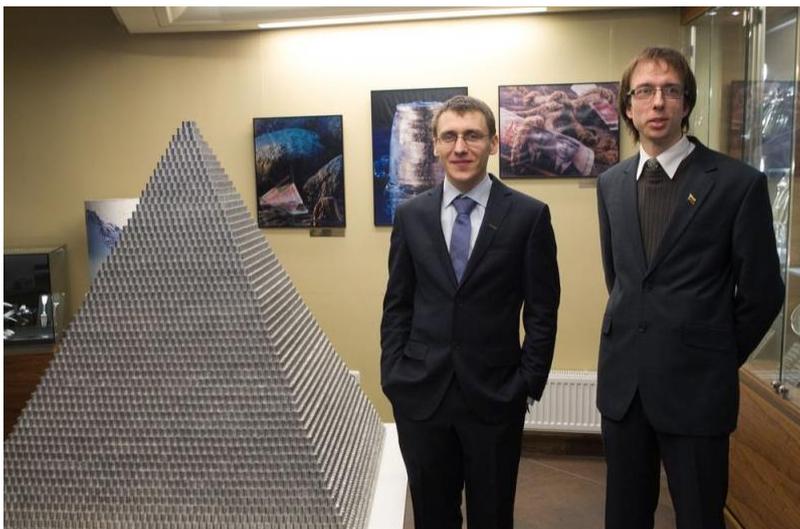


POLITICAL NEWS



[World's largest coin pyramid](#) unveiled 1 December in Money Museum, Vilnius. Volunteers spent nearly three weeks [arranging one million coins into a pyramid](#) over one metre tall. Photo: V.Skaraitis (BFL).

TWEETS & QUOTES



Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL · Dec 1

1st #NATO ForMin mtng after Wales Summit- our approach implementing decisions should be 'fast-forward', not 'rewind'. Credibility at stake.



Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA · Dec 5

#Lithuania, one of Europe's fastest-growing #economy will become 19th member of the #euro zone @TheEconomist story econ.st/123iiFy



Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA · Dec 1

#Moldovan voters reaffirming European course is welcomed. Hope import pro-European reforms continue bit.ly/1HQXdix

More e-Services

[42 more services provided by the state and municipalities were moved online](#). "From now on businessmen will be able to receive permits, licences or certificates without setting foot from their offices. The needed documents will be issued via e-mail or ordinary mail", said Minister of Communications Rimantas Sinkevičius.

National Budget

The Lithuanian parliament 4 December passed the law on national budget for 2015 - [the first "euro budget" for Lithuania](#). It envisions an increase by a third for national defence spending, an increase of the minimum monthly wage to 325 euros from July.

Contribution to Europe's Security

[Presidents of Baltic States and Poland discussed regional security measures in their meeting](#) near Tallinn on 2 December. "Our countries have a shared goal - secure and economically strong region. We will only achieve this goal by standing together in the implementation of long-term collective defense measures and strategic projects aimed at ensuring the region's energy self-sufficiency", said Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė. The leaders reviewed the implementation of decisions adopted at the NATO Summit in Wales as well as energy, information and cyber security issues. Estonia's President Toomas Hendrik Ilves thanked Lithuania for its contribution to enhancing energy security of the whole region. The Klaipėda liquefied natural gas terminal that comes into operation this year will be able if necessary to cover up to 90 percent of gas supply needs of the three Baltic States. Among the most pressing topics of the discussion was the issue of countering propaganda.

Arms Trade Treaty Ratified

[With all 86 attending MPs voting in favour, the Seimas ratified the Arms Trade Treaty](#). Once the Treaty comes into force, its State Parties will be banned from exporting conventional arms if they can be used in genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. When authorizing the export of conventional arms, the State Parties will have to consider whether the export could undermine international peace and security; whether conventional arms could be used to commit or facilitate a serious violation of international humanitarian law or human rights, acts relating to terrorism and transnational organised crime. "Most of the provisions of the Treaty are already binding in the Republic of Lithuania under the European and Lithuanian legislation", said Andrius Krivas, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs.

ECONOMY NEWS



UA Game Developer Moves to LT

The Ukrainian game development studio [Melior Games](#) is opening an office in Vilnius. Half of the *Melior Games* current team will shortly be transferred to the company's new office in Lithuania. Melior Games, established in 2010 in Kiev. So far the company has created more than 90 games. Latest project of the company is the Laser Tag system designed for outdoor games with laser guns. "[We were amazed by the positive attitude of the Lithuanian government towards game developers](#). We couldn't believe that state institutions, and *Invest Lithuania* in particular, were so dedicated to game developers and their needs. They have even created a new hashtag #lithuanialovesgamedev! for this purpose. Much to our amazement, we always received a prompt answer to all our questions or fears, even if this meant an hour-long video conversation on Skype", said Denis Oleynik, the founder of Melior Games.

WE SUGGEST

Christmas Shopping in Lithuania

One of the best Christmas markets in Europe
([The Telegraph](#))



Photo by Arnas Petraitis

CULTURE

Vilnius Jazz: Big Ideas

Jazzwise reviews Vilnius International Jazz Festival calling [Vilnius a place with big ideas](#). It was the 27th Festival, which proved that 'free jazz' had a sharp resonance for the population that once lived with KGB prisons in its midst.

Litvak Days in London

[Lithuanian Embassy in UK organised the Litvak Days in London for the fourth time](#) and invited its guests to discover the Jewish cultural heritage of Lithuania. The Litvak Days started on 30 November with a screening of the film *Ghetto*, which has received favourable reviews. On 1 December, the Lithuanian Embassy held a special conference on the Lithuanian Jewish cultural heritage.

Sundance Film Festival

[Lithuanian film has been selected to take part in next year's Sundance Film Festival](#). *The Summer of Sangailė*, directed by Lithuanian filmmaker Alantė Kavaitė, will be screened in World Cinema Dramatic Competition of one of the world's key cinema events showcasing independent US and international production. The film tells a story about Sangailė, a 17-year-old girl who dreams of becoming a stunt pilot despite her fear of heights. While spending time in her parents' lakeside villa, she meets Austė. Sangailė allows Austė to discover her most intimate secret and in the process finds in her teenage love, the only person that truly encourages her to fly.

Litvak Art in Philadelphia

The Lithuania Tribune publishes an article about two great artists and their connection to Philadelphia. "[Probably nowhere are so many paintings by Renoir and sculptures by Jacques Lipchitz on public display within less than 1 square mile but in Philadelphia](#)", writes Ludo Segers. Litvak sculptor Jacques Lipchitz was born in 1891 in Druskininkai, Lithuania. At age 17, he moved to Paris and later to USA. Philadelphia's Barnes Collection and the Philadelphia Museum of Art owns one of the largest collections of Lipchitz's work. Finally, nearby the Philadelphia City Hall, the colossal 30ft (10m) high *Government of the People* is probably one of Jacques Lipchitz's largest and most arresting sculptures, writes *The Lithuania Tribune*.

UPCOMING EVENTS

	Startup Lithuania Roadshow 2014 in San Francisco, CA.		Teodoras K. Valaitis 1934-1974 , National Gallery of Art, Vilnius.
	Christmas in the Capital , Vilnius.		Login, IT and Tech Conference in Vilnius.

Disclaimer: Information based on *BNS*, *Invest Lithuania*, *The Lithuania Tribune*, *Delfi*, *Office of the President of Lithuania*, *Seimas*, *WiseJazz*.

