



together



LITHUANIA

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Twenty years ago, Lithuania officially joined the European Union, an important moment in our Union's history. Since then, Lithuania has witnessed positive changes: from economic growth to vital investments in crucial infrastructure. At the same time, Lithuania has contributed to the security, cultural and social environment of the European Union. With energy interconnectors and clean investments, sustainable mobility, Lithuania is helping Europe to push the twin transitions forward. Two decades since it joined the European Union, the Lithuanian economy now forms a strong part of the Single Market. And Lithuanian citizens play a key role in European society, inspiring with their adherence to freedom and democracy. Lithuania has made the EU stronger. And the EU has made Lithuania stronger.

Creating opportunities and growth since 2004



Since 2004, Lithuania has seen strong economic growth, with **its Gross National Income increasing by almost 8% per year** on average.



The Lithuanian economy continues converging to the average of the EU-27. In 2004, the country's Gross Domestic Product per capita stood at 50% of the EU-27, while it increased to 89% in 2022.



As part of the Single Market, Lithuania has benefitted from the free movement of goods across the European Union. Today, the EU is the first destination of Lithuania's exports of goods, **taking over 60%. The values of these has increased from €4.6 billion in 2004 to almost €24 billion** in 2023.



Since 2015, Lithuania has used the euro as its currency, taking full advantage of the benefits of the EU's single currency.



In the two decades since Lithuania joined the EU, **the Lithuanian employment rate has increased from 69% in 2004 to 79% in 2022.**



With the support of EU funds, **the percentage of Lithuanian households with internet access** has increased over the past twenty years, going from 12% in 2004 to 89% in 2023.

Supporting Lithuania's economy and society

Over the past twenty years, the EU's cohesion policy has strengthened the economic, social and territorial cohesion of EU Member States. **More than €15 billion in Cohesion Policy funding** has been invested in Lithuania, benefitting citizens living in the country.



Driven by the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), Lithuania has experienced significant progress in agriculture and rural development. **An investment of €10.6 billion in CAP funding** has been directed towards the country, nurturing sustainable growth and prosperity in rural regions.

With the support of up to **€2.3 billion in grants**, and up to **€1.5 billion in loans from the EU's NextGenerationEU**, Europe is helping Lithuania transform its economy and society, by investing in:



Climate
37%



Digital
23%



Social
21%

Investing in local infrastructure

Over the past 20 years, Lithuania has benefitted from access to EU funds and infrastructure investments. With the assistance of EU Cohesion Policy funding, Lithuania has been able to build more than 3 000 kilometres of bicycle paths across cities and regions throughout the country. In addition to more cycleways, Lithuania has also gained better sports infrastructure, including multifunctional sports centres, swimming pools, playgrounds, skateparks and other recreational spaces.



Supporting European medical research

Since 2004, Lithuania has contributed to important European research in the medical field. As part of Lithuania's NextGenerationEU recovery plan, the Baltic State is supporting EU-wide research on genomic and clinical data. The study has the potential to support the development of more targeted personalised medicines, therapies and interventions. It could also enable better diagnostics, boost prevention and make more efficient use of scarce resources. With its scientific expertise and knowledge, Lithuania will contribute to this important EU-wide project, completing 1 570 genome sequencing tests and analysing genomic data.

Boosting renewable energies

In the 20 years since Lithuania joined the EU, the country has benefitted from more investments in renewable energy. EU cohesion support has recently led to the financing of over 5 600 solar panel installations in households across Lithuania. With around 45 megawatts in installed capacity, Lithuanian residents will help Europe save around 27 000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions every year. EU funds have also helped with the development of remote solar parks across Lithuania.



Standing in solidarity

Over the past 20 years, Lithuania has offered critical assistance as part of the EU's emergency response efforts across the world. Since Russia launched its war of aggression against Ukraine, Lithuania has supported the EU's response by providing aid, including generators, transformers and other emergency relief items. For the past two years, Lithuania has also provided military aid to Ukraine. Since the beginning of the war, Lithuania and its people have provided refuge to tens of thousands of Ukrainians.

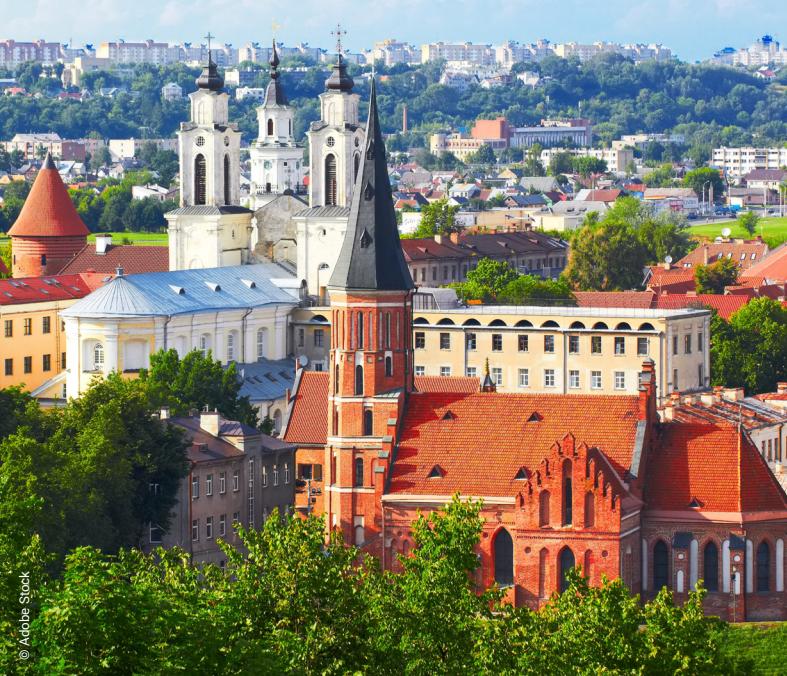
Supporting European energy independence

Lithuania has already staked its claim as a pioneer of energy independence, becoming one of the first Member States in the entire EU to move completely away from Russian gas and oil. Thanks to financial support from the Connecting Europe Facility, as well as other EU instruments, Lithuania is now better integrated into the EU internal energy market and has access to gas supplies from all over the world. The GIPL - Gas Interconnector between Poland and Lithuania is among the many initiatives which have helped secure diversified gas supplies in Europe. The last mile will be the synchronization of the Baltic States' power grids with the Continental European Network.



Creating study opportunities

In the two decades since Lithuania joined the EU, young Lithuanian citizens have gained more opportunities to study abroad. Since 2004, almost 65 000 higher education students from Lithuania have participated in the Erasmus+ programme. Through Erasmus+, almost 31 000 EU citizens have also enjoyed the opportunity to attend universities in Lithuania.



Enjoying Lithuania's quality food

Today, EU citizens have easier access to high-quality products and goods from Lithuania, including **rye bread from Daujėnai**, which holds an important place in Lithuanian tradition. EU membership gives European consumers access to authentic, high-quality and distinctive products from Europe.

