indicates that Lithuania will cover the rent and maintenance costs of the premises for at least 5 years. The application indicates that the costs for transformation and extension of the premises will be covered by the owner and manager of the premises. The application does not provide information on the estimated costs for set-up and the expected annual average thereafter. The application indicates that the premises comply with the Commission's Manual of Standard Building Specifications.
Criterion 2: Accessibility of the location <i>'This criterion concerns the availability, frequency and duration of public transportation connections from the closest airport to the location, as well as the quality and quantity of accommodation facilities. In particular, this criterion implies the capacity to allow for the expected meeting activities of the Centre.'</i>	EXCELLENT ACCESSIBILITY	
2.1 Public transportation connections from the nearest airport to the location	Easy to reach, Vilnius International Airport is situated just 9 kilometers away from the Vilnius TV Tower and 7 kilometers away from the city centre.	
2.1.1 Availability	Multiple public transport options to reach the Vilnius TV Tower are available, the fastest way is to take bus 3G and bus 54. A number of public transport options are available to reach the city centre too, the quickest one is bus 88. Vilnius also has various dependable and reasonably priced taxi services, from Uber and Bolt to local providers, such as E-taxi.	The application indicates the availability of 2 bus lines connecting the airport with the premises.
2.1.2 Frequency	Bus 3G - goes every 7 to 9 minutes, bus 54 - goes every 30 minutes, bus 88 - every 25 minutes. A taxi would arrive within minutes.	The application indicates that the frequency of the 2 bus lines is every 7 to 9 and 30 minutes.
2.1.3 Duration	The trip from Vilnius International Airport to the TV Tower takes around 15 minutes by taxi (5 to 7 euros) and 45 minutes by public transport (2 euros). The trip from the airport to the city centre takes around 15 minutes (5 to 7 euros) by taxi and 25 minutes by public transport (1 euro).	The application indicates that the duration of public transport from the city centre to the airport is 45 minutes.
2.2 Accommodation facilities	There are two big 3-star hotels (the Karolina Park Hotel and the Green Vilnius Hotel) with more than 200 rooms within a walking distance from the Vilnius TV Tower. The Karolina Park Hotel which is situated 700 meters away from the TV Tower has a big multifunctional conference center where up to 550 people can be seated in the main hall.	
2.2.1 Quality (indication of type of hotels with available rooms, e.g. 3, 4, 5-star hotels)	There are two 3-star hotels - The Karolina Park Hotel and Green Vilnius Hotel - within a walking distance. Plenty more of accommodation opportunities can be found in the centre of Vilnius (including a number of 4-star and 5-star hotels) which is only 6 kilometers away from the TV Tower (15 minutes by taxi and 40 minutes by public transport).	The application indicates the availability of 2 3-star hotels with more than 200 rooms near the premises. Other hotels that include 4 and 5 stars hotels are situated in the city center.
2.2.2 Quantity (number of rooms/hoter beds available)	The total capacity of hotel rooms in Vilnius is around 5,000, including more than 200 within a walking distance from the Vilnius TV Tower.	The application indicates the availability of 200 rooms in walking distance of the premises, and of a total of 5 000 hotel rooms in Vilnius.
2.3 Other	Accessibility: the Vilnius TV Tower is close to the main city transport corridors and is therefore easily reached from different parts of the city. A car trip from the city centre or residential areas (where most of the employees would probably live) to the TV Tower only takes up to 20 minutes during rush hours. The Vilnius TV Tower is also easily reached by bike from the city centre.	The application indicates that the premises are easily reachable via public transport (one bus line from the premises to the center is indicated with a bus every 25 minutes) and bicycles from different parts of the city. The application indicates the availability of a hotel in 700 m distance from the premises with a big multifunctional conference center for up to 550 people.
SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OF CRITERION 2		The application indicates the availability of 2 bus lines, from the premises to the airport, with a frequency of 7 to 9, and 30 minutes. The duration of public transportation to the airport is 45 minutes. The application indicates the availability of 2 3-star hotels with more than 200 rooms, near the premises. Other hotels that include 4- and 5-star hotels are situated in the city centre. A total of 5 000 hotel rooms are available in Vilnius. The premises are easily reachable via public transports, bicycles from different parts of the city.

<p>Criterion 3: Existence of adequate education facilities for the children of the Centre's staff</p> <p><i>'This criterion concerns the availability of multi-lingual, European-oriented schooling that can meet the needs for education facilities for the children of the staff of the Centre.'</i></p>	<p>A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS</p>	
<p>3.1 Detailed information about existing educational facilities and availability of multi-lingual, European-oriented schooling</p>	<p>Vilnius offers a number of private international schools and kindergartens available to foreigners and locals, including Vilnius International School, Lycée International Français de Vilnius, British International School Vilnius, The American International School of Vilnius (AISV is the only international school in the Baltic states with dual international accreditation by the Council of International Schools and the Middle States Association) and Vilnius Montessori Pre-School. The mentioned institutions are providing education for over 1,400 children. Schools have the rolling admissions policy and welcome applications throughout the school year. There are around 130 vacancies for the running school year. The annual turnover of students is around 15 percent. The schools are situated in the central part of the city, within a 20-minute driving range from the TV Tower. The price range varies from 4,000 euros to 17,000 euros per school year. Private school and pre-school education fees are compensated as provided for in Art.17 of Annex No. 7 of Regulation No.31 (EEC), 11 (EAEC) laying down the Staff Regulations of Officials and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community.</p> <p>Lithuania will cooperate to ensure availability of places in international schools and kindergartens to children of ECCC staff. In addition, Lithuania will ensure availability of state-funded pre-school and school education to children of ECCC employees, equivalent to that granted to Lithuanian citizens. Children of ECCC employees will be granted free access to public kindergartens and schools (language of instruction in such public institutions is typically Lithuanian).</p>	
<p>3.1.1 Nursery</p>	<p>All the above mentioned schools provide pre-school education.</p>	<p>The application indicates the existence of 4 international kindergartens in Vilnius, without indication of the linguistic offer.</p>
<p>3.1.2 Primary education</p>	<p>Multi-lingual, European-oriented primary education is provided by Vilnius International School, Lycée International Français de Vilnius, British International School Vilnius, The American International School of Vilnius.</p>	<p>The application indicates the existence of 4 primary schools providing multilingual and European-oriented education, without specifying the linguistic offer.</p>
<p>3.1.3 Secondary education</p>	<p>Multi-lingual, European-oriented secondary education is provided by Vilnius International School, Lycée International Français de Vilnius, British International School Vilnius, The American International School of Vilnius. IB Diploma Programme in Vilnius is offered by The American International School of Vilnius and Vilnius Lyceum.</p>	<p>The application indicates the existence of 4 secondary schools providing multilingual and European-oriented education, without specifying the linguistic offer.</p>
<p>3.1.4 Higher education</p>	<p>Lithuania has a long-standing tradition of higher education and offers a welcoming environment for foreigners. The largest Lithuanian scientific institution - Vilnius University - was established in 1579. A wide range of Lithuanian universities offer more than 350 study programmes taught in English that foreign students can choose from. Students can choose to study full-time or part-time. More information about higher education in Lithuania can be found at www.studyinlithuania.com</p>	<p>The application does not provide information about the number of universities in Vilnius, but indicates the existence of 350 university programmes delivered in English.</p>
<p>3.2 Other</p>		<p>The application indicates that international schools and kindergartens in Vilnius have 130 vacancies and that they have a rolling admission policy, with costs varying between €4 000 and €17 000 per school year.</p>
<p>SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OF CRITERION 3</p>		<p>The application indicates the existence of 5 international kindergarten in Vilnius, without indicating the linguistic offer. The application indicates the availability of 4 primary and 4 secondary schools providing multilingual education, without indicating the linguistic offer. The application does not provide information about the number of universities in Vilnius, but indicates the availability of 350 university programmes delivered in English.</p>
<p>Criterion 4: Appropriate access to the labour market, social security and medical care for both children and spouses</p> <p><i>'This criterion concerns the capacity to meet the needs of the children and spouses of staff for social security and medical care as well as the availability to offer job opportunities for them.'</i></p>	<p>FULL ACCESS TO LABOUR MARKET, SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICAL CARE</p>	
<p>4.1. Social security</p>	<p>EU citizens are entitled to receive certain social security benefits depending on their residence status in Lithuania. Detailed information on social and health securities in Lithuania can be found at https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1119&langId=en</p>	<p>The application indicates access to certain social security benefits for EU citizens, depending on residence status in LT.</p>
<p>4.2 Medical care</p>	<p>Lithuania offers affordable and high-standard healthcare. EU nationals working and living in Lithuania have full access to the Lithuanian healthcare system. It can be ensured via national public or private health insurance schemes.</p>	<p>The application indicates access for EU citizens working and living in Lithuania to the healthcare system via national public or private health insurance schemes.</p>
<p>4.3 Information on the national job market and job opportunities</p>	<p>Vilnius provides plenty of job opportunities for international staff family members. Local and international companies constantly have English and other EU language-speaking jobs available. Currently, almost 250 job vacancies are offered on www.workinlithuania.lt</p>	<p>The application provides information on job opportunities for the family members of international staff, specifying that local and international companies in Lithuania constantly have English and other EU language-speaking jobs available.</p>

4.4. Other	More practical information about relocation to Vilnius can be found at https://www.govilnius.lt/relocate-and-live/relocation-guide-quiz	The application provides a link to additional information on relocation to Vilnius.
SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OF CRITERION 4		The application indicates access to certain social security benefits for EU citizens, depending on residence status in Lithuania, and access for EU citizens working and living in Lithuania to the healthcare system via national public or private health insurance schemes. The application indicates the availability of job opportunities for the family members of international staff, specifying that local and international companies in Lithuania constantly have English and other EU language-speaking jobs available. The application provides a link to additional information on relocation to Vilnius.
Criterion 5: Excellent connectivity, security and interoperability with IT facilities for handling EU funding <i>'This criterion concerns the possibility of seamlessly take over relevant IT processes relating to management of relevant EU funding, including access to the TESTA network. It also concerns solid capacities in terms of cybersecurity resilience of communication networks.'</i>	EXCELENT CONNECTIVITY AND SECURITY OF IT INFRASTRUCTURE	
5.1 High-speed connectivity	The Vilnius TV Tower offers a solid, robust and resilient communication infrastructure to the ECCC. It includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 fiber-optic cable entries from independent suppliers, full communication reservation; • Interlink with international providers, adaptable bandwidth capacity, speed up to 50 Gbps (can be increased if needed); • Infrastructure to access TESTA network already in place; • Tailor-made internal network configuration; • Data storage capacity; • Reliable electricity supply (two independent inputs, first category). 	The application indicates the availability of a high-speed connectivity infrastructure.
5.2 High-performing telecommunication and data storage networks in line with physical and IT security standards (including the possibility of supporting document management up to SECRET UE/EU SECRET level)	The Vilnius TV Tower is one of the main hubs of the national and governmental communication network and residence for the governmental data centre. Therefore, it meets the highest physical and IT security standards. The TV Tower currently hosts a data centre which fully meets the requirements for a state data centre. It provides services to both, the Government and commercial customers.	The application indicates the availability of high-performing telecommunication and data storage networks, in line with physical and IT security standards. It does not indicate the possibility for its network to support document management up to SECRET UE/EU SECRET level.
5.3 Security of the connectivity infrastructure of the Centre in line with the principles agreed by MS such as in the 5G cybersecurity toolbox	The Vilnius TV Tower is included in the list of objects of importance to ensuring national security and critical information infrastructure and therefore fully complies with the security requirements in the Toolbox, including verification of suppliers' conformity to national security interests.	The application indicates that the security of the connectivity infrastructure complies with the principles agreed by MS in the 5G cybersecurity toolbox.
5.4 Compliance of the security of premises and IT infrastructure for handling information up to SECRET UE/EU SECRET with the relevant rules for classified information	The proposed premises currently do not have the IT infrastructure for handling of up to SECRET UE/EU SECRET information. However, such an infrastructure could be provided by the end of 2021 when the premises are adjusted to the technical and security requirements of the ECCC.	The application indicates that the premise's infrastructures do not currently provide the IT infrastructure to handle SECRET EU information, but are planned to do so by the end of 2021.
5.5 Ability to seamlessly take over IT processes relating to management of relevant EU funding, including access to TESTA network where possible	Lithuania will facilitate the take-over of IT processes, the proposed facilities has the necessary infrastructure to access TESTA network. The Core Centre of State Telecommunications (CCST) which is under the MOD is connected to the IDABC TESTA network via EuroGate on two parallel leased lines using equipment with appropriate level of security and provides services to various governmental authorities. Line bandwidth can be expanded if needed. The CCST has an optical connection to the TV Tower.	The application indicates that LT is able to seamlessly take over IT processes relating to management of relevant EU funding, including access to TESTA network.
5.6 Regarding the meeting rooms, high-quality fixed and wireless (4G or higher) connectivity, as well as audio and video conference facilities	The owner and manager of the premises will make sure that the ECCC has a sufficient capacity for teleconferencing, ensuring reliable and secure connection. The meeting rooms will be equipped according to the ECCC requirements.	The application indicates that the premises will have audio and video conference facilities (i.e. teleconferencing). The application indicates that the rooms will be equipped as needed by the Centre.
5.7 Other		
SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OF CRITERION 5		The application indicates the availability of a high-speed connectivity infrastructure. It indicates the availability of high-performing telecommunication and data storage networks, in line with physical and IT security standards. It does not indicate the possibility for its network to support document management up to SECRET UE/EU SECRET level. The application indicates that the security of the connectivity infrastructure complies with the principles agreed by MS in the 5G cybersecurity toolbox. The application indicates that the premise's infrastructures do not currently provide the IT infrastructure to handle SECRET EU information, but are planned to do so by the end of 2021. The application indicates that Lithuania is able to seamlessly take over IT processes relating to management of relevant EU funding, including access to TESTA network. It indicates that the premises will have audio and video conference facilities and that the rooms will be equipped as needed by the Centre.

<p>Criterion 6: Existence of a cybersecurity ecosystem</p> <p><i>'This criterion concerns the existence of a relevant ecosystem of organisations active in the field of cybersecurity in the host city, such as other cybersecurity (research) institutions, knowledge institutions or relevant companies and/or communities.'</i></p>	<p>BOOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CYBERSECURITY ECOSYSTEM</p>	
<p>6.1 Description of the existence of a relevant cybersecurity ecosystem in the host city (such as other cybersecurity (research) institutions, knowledge institutions or relevant companies and/or communities)</p>	<p>Vilnius offers a booming cybersecurity and digital eco-system at the heart of Europe (the geographical centre of Europe is located 26 km. from Vilnius).</p> <p>The National Cyber Security Centre is one of the few national centres across Europe with a developed in-house R&D capability. Areas of key interest: AI-based cyberattack prevention solutions, realtime network stack encryption and distribution solutions, security-orientated embedded systems development, crossplatform software and hardware analysis, SCADA systems security development, software-defined radio (SDR) solutions development.</p> <p>Vilnius hosts a number of innovative national and international companies working in cybersecurity, AI, big data and GBS fields, such as Oracle, Arc4dia, Cujo AI, Arxan, NRD CS, Wix, Telia, IBM, Unity, Sentiance, Exacaster, Videntifier. ICT talent pool in Lithuania expanded from 5k in 2012 to almost 20k in 2020.</p> <p>In 2020 the AI BOOST platform was opened in Vilnius in order to consolidate and strengthen the Lithuanian AI ecosystem, as well as to provide a one-stop AI info point and a bridge between developers, stakeholders, society and the government.</p> <p>Blockchain Centre (BC) Vilnius is the first blockchain technology centre in the region, connecting key stakeholders in Asia, Australia, and Europe and aiming to incubate and accelerate blockchain start-ups.</p> <p>Vilnius also hosts the CERN Business Incubation Centre which is one of a kind in Central and Eastern Europe, the Centre aims to assist small start-ups and small and medium enterprises to implement innovative technologies and expertise developed at CERN into disruptive products or services.</p> <p>The ECCC in Vilnius would very well plug into the network of already existing EU institutions in the Nordic-Baltic region (EU-LISA, BEREC, Hybrid CoE) confronting modern challenges. Furthermore, Vilnius offers a close proximity to a very active cybersecurity community. The Baltic Sea region countries represent almost 25 percent of the total of participants of the implementation of 4 Horizon 2020 pilot projects preparing a European Cybersecurity Competence Network and contributing to the European cybersecurity industrial strategy.</p> <p>Last but not least, Nordic-Baltic region is scoring the highest position in the Digital Economy and Society Index 2020.</p>	<p>The application indicates the presence of a cybersecurity ecosystem. It includes cybersecurity (research) institutions like the National Cyber Security Centre and relevant companies.</p>
<p>6.2 Other</p>		
<p>SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OF CRITERION 6</p>		<p>The application indicates the presence of a cybersecurity ecosystem. It includes cybersecurity (research) institutions like the National Cyber Security Centre and relevant companies.</p>
<p>Criterion 7: Geographical balance</p> <p><i>'This criterion concerns the geographical balance in the distribution of seats of Union bodies and agencies; having due regard to the conclusions of the Representatives of the Member States, meeting at Head of State or Government level in Brussels on 13 December 2003, reiterated in the conclusions of the European Council of 19/20 June 2008, while taking into account the specific status of the Centre.'</i></p>	<p>ONE EU AGENCY</p>	
<p>7.1 Agencies and EU bodies currently hosted in the Member State</p>	<p>Lithuania has been hosting the European Union Institute for Gender Equality in Vilnius since 2009. It helps raise awareness and facilitate progress in the field of gender equality, both nationally and at the European Union level. A similar EU-wide effect is expected with the establishment of the ECCC.</p>	<p>LT is a Member State that acceded to the Union in 2004. The application indicates that LT has been hosting the European Union Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) in Vilnius since 2009.</p>
<p>SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OF CRITERION 7</p>		<p>Lithuania is a Member State that acceded to the Union in 2004 and hosts 1 EU decentralised agency, the European Union Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) in Vilnius.</p>
<p>GENERAL RULE for submitting an application:</p>		
<p>Member State's commitment to confirming the conditions included in the offer in a headquarters agreement with the Centre</p>	<p>Lithuania confirms that commitments identified in this application will be included in the offer in the headquarters agreement with the ECCC.</p>	<p>The application indicates the commitment of LT to confirm the conditions included in the application in a headquarters agreement with the Centre.</p>

SPECIFIC ISSUES to be addressed in the application:		
<p>Any benefits that would be granted to the Centre and/or its staff in addition to those following from Protocol No 7 on the Privileges and Immunities of the EU</p>	<p>Lithuania offers to the ECCC all privileges and immunities that are stipulated by Protocol No.7 to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union on the privileges and immunities of the European Union:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The premises of the ECCC will be inviolable and they will be exempt from search, requisition, confiscation or expropriation. - The ECCC will be granted an exemption from all direct taxes. - For the purposes of official communication and transmission of all their documents, the ECCC will enjoy the same treatment that is accorded to other diplomatic missions present in Lithuania. <p>According to the Lithuanian VAT law, personal goods acquired by the staff of EU institutions established in Lithuania are subject to 0 percent VAT tax (on the condition that employees are not Lithuanian citizens or their residence in the past 5 years was not in the Republic of Lithuania). This tax incentive is applicable for no longer than 1 year after assuming a position at an EU institution established in Lithuania. Personal goods acquired by the staff of EU institutions established in Lithuania are not subject to Import VAT.</p> <p>Management of the ECCC and members of their families will enjoy the immunities as members of diplomatic missions and members of their families (in accordance with the Vienna Convention), namely, the granting of diplomatic status, immunity from investigation into official exercise of ECCC activities, exemptions from migration legislation, exemptions from national taxes, import/export regulations.</p> <p>According to the Lithuanian VAT tax and Excise tax rules, the Centre would be exempt from VAT and excise taxes for all acquisitions related to official activities of the Centre.</p> <p>The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania has the right to conclude additional agreements on behalf of the Government, which provide to EU institutions more favourable conditions concerning application of indirect taxes. That could also be applied to the ECCC.</p> <p>Employees of the ECCC and their family members would be provided with state funded Lithuanian language courses.</p>	<p>The application indicates that, in addition to the EU Protocol 7 provisions, Centre staff and their family members would be provided with State-funded Lithuanian language courses.</p>