

POLITICAL NEWS



The biggest in the world LIKE officially unveiled 7 November on the [Snow Arena](#) in Lithuanian resort Druskininkai, Tomas Valavičius photo.

TWEETS & QUOTES



Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA · Nov 3

Lithuania's Foreign Ministry strongly condemns illegitimate "elections" in Donbass goo.gl/vJG1YP #UnitedForUkraine



Algirdas Butkevicius @AButkevicius · Nov 3

10th #Lithuanian-#Belarusian economic forum begins at #Mogiliov, #Belarus. Opportunities to expand business in transport, energy, tourism



Deividas Matulionis @DMatulionis · Nov 5

Germany imported more from #Lithuania than from Saudi Arabia in 2013. Stats do include oil! twitter.com/destatis/statu

Iron Sword 2014

Multinational Exercise's [Iron Sword 2014](#) active phase began at the Gaižiūnų & General Silvestras Žukauskas Training Ranges 4 November. Exercise involves roughly 2,500 participants from 9 NATO member states: the Czech Republic, Estonia, the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary and Germany.

Gas Storage in Lithuania

Lithuania has all suitable conditions for the construction of Syderiai [underground gas storage](#) facility, as confirmed by the results of five-year studies presented at 5 November Government's meeting. According to the study, the facility could partially serve Polish market needs as well. With partial funding from the EU, the Syderiai underground natural gas storage facility could be built in 7 years. The Government also adopted a decision to grant the project of a gas link between Lithuania and Poland a priority project status. The gas link shall be built within 4 years.

Cyber Security

The Lithuanian Military Academy is preparing premises for the [National Centre of Cyber Security](#), Defence Minister Juozas Olekas says. The centre will be stationed at the Military Academy and should open in early 2015.

Rail Baltica

Stratfor analyst [Eugene Chausovsky](#) reflects on Rail Baltica project's regional context and implications. As the plans for dual-gauge tracks show, Rail Baltica is more about expanding the Baltics' trade and connections with each other and the European Union than replacing their connections with Russia.

Award for Promoting European Ideas

[President Dalia Grybauskaitė accepted the Golden Victoria award](#) (*Goldene Victoria für die Europäer des Jahres*) on behalf of Lithuania at a solemn ceremony in Berlin 6 November. The award was given to three Baltic States for promotion of European ideas, peaceful struggle for freedom, successful handling of the economic crisis, achievements in implementing European reforms, and trust in the future of Europe.

ECONOMY NEWS

Let's talk Lithuania

Facts & Figures

Population ¹	2.98 mln
Labour Pool	1.5 mln
Capital	Vilnius
Official language	Lithuanian
Dominant foreign languages	English, Russian, German, Polish
Real GDP growth ²	3.4% (2015)* 2.9% (2014)* 3.3% (2013) 3.7% (2012) 6.0% (2011)



#1 For GDP/Capita growth in EU³ **#17** For ease of doing business⁵
12th Freest economy in Europe⁴

¹ Forecast
² Source: 1. Statistics Lithuania, 2013
³ Source: 2. Ministry of Finance, September 2014
⁴ Source: 3. Eurostat, 2004-2010

Source: 4. Heritage Foundation, Economic Freedom Index, 2013.
 Source: 5. World Bank Doing Business Report, 2014

WE SUGGEST

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www.likeablelithuania.com



Vilnius TechPark

Vilnius Municipality announced the construction of Vilnius Tech Park, a [hub for startups and other businesses](#) engaged in the ICT industry. It will be located in the Sapiiega Park and housed in 19-century military hospital. Ten companies are currently on board with the project. The lead tenant is Game Insight which has relocated its headquarters from Moscow to Vilnius.

US Business in Lithuania

A group of American-Lithuanian entrepreneurs have opened two offices in Vilnius and Kaunas, saying the decision to [base their company in Lithuania](#) helps sign up new clients from the United States. [Devbridge Group](#), an IT solutions company in Chicago, stated that their decision to set up in Lithuania was based on the quality and work ethic of Lithuanian IT specialists, rather than salaries. "It was particularly advantageous that in Lithuania engineers speak English well and the work culture is high", said A. Adomavičius, president and CEO of the company.

CULTURE, SCIENCE

Funds from European Space Agency

Lithuanian business and science projects may be funded EUR 2 million under the [European Space Agency](#) (ESA) programmes for the next 2 years. Business and science representatives are invited to submit applications by 8 December in the first call for proposals dedicated to Lithuania. Based on the European Co-operating State agreement signed between the Lithuanian Government and ESA, the agency will periodically [announce calls for proposals only for Lithuanian companies and science institutions](#). It will encompass areas like astrophysics, microelectronics, robotics, materials science, mechatronics, information technology, geoinformatics, etc.

Global Lithuanian Awards

Third year in a row, Global Lithuanian Leaders (GLL) organizes Global Lithuanian Awards for the outstanding personalities and their achievements to be noticed, promoted and celebrated. Global Lithuania Awards 2013 had 41 nominees from 13 countries: Lithuania, USA, UK, Canada, Israel, Switzerland, Australia, Italy, China, Malaysia, Norway, the Czech Republic and South African Republic. Chairman of the GLL Board Dr. Vladas Lašas noted that the Awards illustrate the fact that many international successful global Lithuanians are not indifferent to their country and in many ways [contribute to the strengthening of Lithuania competitiveness in the world](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS & VISITS

20 Nov.	Baltic Energy Forum 2014. Freedom for the Market!	9-21 Nov.	International Accordion Festival VILNIUS 2014.
Until 23 Nov.	"Scanorama" - European Film Forum . Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda, Šiauliai.	Until 5 Jan.	Euro Exhibition at the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania , National Museum.

Disclaimer: Information based on BNS, Lithuanian National Radio and Television, Invest Lithuanian, Lithuania Tribune, Delfi, Irytas.lt.

