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PRIE SVEIKATOS APSAUGOS MINISTERIJOS

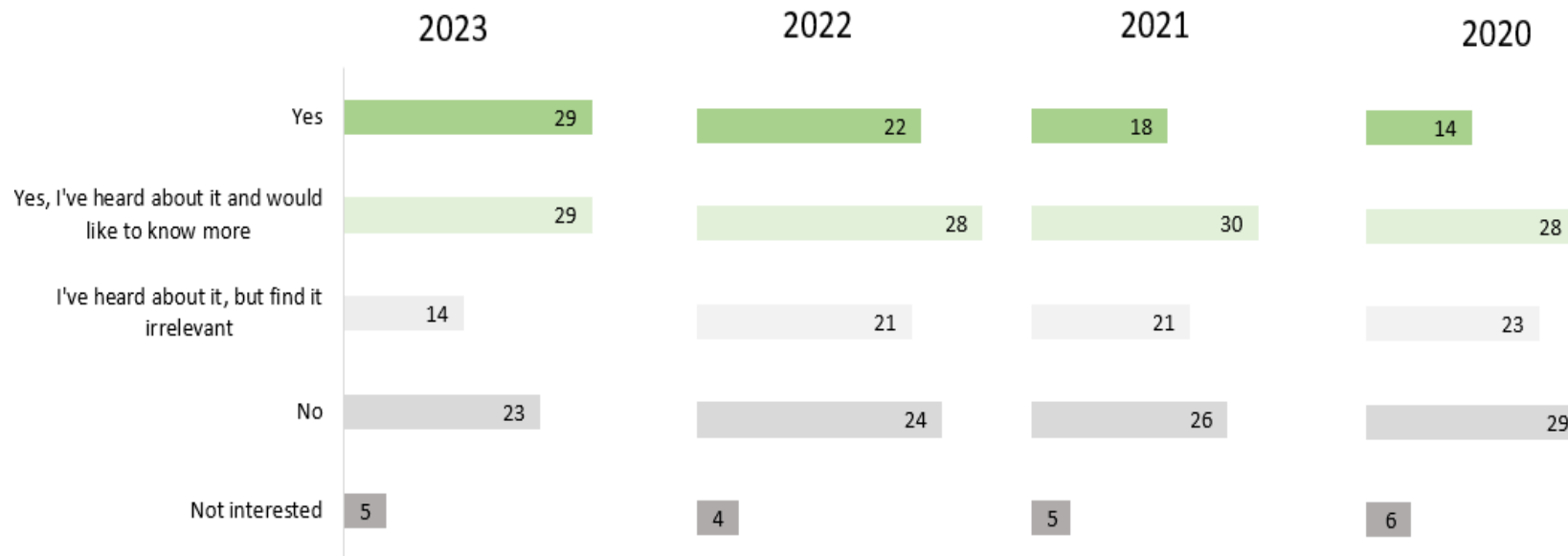
Reimbursement Procedure of Cross-border Healthcare and Cases Studies

National Health Insurance Fund

2024

Annual population surveys reveal that awareness of cross-border care reimbursement among Lithuanians is growing every year

- Do you know that health insurance funds reimburse cross-border healthcare for all insured people?



Respondents aged 30-49 with the highest incomes know that health insurance funds reimburse the costs of cross-border healthcare services.

Those who are not aware of this option are more likely to live in district centres and rural areas.

65-72 % of population know that cross-border healthcare services can be reimbursed.

The Residents' Service Units in the 5 THIFs and the Commission are responsible for receiving applications and taking decisions on compensation

The Population Service Divisions perform primary verification of the submitted applications

Acceptance of the request for reimbursement of cross-border healthcare costs

Verification of the insurance status during provision of cross-border healthcare

Primary **assessment** of the submitted documents

Forwarding the application to the Commission responsible to make the decision on reimbursement

Commission is responsible for making decisions on reimbursement of cross-border healthcare.

The Commission is composed of **6 specialists** with different backgrounds.

Evaluation of the documents and decision-making on reimbursement **within 20 working days**

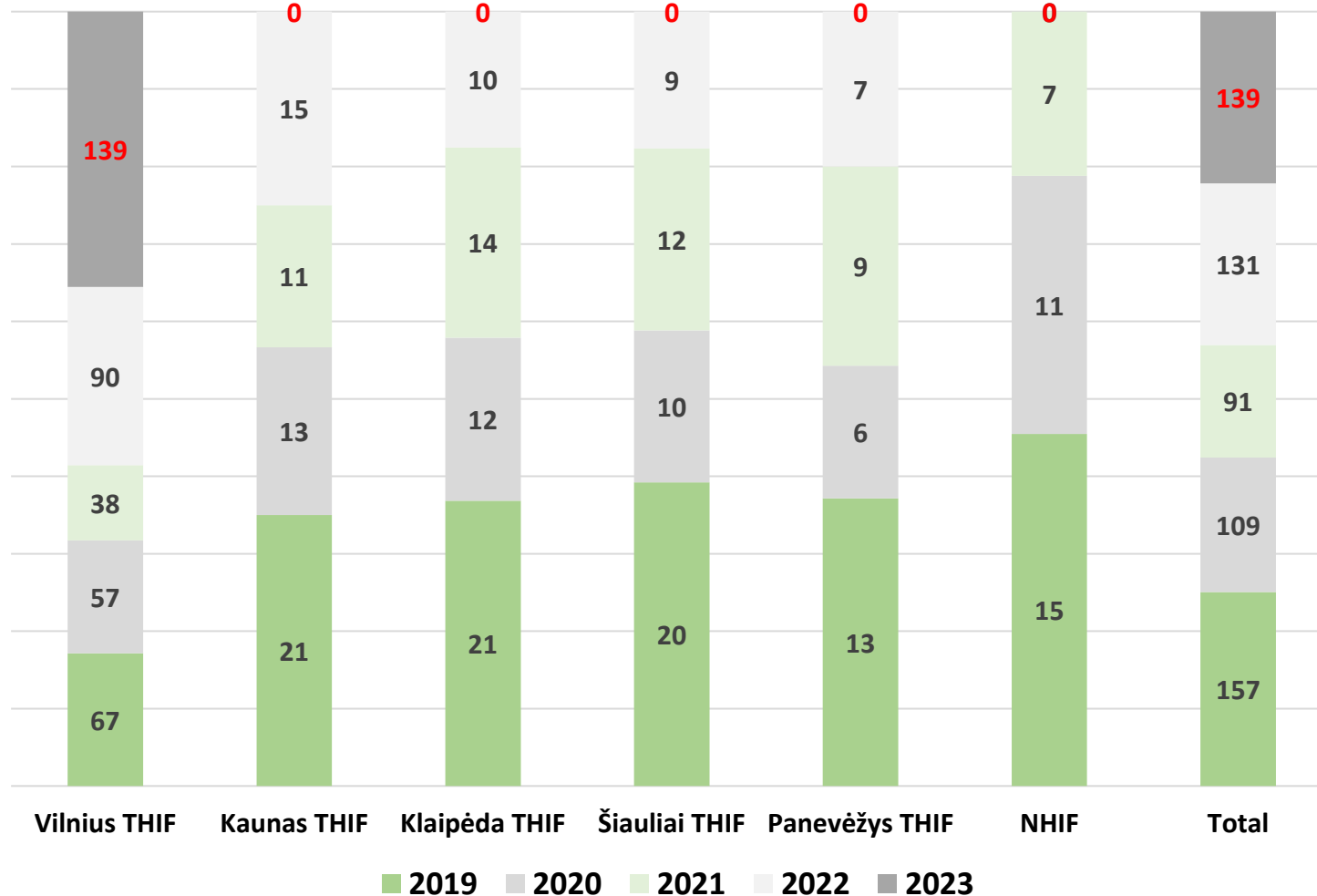
Notifying the insured about the decision **within 3 working days**

Transfer of the reimbursed amount **within 30** days from the date of the decision

List of documents to be submitted to the Commission within 1 year after provision of cross-border healthcare

1. **A written application** in the established form to reimburse the cross-border health care expenses;
2. **Personal identity document** showing it directly upon arrival at the THIF or its copy if sending documents by post or electronically;
3. **Medical documents or their copies**, including:
 - a copy of the referral if the specialized outpatient or inpatient healthcare services were provided in the state of treatment;
 - copies of documents and prescriptions confirming the prescribing and receipt of the medicines, medical aids and medical devices;
4. **Financial documents or their copies** (invoices, cash receipts, vouchers of cash income, etc.).

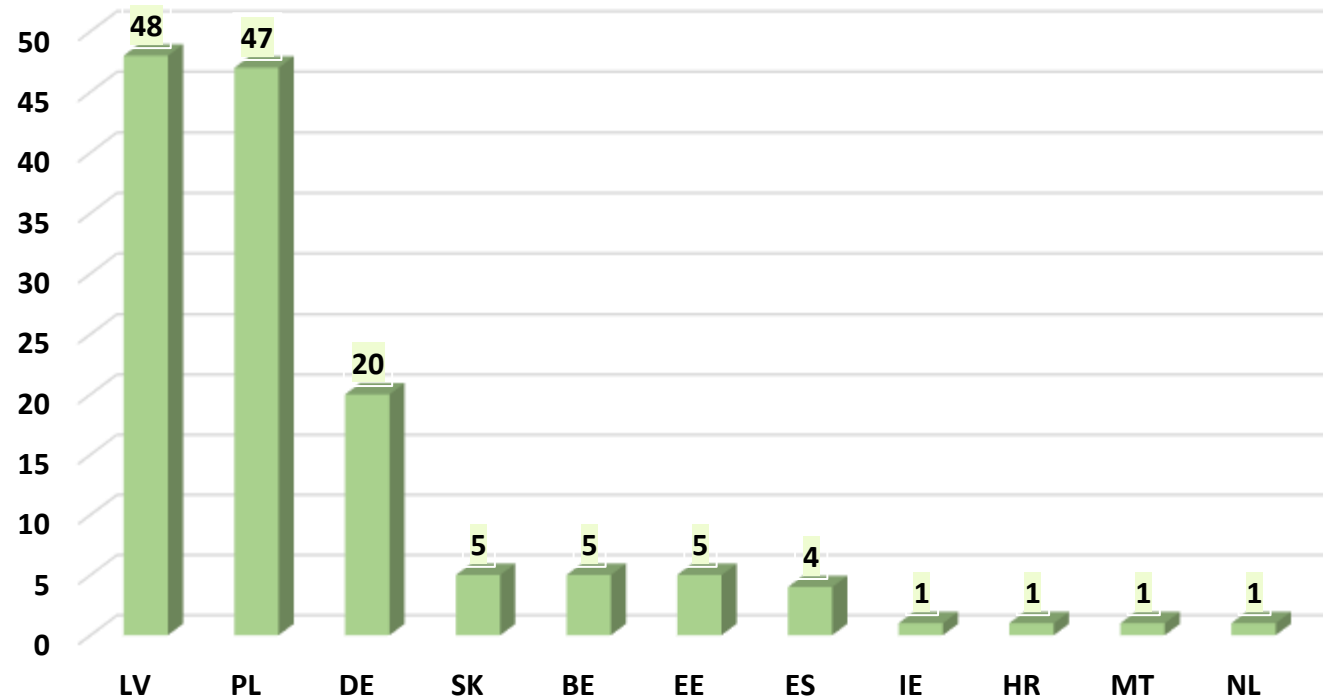
Distribution of applications among the 6 competent authorities



627 requests for reimbursement of cross-border healthcare were received in the last 5 years

Vilnius THIF is responsible for making decisions on cross-border healthcare reimbursement from 2023.

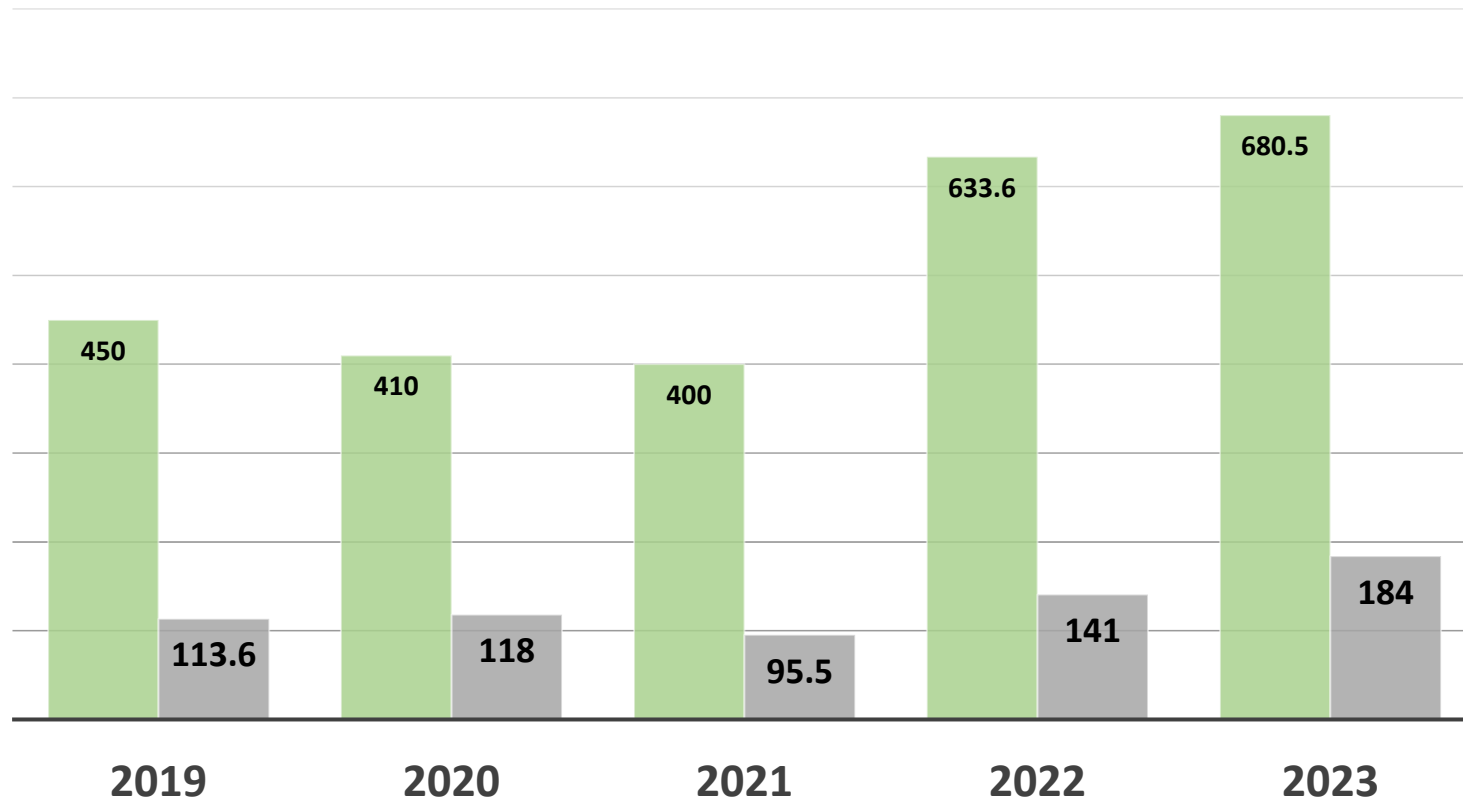
Neighbouring countries - the most popular destinations for cross-border healthcare



139 requests for reimbursement of cross-border healthcare were received in 2023

Latvia, Poland, and Germany were the top 3 countries chosen by patients

Cross-border healthcare expenditure dynamics in 2019-2023



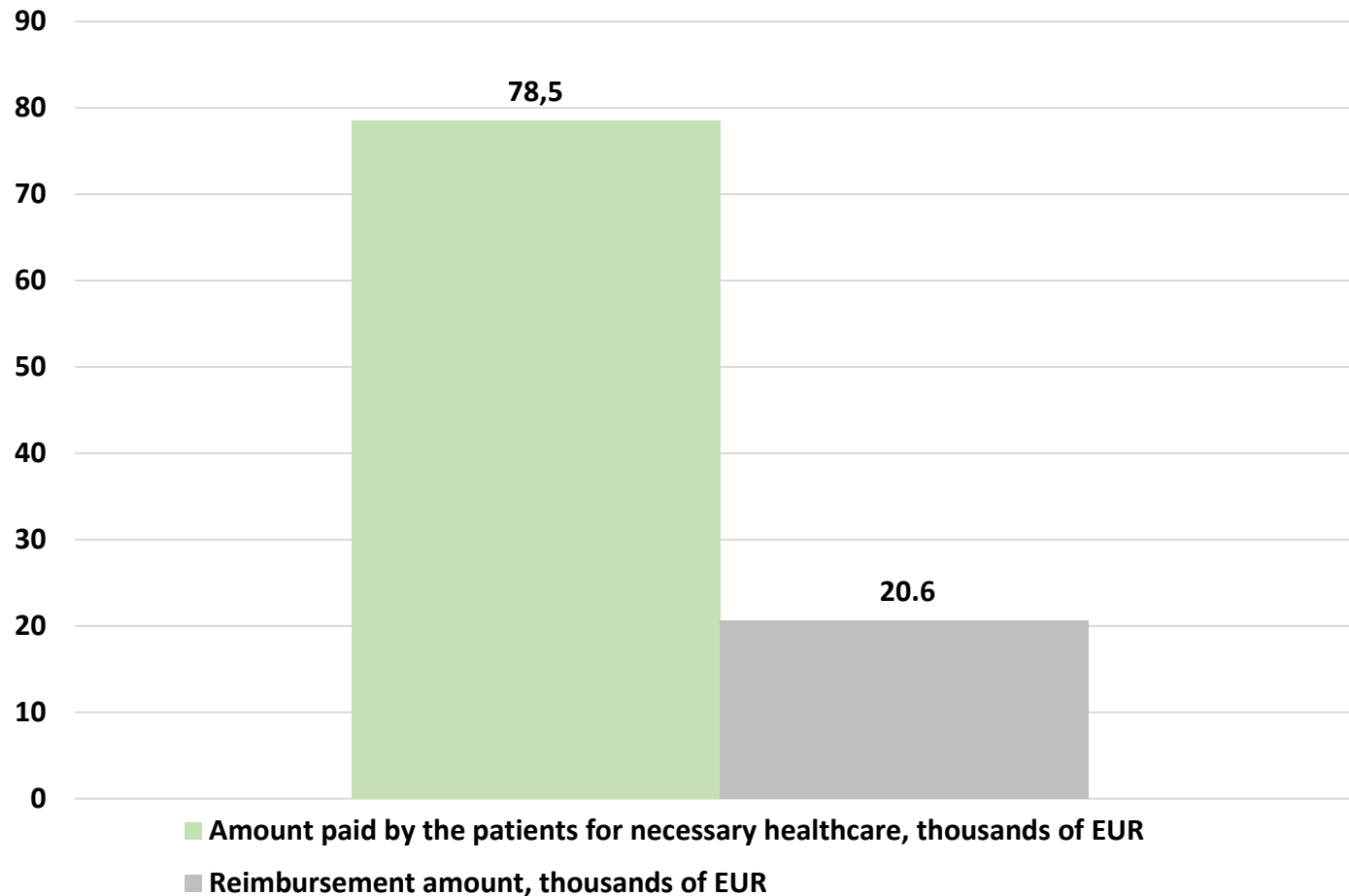
■ Amount paid by the patients for treatment received in other EU countries (thousands of EUR)

■ Reimbursed amount from CHIF budget (thousands of EUR)

Expenditure has been rising steadily, except for a dip during the Covid-19 pandemic

The amount reimbursed is **3.7 times lower** than the costs incurred by individuals for cross-border healthcare

Comparison of unplanned healthcare costs in 2023



123 requests for reimbursement of unscheduled healthcare services at the rates set by the laws of the Republic of Lithuania were received in 2023.

The amount reimbursed is **3.8 times lower** than the costs incurred by individuals for essential health services

Commission took 21 negative decisions on the reimbursement of cross-border healthcare costs in 2023

Number of cases	Country of treatment	Reason for negative decision
13	BE, EE, LV, PL, DE	The corresponding healthcare service / medicine / medical aid is not State provided in Lithuania (not reimbursed from the budget of the Compulsory health insurance fund).
4	LV	Failure to comply with the requirements set out in the procedure for the reimbursement of assisted reproduction services (e.g. only 2 cycles of assisted reproduction are reimbursed, and the person received more cycles)
2	LV, PL	The patient received specialised healthcare service without having a referral
1	PL	Not all required documents were submitted for decision making
1	CH	Cross-border healthcare services received in CH are not reimbursed

Case Study No 1. Latvia is the most popular destination for assisted fertilization services

In Lithuania 8 institutions have contracts for the provision of assisted fertilization. Only two of them are public.

Almost all cases of assisted fertilisation were carried out in Latvia (55 of 56 cases), in Poland - 1 case.

Applications to reimburse the cost of assisted reproduction services accounted:

- 13 % of all applications in 2022
- 18 % of all applications in 2023
- 11 % of all applications in 2024

The price paid for services and reimbursable amount:

- the average amount paid was EUR 6064 (the price ranged from EUR 630 to EUR 17522),
- the average compensation for 1 treatment cycle is about 1800 EUR (about 30 % of the amount spent)
- 4 cases were not reimbursed, because the services provided did not comply with the requirements set out in the procedure for the reimbursement of assisted reproduction services .

Case Study No 2. The most popular cross-border healthcare service is children's rehabilitation

Poland, Slovakia, Latvia are the main countries where rehabilitation is provided:

- 18 applications (20% of all applications) were received in 2022
- 34 applications (23 % of all requests) in 2023
- 65 applications (43% of all requests) in 2024

Rehabilitation services are usually provided for children suffering from:

- cerebral palsy and
- developmental disorders

The cost of rehabilitation and reimbursable amount

- patients pay **EUR 1 700** for services on average. Usually, the cost is shared by parents and charity funds
- the average compensation is **EUR 1 000**.

Unfortunately, when assessing the documentation for the reimbursement of these services, the reasonableness of the price is often questioned as Medical records and bills are usually inconsistent in indicating the period when services were provided.

There are legitimate questions as to whether the periods were being artificially extended to obtain higher reimbursement.

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Thank you for your attention!