

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Lithuania is a unitary republic with a single-tier of local self-government composed of 60 municipalities (*savivaldybės*).¹



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).²

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The **National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) 2003-2020** was updated in 2009 with an aim to harmonize this Strategy with the EU Sustainable Development Strategy. Taking into account that the SDGs must be implemented by 2030, and those provided for in the NSSD by 2020, it is planned to update Lithuania's **Progress Strategy 'Lithuania 2030'**. It would lay down development goals for Lithuania until 2030 and a vision until 2050.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Lithuania has established a **National Commission for Sustainable Development (NCS)** which is headed by the Prime Minister and includes the ministers and representatives of non-government organizations, business associations and research institutions. Coordination of NSSD implementation is overseen by the **Ministry of Environment** and an **inter-institutional working group** on sustainable development.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Government Office** and the **Ministry of Environment** were appointed as the coordinating authorities of the 2018 VNR preparation. The latter established a **group of experts** for drawing up the report, which involves specialists of various ministries and representatives of non-government organizations and municipalities in its work.

1.3 MONITORING

The main functions of the **NCS** are to analyze and assess reviews on the implementation of the NSSD.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Municipalities were involved in the work of the group of experts responsible for drafting the 2018 VNR through the **Association of Local Authorities of Lithuania (ALAL)**. Also, a representative of ALAL attends the **NCS** meetings.³

As stressed by the 2018 VNR, Lithuania devotes much attention to the sustainable development of cities and communities. The new general plan of the territory of Lithuania, to be developed in 2018, was supposed to integrate the SDGs. This plan would then become the key instrument for ensuring inclusive and sustainable urban development, reducing the socio-economic exclusion of cities and the negative impact of built-up territories on the environment, and securing the protection of natural and cultural heritage.

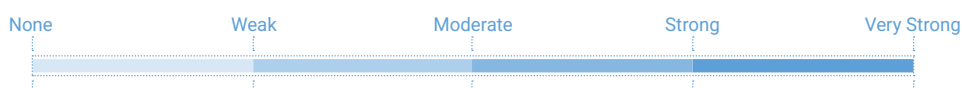
1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19673VNR_Lithuania_EN_updated.pdf (2018)

3. Answer of the Association of Local Authorities of Lithuania (ALAL) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



2018

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



2018

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There are a few references to municipalities in the 2018 VNR, without examples of locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► In 2015, Lithuania approved the national Guidelines for Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning which recommend that cities with the population of more than 25,000 or the status of a resort prepare and implement **Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs)**. Eighteen municipalities of Lithuania have met this condition. At the end of 2017 nine municipal administrations of Lithuania had their SUMPs prepared, and the remaining nine municipalities were to have their SUMPs ready in 2018.

2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

With a view to enhancing women's leadership and participation in decision-making, leadership events and training are organized and support is provided to the activities of clubs of women politicians. The proportion of seats held by women in local authorities was 24.1% in 2015 and 21.3% in 2016.

3.2 COVID 19

The local government association **ALAL** and local authorities have been and still are consulted, and prepared some proposals for the national government.⁴

4. Answer of the Association of Local Authorities of Lithuania (ALAL) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		20.4 (2019)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	99 (2020)
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	98 (2020)
	Rural	86 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		-
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		-
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		10.7 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2020)

⁵ The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/UNSDG/IndDatabasePage>. More information on the country's progress towards the SDGs here: <https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/ltu>