

POLITICAL NEWS



Welcome to the future: [Huffington Post](#) writes about the “Rolling Homes” by a lagoon near the Baltic Sea in Lithuania. Photo: DO Architects.

TWEETS & QUOTES



Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA · Dec 11

The contribution of Lithuanian #Jews in LT cultural heritage is simply immeasurable. #Litvak #art uk.reuters.com/article/2014/1



Lithuanian_MoD @Lithuanian_MoD · Dec 7

LT Chief of Defence: #Lithuania to contribute up to 100 troops to NATO-led #ResoluteSupport mission in #Afghanistan next year



Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA · Dec 9

#KlaipedaLNG - breaks down gas supply monopoly in the region: Estonia purchases first #gas from LT, bypassing Russia. bit.ly/1qoMBSw

Contribution to Int'l Security

Up to 350 [Lithuanian soldiers and civilians, working for the national defence system, will be able to take part in international operations as part of NATO's Rapid Response Force, an EU battle group or NATO and EU military commands](#), under a resolution adopted by the Parliament 11 December. The resolution also states that Lithuania will send up to 477 representatives to international operations in 2016. The participation of up to 118 troops and civilians in international operations had been approved for this year.

Cyber Security

[The National Centre of Cyber Security will be inaugurated 1 January](#), as provided for in the amendments of the Law on Cyber Security and other related legal acts approved by the Seimas of Lithuania 11 December. The Law lays down the role of forming, coordinating and implementing policy of cyber defence for the Ministry of National Defence at national level. The activity of the Centre will focus on ensuring cyber security of information resources and critical information infrastructure of the state. The Centre will cooperate with the NATO Cyber Security Centre of Excellence in Estonia and other international organisations working in the area of cyber security.

Shale Gas Exploration

Lithuania's authorities are planning to launch a [new shale gas exploration tender](#) early next year after parliament last week approved new tax rates for unconventional hydrocarbons, Deputy Environment Minister Daiva Matonienė said 9 December. “We plan to do everything very quickly. The commission has been formed and will be approved next week. We will organize the first meeting of our commission before the holidays or immediately after the holidays”, she said.

Winter Survival Exercise

[An international winter survival exercise](#) involving roughly 90 soldiers from Canada, Lithuania, and Hungary is currently running in the King Mindaugas Hussar Battalion, city of Panevėžys and the surrounding area. Seventy-four Hungarian soldiers from the 39th Infantry Battalion of the 5th Bocskai Istvan Infantry Brigade are honing their skills of surviving complicated and adverse conditions. They are accompanied by 11 members of the King Mindaugas Hussar Battalion.

Championing Human Rights

“[Respect for human rights is integral part of Lithuania's foreign policy](#)”, said Foreign Minister Linkevičius upon receiving *Human Rights Champion Award* for 2014. Lithuanian Human Rights Monitoring Institute's Board Chairman Leonidas Donskis said the decision was due to Linkevičius' work with activists of Eastern countries. Lithuania in the United Nations Security Council and other institutions have consistently called on an effective implementation of human rights and freedoms, strengthening of peace, security, democracy, and prevention of aggression. Lithuania decided to seek membership in the main UN human rights body - the Human Rights Council for the 2022-2024 period.

Helping Ukraine

[Former EU commissioner and one-time Lithuanian finance minister](#) Algirdas Šemeta to become Ukraine's new anti-corruption boss, Reuters reported 11 December.

ECONOMY NEWS

WE SUGGEST

Lithuania at a glance

Perfectly located at the heart of Europe, with world class ICT infrastructure and a dedicated, highly qualified talent pool; if you are looking to expand, let's talk Lithuania.

ECONOMY

- Up to **15%** Low corporate taxes (Ministry of Finance, 2014)
- 3.3%** GDP growth in 2013
- 1.2%** Inflation

TALENT

- 90.40%** of Lithuanians have a secondary education (European Commission, 2013)

COSTS

- 52.44** Food (NYC=100)
- 17.13** Rent
- 60.50** Consumer price index

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

- LITHUANIAN GOVERNMENT**: €8.82 billion in EU Cohesion Policy funding for 2014-2020 has been allocated to business support. www.invt.lt
- Invest Lithuania**: Provides a consultant for foreign investors by setting up business and legal support. www.investlithuania.com
- enterprise**: Business entrepreneurship supports the development of Lithuanian companies and development of startups by providing partnerships, providing training and consulting. www.enterprise.lt
- imita**: The agency for Science, Innovation and Technology helps to establish startup companies by providing financial support for research activities. www.imita.lt
- INVEGA**: Promotes and provides financial support and guarantees for the development of small and medium-sized businesses. www.invega.lt

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Holidays in Lithuania

Lithuania.travel helps you to plan your trip in Lithuania with the winter travel season quickly approaching



Pixelmator - Apple's Pick For Best iPad App

Apple recently announced its best apps of the year, and the winner for best iPad app is *Pixelmator*, a powerful new image editor, created by two Lithuanian entrepreneurs, brothers Saulius and Aidis Dailidės. *Pixelmator* got a lot of buzz after its team was invited to demo the app onstage at Apple's big iPad event in October. "This inspires us to create even more exciting things - just wait till you see our major update of *Pixelmator* for iPad 1.1 or the new version of *Pixelmator* for Mac. Those are jaw-dropping..." Dailidė brothers said.

iPad POS Company Establishes Office in Lithuania

[Revel Systems, a rapidly growing developer of innovative iPad point of sale payment systems based in the US, is establishing a division in Lithuania.](#) Having recently attracted 100 million US dollars of investment from New York based venture capital fund *Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe* and other strategic investors, the company plans to expand its team of IT engineers and to distribute products in the EU.

IT solutions for US Healthcare

[A sponsorship agreement worth more than 100,000 euros has been signed by Kaunas University of Technology \(KTU\) and Intermedix Lietuva LLC, the Lithuanian branch of Intermedix, a US company that provides IT solutions for the US healthcare market.](#) For Petras Baršauskas, the rector of Kaunas University of Technology, this agreement forms part of a wider strategy of collaboration with businesses. "We are focused on the high quality of our study programmes, and we can achieve this through active collaboration with companies. This means that our students can get practical experience, whilst we improve study programmes in order to match business needs and can invite business people to give lectures".

SPORTS

International Children's Games

Lithuania's second-largest city Kaunas has won the right to host the *International Children's Games*, which is also known as the Olympics for children, in 2017. The right was awarded to Kaunas by the organizing committee of the *International Children's Games* at a meeting in Australia last weekend. Held since 1968, the *International Children's Games* are organized every year where 1,500-2,000 children from cities around the world and between the ages of 12 and 15 participate in a variety of sports and cultural activities. The last games were held in Athens (Greece), San Francisco (US), Reykjavik (Iceland) and Bangkok (Thailand).

On the Way to Rio

Lithuania took the sixteenth place in the command line formation at the world swimming championship in Qatar. Lithuanian golden girl, World record holder Rūta Meilutytė won two medals – gold in 50 m. breaststroke and silver at a distance of 100 m breaststroke. Lithuanian swimmers quartet 4x100-meter complex manner reached the new Lithuania's record by improving it almost 10 seconds.

UPCOMING EVENTS

23-25 Jan.	International Tourism and Active Leisure Exhibition Adventur 2015 , Vilnius.	11-12 Feb.	Convene A Live Meetings Industry Market Place for the Countries of the Baltic Sea Region , Vilnius.
5-7 Feb.	Studies 2015 : 13 th International Exhibition of Knowledge and Education, Vilnius.	19-22 Feb.	16 th International Vilnius Book Fair .

Disclaimer: Information based on The Huffington Post, Reuters, MoD, Lithuanian National Radio and Television, Invest Lithuania, The Lithuania Tribune, Delfi.

