



European  
Commission

# The Environmental Implementation Review

September 2022  
#EUGreenDeal  
#EIRReview

Europe has ambitious laws and policies to protect air and water, to promote the circular economy, prevent waste generation, raise recycling rates, and safeguard nature. Implementation is key to achieving environmental objectives, and meeting obligations as defined by the EU environmental legislation. In 2016, the Commission undertook to report regularly on the state of the implementation of EU environmental legislation. It launched the Environmental Implementation Review (EIR), a tool that helps Member States address systemic obstacles to environmental integration by identifying the causes behind poor implementation and by sharing good practices through peer-to-peer support. This factsheet summarises the progress achieved and the remaining challenges identified for Lithuania in the third EIR package published in September 2022.

## LITHUANIA



Lithuania has a dense network of rivers and extensive areas of agricultural land. Lithuanian legislation generally conforms well to the EU environmental legislation. Lithuania has made remarkable progress in the field of waste management over the last decade and is taking steps to shift to a circular economy which is currently highly resource and energy intensive.

## MAIN CHALLENGES



Lithuania needs to step up action on the use of **circular material** which was only 4.4% in 2020, almost three times below the EU-27 average (12.8%).



Lithuania still has to complete its **Natura 2000** designation process and to put in place clearly defined site-specific conservation objectives and measures for all the sites.



The protection of **biodiversity** in Lithuania requires more efforts and investments, since two thirds of the EU protected habitats are in unfavourable conservation status due to pressures from forestry, agriculture, and invasive alien species.



**Shifting taxation from labour to the environment** remains a challenge, as Lithuania is one of the Member States with the lowest environmental taxes in the EU relative to its national GDP.

## MAIN PROGRESS 2022



With a 45.1% **municipal waste recycling** rate in 2020, Lithuania is close to the EU 2020 50% recycling target, and is now working to meet the 2025 55% municipal recycling target.



Lithuania reduced its landfilling rate threefold in the last decade, down to 22 % in 2019 (EU average 24%). On **water quality**, Lithuania complies with the Drinking Water Directive and the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive in respect of collective collection and treatment.

### Examples of good practice from Lithuania



The future national circular economy action plan for 2023 and beyond.



As of 2023, the landfill tax will increase from EUR 15 per tonne of waste to EUR 50 per tonne.



The identification and restoration of 8.000 ha of damaged peatlands under the Recovery and Resilience Plan.

### TAIEX-EIR Peer-to-Peer events

The EIR is supported by the **TAIEX-EIR Peer-to-Peer** tool which finances peer-to-peer learning between environmental authorities in the Member States.

Lithuania participated in the following multi-country EIR workshops: 'Life cycle approach and circularity in policy and procurement planning' (27-28 May 2019), 'Ammonia reducing technology and measures' (16 November 2021), and 'Towards zero pollution for air, water and soil' (9 February 2022).



The full country report on Lithuania and the other country reports, as well as the Communication 'Environmental Implementation Review 2022: Turning the tide through environmental compliance' are available here: [ec.europa.eu/eir](https://ec.europa.eu/eir)



EU\_ENV



EUEnvironment



OurPlanet\_EU



EU Environment and Climate



EUEnvironment



Publications Office  
of the European Union

PDF ISBN 978-92-76-51592-0 doi:10.2779/067 KH-09-22-149-EN-N  
Print ISBN 978-92-76-51590-6 doi:10.2779/569620 KH-09-22-149-EN-C

© European Union, 2022. Reuse is authorised provided the source is acknowledged and the original meaning or message of the document is not distorted. The European Commission shall not be liable for any consequence stemming from the reuse. The reuse policy of European Commission documents is implemented by Commission Decision 2011/833/EU of 12 December 2011 on the reuse of Commission documents (OJ L 330, 14.12.2011, p. 39).