

# Lithuania

## Co-create

# Curriculum Vitae of Lithuania

Swift and agile, the Northern European country of Lithuania, right by the Baltic Sea, is lots of things, many of them unexpected. You're holding a short CV of modern Lithuania – we hope it gives you a taste of what makes us special.

**Member of:** EU, NATO, OECD, Eurozone  
**Population:** 2.8 million  
**Capital:** Vilnius  
**Official language:** Lithuanian  
**Population density:** 42.8 people/km<sup>2</sup>  
**Lakes you can take a swim in:** 3000+  
**Forest coverage:** 34%

**An innovative capital.** Smart city solutions, vast green spaces, and a young, digitally skilled population define the Lithuanian capital Vilnius. Ranked among the TOP 25 Global Cities of the Future by the Financial Times in 2021, Vilnius is a bustling hub of business, culture, and innovation. And despite turning 700 years old in 2023, the city retains its youthful and creative spirit.

**Start-ups with a global reach.** When it comes to creating solutions that connect people and communities across the planet, Lithuania is at the vanguard of entrepreneurship. Services developed by Nord Security facilitate greater security and freedom of expression online for millions globally, while Vinted is one of Europe's premier platforms for sustainable fashion.

**Love for freedom that drives us forward.** Lithuania was the first country to declare independence from the Soviet Union, paving the way for other nations to break free. Rather than fight with guns, Lithuanians took the peaceful route, and one might even say they won their freedom by singing. The turning point in the peaceful protests held by Lithuanians was the Baltic Way – a human chain of 2 million people that stretched from Vilnius to Tallinn on 23 August 1989.

**Solutions changing the world.** Blending innovation and entrepreneurial spirit, Lithuania has created a bustling hub for fintech, cybersecurity, life sciences and other future-proof fields. The country's best minds are also pushing the envelope in photonics and biotechnology, with Lithuanian scientists pioneering applications of gene-editing technologies and producing lasers used by the likes of NASA, CERN, IBM, and Toyota.

**Diversity in action.** Lithuania ranks 2nd among the OECD countries with 49% of women in science, technology, and innovation. Women here play an active role not only in science and tech, but in politics too – the Parliament Speaker, Prime Minister, and 6 out of 14 cabinet ministers are women.



Andrius Aleksandravičius

**A truly digital civil and business society.** With 95% of public sector services digitised so far, and a massive 80% of citizens and 97% of businesses already using e-government services, there's no denying that Lithuania is fast on its way to becoming a fully digital society. Particularly noteworthy is the online tax registration and payment system i.MAS, which allows users to submit and pay tax returns with just a few clicks.

**Freedom to create.** Lithuania has a long history of pushing boundaries on the global art stage. Among the country's most famous filmmakers is Jonas Mekas, the grandfather of experimental cinema. The new generation, meanwhile, has taken over the prestigious Venice Biennale. Sun & Sea, an opera-performance on the climate crisis, has won the Golden Lion for Lithuania in 2019, while drama Pilgrims triumphed in the Horizons programme at the Venice Film Festival in 2021.

**A true work-life balance.** Both employers and employees in Lithuania value leisure time. With at least 20 paid vacation days, a fixed number of working hours, and a generous parental leave policy, Lithuanians enjoy a truly balanced schedule. Moreover, 15 annual public holidays put Lithuania on top of the chart of the European countries with the most public holidays.

**Open data to drive innovation.** Lithuania's public institutions have truly embraced open data principles. By making data sets for traffic, public transport, satellite imagery, and public procurement freely available, they have been helping cutting-edge companies to form, grow and prosper. Just look at Trafi, a mobility-as-a-service platform that was piloted in Vilnius and is now available on four continents.

**A filmmaking hotspot.**

Lithuania's chameleonic ability to substitute for a number of locations and historical periods has made it a strong draw for filmmakers. The country has recently stood in for Victorian Britain and 1960s Sweden; it was also among the main shooting sites for HBO's award-winning Chernobyl and Netflix's global hit Stranger Things. But the real stars behind the growth in the local film industry are the skilled production talents and the diverse filming locations on offer.

**Nature everywhere.**

In Lithuania, nature is crystal clear lakes, pristine beaches, lush forests, and gentle meadows. And mother nature is never more than 30 minutes from your door. Jump in one of the many lakes for a refreshing and restorative swim, wander through deep gladed forests in search of mushrooms, or hop in your car for a short trip to the country's unspoilt beaches.