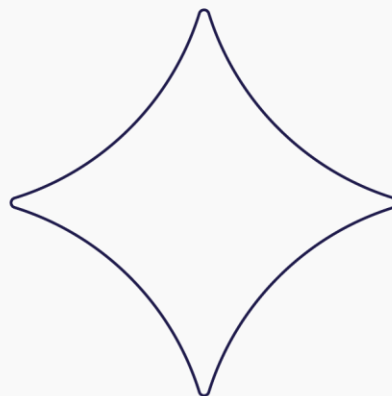




**Lietuva  
2050**



# **Lithuania's vision for the future**

## **‘Lithuania 2050’**

Guiding light Lithuania: the country where I want to live and create. The country I want to protect.

2023



LIETUVOS  
RESPUBLIKOS  
VYRIAUSYBĖ



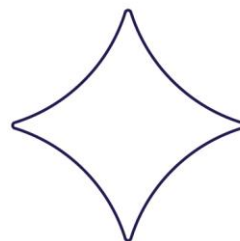
LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS  
SEIMAS



Strata

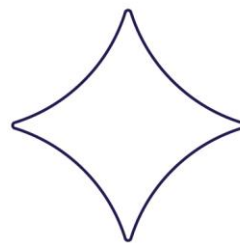


Vilniaus  
universitetas



## CONTENTS

Introduction	2
Navigating the path to 2050	3
Global developments and challenges for Lithuania	3
Envisioning the future of the state	9
Placing culture at the heart of the vision	11
Founding principles	12
Strategic ambitions and steps towards future	13
Putting the vision into action	30
Visionaries behind the concept	31

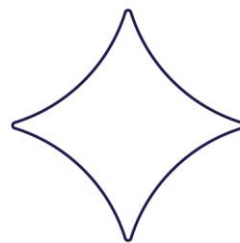


## INTRODUCTION

As one of the primary strategic planning documents of the state, Lithuania's vision for the future '**Lithuania 2050**' is intended to reflect on and outline the development of our country and to show what we expect from the future and what kind of future we want to build for ourselves. Today's world is full of challenges – but also of opportunities. Setting sights on the open future, 'Lithuania 2050' calls us to become architects of our own destiny – to dream, to strategize, and to embrace the emerging possibilities.

Towards the end of the previous century, Lithuania determined a clear trajectory for its development: we wanted to reintegrate into the community of Western nations and to foster democratic values and institutions, which eventually led us to the European Union and NATO. This endeavour served as the catalyst for Lithuania's remarkable progress and its present-day prosperity. As we reflect on the path connecting our past and the present, the constantly evolving context of the future makes it necessary to consider where we may go next. What does progress mean for us as a nation and a society? What ideas may bind us together as we march towards the future? How will we harness rapid technological advancements, address the immense challenge of climate change, navigate the tectonic demographic shifts, and adapt to ongoing geopolitical transformations? It is imperative that we wholeheartedly address these questions and respond immediately to the global changes that are already shaping our future.

It is crucial to remember that times of transformation present us with fresh possibilities, ignite our creative faculties, and impart the importance of coming together. By 2050, we will have journeyed through nearly eight centuries of Lithuanian statehood, marking a significant milestone in our nation's history. The commemoration of King Mindaugas' coronation serves as a significant reminder of how Lithuania's journey towards independence began in medieval Europe, a legacy we proudly uphold to this day. Our path since then has been marked with enormous historical challenges – and we surmounted each obstacle in our path by joining forces and standing united, surprising and inspiring the world time and again. Will we be able to pursue our future achievements with the same unity and determination? How can we continue as a guiding light for ourselves and others?



## NAVIGATING THE PATH TO 2050:

### GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS AND CHALLENGES FACING LITHUANIA

While the future is inherently open, many of the key opportunities and challenges Lithuania and the world will face in 2050 will trace back to the developments taking place today. To effectively prepare for a seamless transition towards 2050, Lithuania must consider the following key trends shaping its institutions, society, and the external environment.

#### GROWING DEMOGRAPHIC IMBALANCES

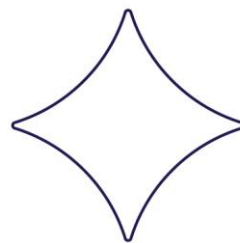
**Divergent patterns in world population growth.** The world population is projected to grow from 8 billion to 9.8 billion by 2050. Two thirds of this growth will take place on the African continent, while China's population will begin to rapidly decline.

**Shrinking population in Lithuania.** Like other countries in the Central and Eastern Europe region, Lithuania is likely to experience a significant population decline. By 2050, it is projected that Lithuania's population will decrease to approximately 2.20 million.

**Adapting to an ageing society.** As society ages, it becomes increasingly important to focus on the social participation, employment, and lifelong learning opportunities for the elderly population. The growing share of the elderly will create new demands – but also open new opportunities – for changes in both the public and the private sector.

**Challenges for the state.** The twin trends of a declining and ageing society will call for innovative solutions to improve Lithuania's governance, welfare, and healthcare systems.

**New approach to emigration.** The evolving emigration rates as well as refugee and immigrant flows will call for a development of long-term and sustainable migration policies.



## CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE CRISIS OF THE PLANET'S ECOSYSTEMS

**Rising temperatures.** Global average temperatures in 2050 are projected to be around 2-2.5°C warmer than in the mid-19th century.

**Extreme weather and nature degradation.** The world will see more and more extreme natural events every year, causing significant economic and social damage. Accelerating biodiversity loss will put an increasing number of species at the threat of extinction and harm human activities.

**Economic slowdown.** The climate and ecological crises are expected to result in slower global economic growth, increased inequality, decreased food security, and a rise in involuntary migration.

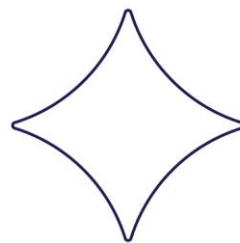
**Sectoral impacts in Lithuania.** Climate change and environmental pollution could adversely affect Lithuania's internal water and soil quality, disrupt coastal ecosystems, thereby reducing the quality of food grown in the country and harming the agriculture sector. At the same time, a warmer climate and an earlier spring may prolong the growing season and open tourism opportunities by increasing the country's recreational potential.

**Humanitarian crises and climate migration.** Extreme natural events, challenges to natural ecosystems, food and water scarcity can lead to widespread humanitarian crises and regional conflicts, especially in the Global South. By 2050, more than 3% of the world's population may be forced to leave their homes due to climate change.

**The importance of the Green Deal.** Concerns about the planetary crisis are pushing Western countries to pursue an economic green transition and strive for climate neutrality by 2050. This will entail a broad transformation of our energy, industry, transport, construction, waste management, agriculture, and forestry sectors, as well as a deeper shift away from consumerist values to fostering environmental awareness and responsibility.

## RAPID TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT

**The reordering of our way of life.** The accelerating development of disruptive technologies such as artificial intelligence or quantum computing will change how we build



and maintain relationships, work and conduct business, organize governance systems, and understand personal and national security. The simultaneous changes at all levels of human activity will fundamentally alter how we live and what we think about a good life.

**A changing nature of power.** In the future, increasingly more political and economic influence will be concentrated in the hands of those who create and control the key disruptive technologies. Developing a robust science, technology, and innovation ecosystem will therefore be vital to Lithuania's position in the global system and our security.

**Educational breakthroughs and challenges.** Technological change will engender new ways and methods of learning and conducting science. At the same time, it will create demand for new skills and abilities and may exacerbate educational inequality.

**New horizons in medicine.** Technological advancements will create opportunities for personalized treatments and medicines for complex medical conditions.

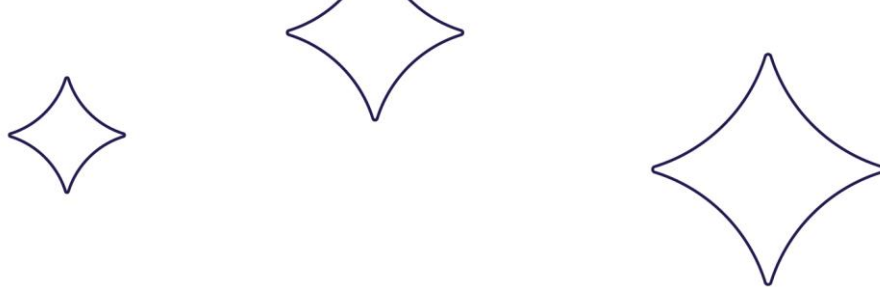
**Reimagining culture and the creative sectors.** Digitalization may open up new avenues for the humanities, creative industries, and arts, while making them more accessible. At the same time, we will have to negotiate the relationship between human creators and artificial intelligence.

**Economic development and disruption.** Automation and digitalisation have the potential to significantly enhance business productivity and open new market opportunities. However, automation will also likely disrupt the labour markets, creating new challenges for employees, employers, and governments alike.

**New possibilities in governance.** Technology will enhance the user-friendliness of public services and enable faster and more effective decision-making. Yet the rise of big data and algorithm governance will pose questions about privacy, data security, and the role of the state.

## GEOPOLITICAL SHIFTS

**Shifting power relations.** The global West will constitute a progressively smaller portion of the world economy and population as the centre of gravity of international politics



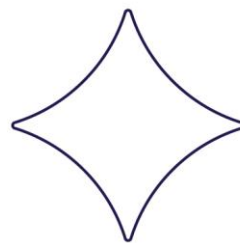
will gradually shift to the East and South. As some of the emerging powers are already challenging the established norms and rules of international cooperation, the global power transition presents a significant challenge for Lithuania.

**Reinvigorating the Euro-Atlantic community.** The ambition to become an active member of the Western political community has shaped Lithuania's foreign and security policy since independence. As the relative power of the West declines, it will be even more important for Lithuania to work together with its allies in Europe and North America in effort to maintain an international system grounded in the principles of law, cooperation, and democracy.

**Renegotiating transatlantic security.** Common competitors and threats, as well as close existing economic, scientific, cultural, and institutional ties between the US and the European Union will continue to support transatlantic unity. However, as the US strategic and foreign policy priorities continue to shift towards the Indo-Pacific, American military presence in Europe will likely be reduced, challenging Europe to significantly strengthen its defence capabilities and common decision-making structures.

**Managing the Russian threat.** Russia's war in Ukraine has severely disrupted Europe's security architecture and the broader Russian confrontation with the West constitutes the most direct and urgent threat to the transatlantic security. Given Russia's uncertain future trajectory and aggressive posturing, Russia will remain a long-term challenge to regional stability and the security of the Baltic region and Europe as a whole.

**Designing the future global security architecture.** The opportunities and challenges presented by artificial intelligence, breakthroughs in life sciences, and space technologies, as well as the complex impact of climate change, will require new arrangements to uphold global security. Faced with the emerging security landscape, Lithuania will have to both collaborate extensively with its partners on the global stage and to invest more in enhancing its own national resilience.



## DECLINE OF DEMOCRACY

**Disillusionment with democracy.** Since 2001, the number of countries considered to be democracies has been in decline, with more than half of the world's population now living under autocratic rule. At the same time, citizens, especially young people, are increasingly disillusioned with the functioning and effectiveness of democracy even in consolidated democracies.

**Democracy in Lithuania.** Half of the Lithuanian population have a positive view of the functioning of democracy, with the youth reporting the highest satisfaction rates. However, the lack of trust in public authorities and the perceived unresponsiveness to the needs of society by democratic institutions means that a significant share of the population have a negative outlook on democracy, suggesting challenges ahead.

**Erosion of the societal pillars of democracy.** The risk of decline in democracy is highest in those states where the societal pillars for democracy – civil society, strong and accountable political parties, and organized interest groups – are weak, even if the formal democratic institutions are in place. Rapid societal, technological and economic changes threaten these institutions in many countries, including Lithuania, and thus pose a risk to the continuing functioning of democracy.

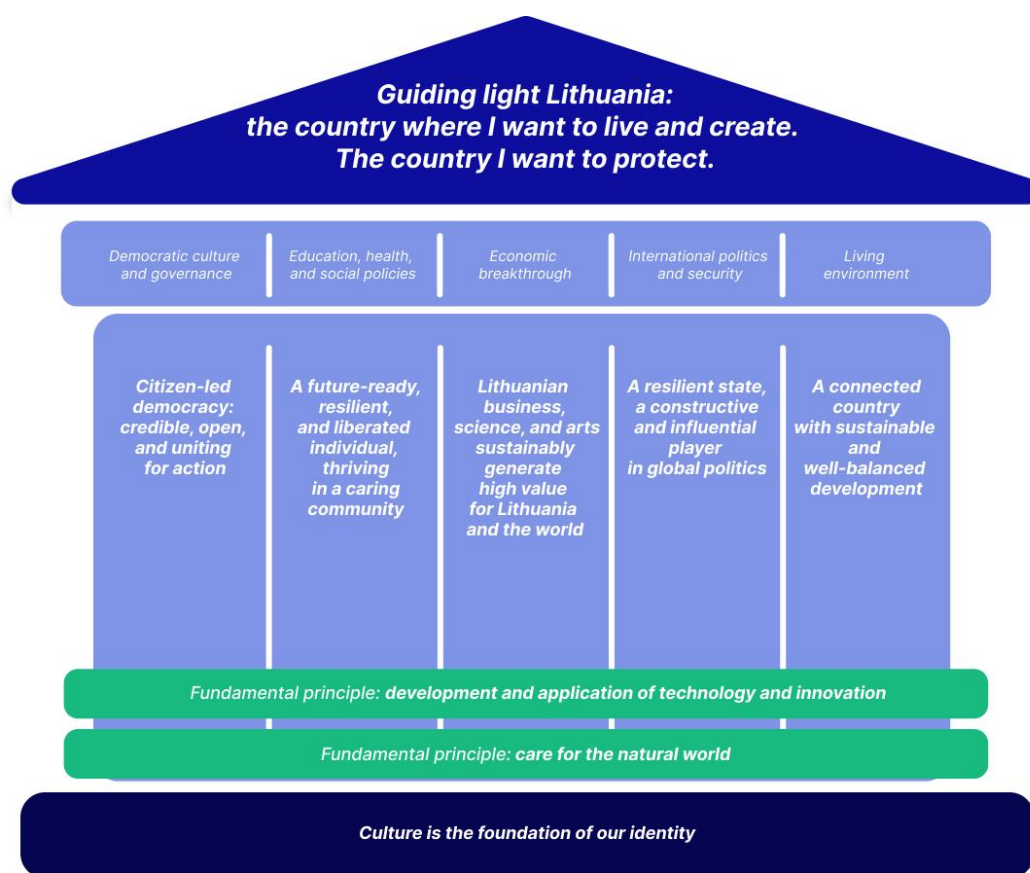
**Challenges to traditional media.** Conventional media is losing its weight as the influence of digital media platforms is growing, which may enable the rapid dissemination of unverified, misleading, or polarising content. Faced with information overload, many people find it difficult to distinguish facts from fiction.

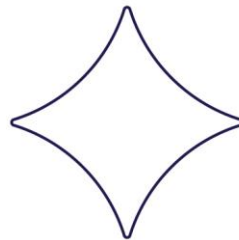
**Growing need for security and stability.** In the face of multiple simultaneous crises and increasing uncertainty about the future, citizens may feel compelled to demand that the government does more to ensure security and stability – even at the cost of greater restriction of individual freedoms or interventions in social and economic life. The securitisation of ever more facets of society may also threaten vibrant democracy.

**Diversifying inequalities.** Geographical, economic, gender-based, educational, labour market, and health inequalities in society will persist and are likely to grow. With the changing patterns of globalisation and economic development, income and wealth

inequalities may become more pronounced both within and among nations, causing further strain on democracy worldwide.

Adapting to global changes will be a crucial element of Lithuania's future success. The trends outlined above will shape the country's social, economic, and political life, its need for security and its cultural identity. To ensure a prompt and effective response to the emergent transformations and the opportunities they bear, it is crucial for us to engage in strategic and effective cooperation, both domestically and with our international partners. Lithuania's stable consensus on the key principles of our strategic orientation – such as our sovereignty, democratic values, and the Euro-Atlantic integration – and our ability for societal mobilisation in the face of crises provide compelling evidence that we are up to the task. As we venture into the future and navigate the emergent global landscape, we must therefore cultivate a long-term vision of our development that can inspire and sustain the collective effort to craft a future Lithuania.





## ENVISIONING THE FUTURE OF THE STATE

### GUIDING LIGHT LITHUANIA: THE COUNTRY WHERE I WANT TO LIVE AND CREATE. THE COUNTRY I WANT TO PROTECT.

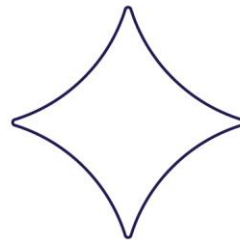
Lithuania of the future is a guiding light for the world and for everyone who lives and comes here. We are trailblazers who have the ability to inspire and astonish others with ground-breaking ideas and daring action. We draw strength from our rich historical memory, feel a sense of purpose in building communities, and cherish the environment.

Lithuania is already a mature member of the Western democratic community, home to many educated and creative people, and a nation aware of the vital function and the strategic importance of culture. As we progress towards our vision for 2050, we should root our efforts in our people, culture, and values. Building on these strengths and with unwavering focus and an open mindset, we can overcome any challenges the future holds and seize the amazing opportunities the future offers.

**Lithuania, above and before all else, is defined by its people** – those present here today, those already departed, those yet to come, and those all over the world. The sentiments of these individuals towards their homeland will shape the future progress of our nation. Our aim should be to guarantee an environment where the ability to create and live in Lithuania becomes a source of inner joy, where being part of Lithuania becomes a conscious and gratifying choice.

Central to this endeavour are the values of **community spirit, preservation of identity, freedom, equality, human dignity, and justice**. Driven by these ideals,

- **We uphold and foster mutual trust, care, and responsibility for both individuals and the state.** Openness and inclusivity define our communities. We aspire to be with citizens who share a deep commitment to our country, our community, and our shared values – and we seek to be such fellow citizens to others. We want to build and protect the Lithuania of 2050 together.

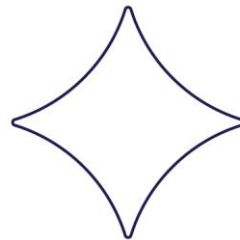


- **We value comprehensive education.** We recognise that the path to a good and fulfilling future rests on the foundation of lifelong learning. Community, family, and the state all play their role in providing the necessary conditions for and the motivation to foster a sense of responsibility for continuous learning. In Lithuania of 2050, we are free to choose our own life paths and we are committed to cultivating this freedom.

- **We care for our identity.** One of the most important elements of Lithuanian identity – alongside our multiculturalism, language, common heritage, and history – is the connection with nature. We want to reconnect with our natural surroundings and safeguard the Lithuanian wilderness for future generations. Lithuania of 2050 strikes a balance between the latest technologies and the preservation of its natural ecosystems.

**Having fully implemented its vision, Lithuania of 2050 stands as a resilient and prosperous nation.** Our people value multiculturalism, exhibit strong public spirit, and trust and enjoy a good and meaningful life. We foster democracy and open dialogue between people and government, building a country that works for everyone. We facilitate the growth of free, resilient, and creative individuals and have become a thriving hub of innovation. We are courageous and influential on the world stage, acting to transform global challenges into opportunities.

To turn this vision into a future reality, we need to discover and nourish the inner strength to listen to one another, to recognize our shared political ideals, to reach and uphold agreements. Throughout our history, we have demonstrated these qualities, exhibiting strength, resilience, and unity to overcome adversities and working collectively toward common objectives. Creating our future – creating Lithuania 2050 – calls us to act on these virtues once again.



## PLACING CULTURE AT THE HEART OF THE VISION

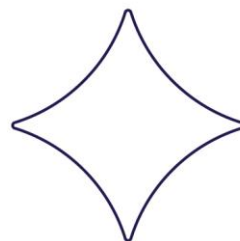
Our heritage, national memory, arts, and everyday cultural practices enable us to perceive the past, the present, and the future of our nation and society as an integral part of our identity. Culture has played and continues to play a pivotal role in helping our nation endure and thrive by stimulating our collective imagination, facilitating innovative solutions, and shaping shared values and traditions. As an inclusive society, Lithuania's everyday culture is grounded in trust, respect for diversity, the search for agreement, and the acceptance of one another. Lithuania is also a multicultural country.

**Culture is** the proof of country's independence and the basis for its survival and prosperity. Culture traces the roots of our identity, it is the deep source of our historical memory and the engine of ideas that will mobilize us to create our future. Culture fosters unity and promotes openness.

**Culture is** much more than art: it is language, history, values, knowledge, and technology. Herein lies the key to solving challenges and opening up new opportunities: culture unlocks our creative potential and guides us towards a new quality of life.

**Culture is** the foundation for strong communities and national resilience. By nurturing culture in our daily lives and exploring appealing and contemporary forms of cultural knowledge, we can both better appreciate our uniqueness as a society and a country as well as stir curiosity to explore the world around us to find new sources of inspiration.

Ensuring that culture thrives is a prerequisite for fulfilling the vision of Lithuania 2050.

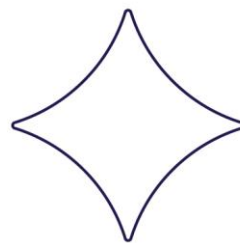


## FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

To establish the outline of Lithuania's future, the vision presents five strategic ambitions for our development until 2050. These ambitions, which reflect issue-specific goals, are rooted in two foundational principles that are relevant across all areas of state policy. Upholding these principles and incorporating them into every action in fulfilment of the Lithuania 2050 vision is a vital condition for real and sustainable progress.

**Care for the natural world.** It underscores our commitment to promoting a sustainable and harmonious relationship between humans and nature, for the benefit of future generations. This principle includes working towards climate neutrality, developing resilience to the consequences of climate change, and the restoration and protection of biodiversity. The principle also reflects the European Green Deal agenda proposed by the European Commission and the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations that cut across all areas of government and require intensive inter-agency cooperation. Achieving the fulfilment of this principle also calls for more collaboration and synergy among public institutions, the private sector, and civil society.

**Development and application of technology and innovation.** This principle will serve as a guiding framework for proactive and responsible planning of technology development, use, and regulation. This principle combines both the deployment of high-tech and social innovations to address societal challenges. Creating and making use of various technologies and innovations serves a wide-range of goals: it is a catalyst for economic growth, an opportunity to make public services more efficient and responsive, an key to advancement of education, and an instrument in improving social life and culture. at the same time, this principle underlines the significance of effectively managing the risks associated with technological change.



## STRATEGIC AMBITIONS AND STEPS TOWARDS FUTURE

### 1. CITIZEN-LED DEMOCRACY: CREDIBLE, OPEN, AND UNITING FOR ACTION

Trust-based dialogue between the public and the authorities – between creative and engaged citizens and policy makers who are open and attentive to change – will be a driving force for the future of the Lithuanian state.

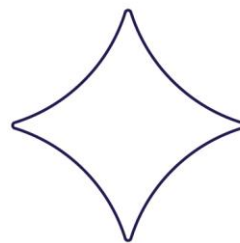
#### **Towards trust. Three areas for change in public governance:**

- **Strategic, flexible, and effective governance.** The strength of institutions in future Lithuania shows in their ability to set the right priorities for the country's development and in their capacity to promptly react to shifting circumstances at home and on the global stage.
- **Openness, transparency, and respect for diversity.** The government trusts the people and is committed to inclusive policy making. Human rights principles are integrated into the decision-making process.
- **Strong culture.** It is the foundation of a high quality of life, mutual dialogue, thriving communities, and thoughtful reflection on national identity.

### THE STEPS TOWARDS LITHUANIA OF 2050

#### **Strategic, flexible, and effective governance:**

- **Strengthening governance and accountability.** The country will have a strong and effective accountability model for public institutions. Partnerships with non-governmental organizations, private sector actors, and communities will gain a new momentum and importance.
- **Cooperation between government and science.** The state will be marked by close cooperation between the public sector and academic institutions as well as



analytical and research centres. There will be more space and support for public policy pilot projects and experiments.

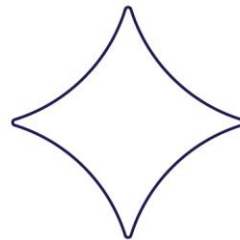
- **Public sector flexibility.** The public sector will better adapt to changing circumstances.
- **Improving the justice system.** Credible, effective, and independent courts will uphold the rule of law and ensure the protection of human rights. Lithuania's penal system will be reviewed.
- **An active e-state.** We will develop a user-friendly digital governance system, apply technological innovations creatively and ethically, and ensure they are accessible to people with special needs.
- **A strong civil service.** We will ensure a professional, competitive, and attractive civil service. This will create a different public sector culture – one that embraces creativity, encourages the search for new opportunities and more effective solutions, and focuses on people.
- **Security and crisis management.** Lithuania will strengthen its capacity to anticipate and manage crises and emergencies, to counter hybrid attacks, and to organise a comprehensive national defence.

#### **Openness, transparency, and respect for diversity:**

- **Effective and open public communication.** Professional and data-driven public information will be effectively communicated to the public.
- **Active citizen involvement.** Lithuania will create equal opportunities for citizens living at home and abroad to make decisions together. The state will encourage and support citizen initiatives.
- **Greater diversity in the society.** We will foster respect for the diversity of the society in our country.

#### **Strengthening culture:**

- **Building communities.** Strong communities will emerge and grow in the country. Their members will be empowered to critically engage in public life and to actively participate in cultural life.



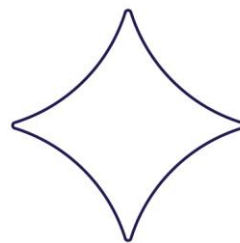
- **Fostering civic awareness.** The education and learning ecosystem will cultivate a genuine interest in connecting with Lithuania and a strong aspiration to work for its betterment.
- **Preserving historical memory.** Citizens will be curious to learn about Lithuania's historical and cultural heritage, which will form and inform the identity of our future society.
- **A expansive cultural policy.** People will have more opportunities to create, explore, and engage in cultural life.
- **Culture as a strategic national resource.** Long-term cultural policy programmes will be integrated with broader social, education, and economic policies.
- **Reducing exclusion.** We will take action to reduce the country's territorial and cultural inequality.

## LITHUANIA IN 2050

The country's most important decisions are shaped by open debates between citizens and the authorities. Widespread inclusive discussions build mutual trust, while innovative ideas lead to strategic national decisions. Institutional flexibility, efficiency, responsiveness, and the proven ability to fulfil promises to the public strengthen trust in the government. Civil service is a respected and rewarding career, and civil servants enjoy ample opportunities for creativity and freedom to make inventive decisions.

Accessible public communication helps every citizen get involved in the governance of the country more quickly and easily. The voice of every citizen is heard, regardless of their age, gender, place of residence, social status, physical ability, ethnicity, or other personal identity traits. Widespread cultural literacy is a force against social exclusion, helps reduce the gap between institutions and the society, and grounds the democratic spirit and the practice of democratic values in Lithuania.

Discrimination, inequality, and violence are effectively overcome. The society is inclusive and able to live in diversity and learn from differences.



In 2050, most Lithuanian citizens feel empowered as active participants in the collective endeavour that is the state, organizing themselves into communities and non-governmental organizations, enthusiastically engaging in elections and decision-making, and willingly shaping the future of their nation.

## **2. A FUTURE-READY, RESILIENT, AND LIBERATED INDIVIDUAL, THRIVING IN A CARING COMMUNITY**

A free, responsible, and innovative individual is at the heart of Lithuania's future. We are a community of people who exhibit a well-rounded learning and are open to novelties. We are able to take care of one another – every person, every family, every newcomer, and every returnee gets the help they need in order to be a fully-fledged member of society and to build a meaningful life. It is a country where we foster a tightly knit and steady social safety net based on equal opportunities, open to everyone who lives in it.

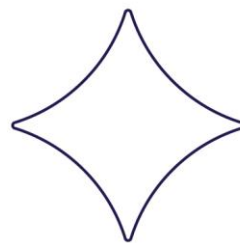
### **A future-ready individual. Three areas of human development:**

- **People prepared for creating meaningful lives.** Formal and non-formal education complement each other to inspire the development of well-rounded, cultivated, and continuously learning individual. A resilient citizen of the future will have a healthy self-esteem and will be compassionate towards other members of society.
- **Putting in place the preconditions for a safe and healthy life.** Public services, social security, quality healthcare, and education will be easily accessible to everyone.
- **Building demographic resilience and intergenerational solidarity.** The Lithuania of the future will be conducive to starting a family and raising children. The country's elders will enjoy a longer independent life. A prudent migration and integration policy will allow newcomers to become full and equal members of the Lithuanian society.

## THE STEPS TOWARDS LITHUANIA OF 2050

### People prepared for creating meaningful lives:

- **Transforming the education system.** Sufficient education funding and a progressive regulatory framework will enable the revitalization of teaching methods and the widespread adoption of best practices.
- **Improving the quality of pre-school education.** A commitment to equal quality standards in all pre-school education will ensure that all of our youngest citizens enjoy a great start to their learning. We will identify and be attentive to the needs of children with special needs in a timely manner.
- **Building a strong teacher community.** Lithuania of the future will invest in teacher training and continuous learning. People from different backgrounds and experiences will be willing to become teachers. Teachers will be co-creators of the education system.
- **Developing future-ready, creative personalities with democratic values.** From an early age, we will develop critical thinking, creative competences, psychological resilience, healthy lifestyle skills, and the necessary knowledge about the world.
- **Transitioning to personalised experiential education.** New educational methods and modern technologies will help optimise the learning process, allowing students to learn at their own pace and ability.
- **Strengthening the Lithuanian higher education system.** A strong commitment to interdisciplinarity and flexibility will unlock breakthroughs in our higher education ecosystem.
- **Developing an effective lifelong learning system.** Making formal and non-formal education easily accessible to everyone will stimulate curiosity and enable people to choose the most appropriate lifelong learning path.

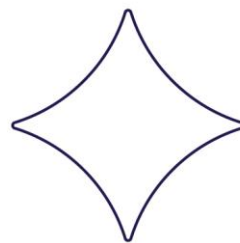


### **Putting in place the preconditions for a safe and healthy life:**

- **Improving public health.** The public will learn to understand and appreciate their health needs better. Mortality rates of young and middle-aged people will decrease.
- **Increasing efficiency of the healthcare system.** A person-centred healthcare framework will be adopted on a national level. Better funding, efficient use of resources, management changes, and increased professionalism of the workforce will be the key tools for breakthrough.
- **Improving the quality of public services.** People will benefit from personalised services that meet their individual needs.
- **Integrating healthcare and social security systems.** The future Lithuania will have a successfully functioning integrated health and social security system.
- **Facilitating intersectoral dialogue.** Public sector institutions will work closely with NGOs and other public service providers.

### **Increasing demographic resilience and intergenerational solidarity:**

- **Delivering an effective demographic policy.** Demographic issues will be addressed and centrally coordinated at government level.
- **Focusing more on families.** It will be easier for everyone to start families and raise children in Lithuania.
- **Restoring demographic balance.** Wise and effective demographic and migration policies will help halt population decline. Newcomers will integrate more quickly and easily. Lithuania will welcome both immigrants who want to create a life in Lithuania and build its prosperity and the returning citizens.
- **Improving employment and social participation opportunities for the elderly.** Better healthcare and more silver economy jobs will mean that older people will be able and willing to stay longer in the labour market. Convenient and friendly public services will help people to stay socially active and live independently longer.



## LITHUANIA IN 2050

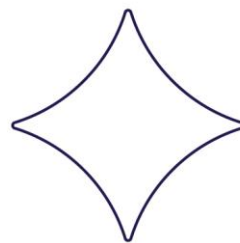
Lithuania is an educated and open society eager for lifelong learning. Our people are curious to explore both the knowledge provided by the formal education system and the opportunities offered by a non-formal education. The school encourages experimentation, creativity, and critical thinking – it is a community of active and responsible learners and motivated and innovative teachers. It acts as a small model of society where everyone can feel equally important and heard, where there is a culture of cooperation and respect for diversity, and where discrimination is not tolerated. The quality of higher education is on a par with the most developed European countries and encourages lifelong learning.

The country's social fabric is comprised of curious, independent, and civic-minded personalities. Fully integrated health and welfare services ensure social security and offer services tailored to individual needs. Feeling secure and supported by active communities, all our residents can boldly build their future in Lithuania. A science-based family policy that includes all forms of families and promotes gender equality within the family unit, is firmly in place. The support systems in place and an accommodating culture in the society allow to easily combine childcare and career.

People take good care of their health, leading to long and active lives. Our seniors are motivated to remain in the labour market and autonomously plan their lives. Lithuania warmly embraces newcomers who are committed to contributing to the country, as well as returning citizens, which boosts economic growth and enriches cultural diversity. Refugees are provided with the help they need to integrate into society. A coherent social policy makes Lithuania of 2050 a country where people know they will not be alone if they face difficulties and feel empowered to create a life worth living and live up to their potential.

### **3. LITHUANIAN BUSINESS, SCIENCE, AND ARTS SUSTAINABLY GENERATE HIGH VALUE FOR LITHUANIA AND THE WORLD**

The future Lithuanian economy is about creative people. Our society's knowledge and skills translate into innovations, products, and services that benefit the country and the



world. Innovative ideas and initiatives make it easier to overcome local and global challenges – they are the engine of national competitiveness.

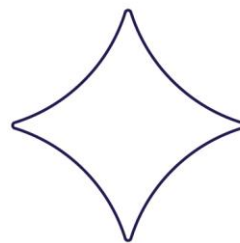
**Competitiveness based on creativity. Three areas for economic policy change:**

- **An innovation-driven high value-added economy.** The Lithuania of the future will create innovations and products in high demand in the global markets.
- **A socially and environmentally sustainable development.** Our economic systems value nature and people and respect the limits of the state, society, and the planet.
- **A space for diversity of professions, careers, and talents.** In the Lithuania of the future, everyone can discover and fulfil their potential.

**THE STEPS TOWARDS LITHUANIA OF 2050**

**An innovation-driven high value-added economy:**

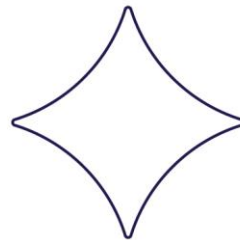
- **Effectiveness of science, innovation, and skills development ecosystems.** We will adapt quickly to new social and economic needs in a constantly changing world.
- **International competitiveness.** Higher education and research centres will work together in order to establish a Lithuanian innovation ecosystem which is recognised in the global market. An open and smooth dialogue between the private sector and science centres will facilitate innovation deployment and scale-up and business development.
- **Bold experimentation and innovation.** Openness, creativity, and the right strategic priorities will help Lithuania become a regional innovation leader.
- **Strategic economic decisions of the state.** The country's resources will be used strategically to develop the sectors with the greatest potential for broad value creation.



- **Attractiveness to foreign investment.** Lithuania will become the most attractive choice for international businesses creating high value-added goods and services in the region.
- **Openness to change.** Business, education, and public institutions will respond quickly to changing circumstances with the eye to the opportunities moments of change can bring.
- **A home for Lithuanian and global talent.** The country's attractive social and economic environment will inspire people to pursue their careers and start families, find businesses and build their dream homes – to lead interesting and rewarding lives, both professional and personal.
- **Flexible migration and integration policies.** Lithuania will open up opportunities for highly skilled workers.

#### **A socially and environmentally sustainable development:**

- **A socially just tax system.** A responsibly planned budget and a tax system built on a broad tax base help sustainably reduce social inequality.
- **Changes in the pension system.** Favourable economic and social conditions will encourage longer participation in the labour market. The retirement income will be based on social contributions throughout the life cycle.
- **Responsible consumption.** Various incentives will help conserve resources and expand both the supply and the use of green energy.
- **Ecological sustainability.** Future development of business, industry, and infrastructure will be grounded in the fundamental commitment to restore, protect, and cultivate our natural ecosystems.
- **Responsible agriculture and food production.** More attention will be paid to restoring food-related natural ecosystems and ensuring food security.
- **Development of the silver economy.** Legislative, regulatory, and labour market instruments will create a framework that encourages the economic and social participation of the elderly and facilitates the expansion of the silver economy.



### **A space for diversity of talents, careers, and professions:**

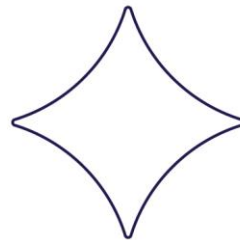
- **Sustainable social business, arts, and creative industries.** A favourable regulatory framework, together with targeted incentives and skill-development programs, will give a boost to the social business ecosystem and the arts and creative industries sectors.
- **Changes in the labour market policies.** Social innovation and personalised services will shape the future labour market.
- **Every citizen counts.** Everyone willing will be able to realise their potential. Everyone will be regarded as a valuable contributor to the society.

## **LITHUANIA IN 2050**

Lithuanian businesses are well recognised on the global markets. Our creative professionals enjoy building a competitive, innovative, and socially responsible business environment. Lithuania not only nurtures educated and critical thinkers, but also attracts foreign talent. In addition to offering the world advanced products, services, and technologies, we also know how to successfully export intangible assets, such as knowledge and works of art. A favourable legal and tax framework attracts and increases local and foreign capital.

The strength of the science and innovation ecosystem derives from deep collaboration between the state, business, science, and arts communities, which all bring their knowledge and skills together to achieve real and timely results. This collaboration produces products and services of global relevance and makes Lithuanian science institutions reliable partners for the world's strongest universities and corporations.

Lithuanian business and society protect the environment of our country and the planet by using resources responsibly and successfully developing a circular economy. Labour market activities and growth are planned responsibly. People continue learning and improving their skills throughout their lives and stay in the labour market longer. The silver economy is in full bloom. Smart budgeting and responsive social protection policies reduce



income inequality and the risk of poverty, as well as enabling us to build the foundations of a strong society.

#### **4. A RESILIENT STATE, A CONSTRUCTIVE AND INFLUENTIAL PLAYER IN GLOBAL POLITICS**

The Lithuania of the future is not a participant in but also a shaper of international politics, speaking with a strong and clear voice. Lithuania is agile in responding to global climate, technology, and demography challenges, successfully learning and building resilience. As a strategic choice, our foreign policymaking extensively involves citizens, each of whom feels responsible and capable of contributing to the global role of Lithuania.

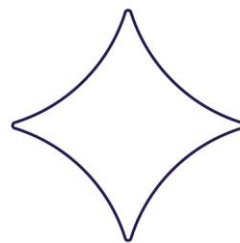
**Lithuania as a strong player in global politics. Three key areas for change:**

- **A resilient state.** Lithuania of the future will be able to promptly respond and manage local and global challenges.
- **Proactive and constructive regional and global posture.** We will shape the emerging global agenda guided by Lithuania's interests and in cooperation with international partners, especially the EU and NATO. Lithuania will be able to lead and assert its position.
- **Inclusiveness of foreign policymaking.** The Lithuanian society contributes to the planning and implementation of the country's international objectives and defence priorities.

#### **THE STEPS TOWARDS LITHUANIA OF 2050**

**Progressive and constructive foreign policy:**

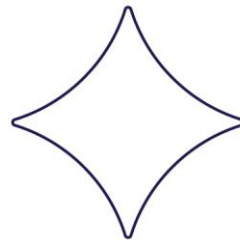
- **A new model for foreign policymaking.** We will have more frequent and productive discussions on foreign policy issues. Different political powers and institutions will be able to work together to achieve their goals.



- **A stronger diplomatic service.** The country will be represented by motivated and professional diplomats. Lithuanian missions will be present in all strategic partner countries.
- **A cooperative Lithuanian foreign and security policy ecosystem.** The country's think tanks will actively and openly engage in international cooperation. The analytical capacity of the diplomatic network will be strengthened.
- **An important player in the EU and NATO.** Lithuania is an active and vocal member of international organisations, able to offer credible strategic proposals that increase their effectiveness and move them forward.
- **A significant role in the region.** Lithuania successfully pursues its goal to see a strong and expanding space for democracy and security in the neighbourhood.
- **Cooperation in the Baltic, Northern, and Central European regions.** Lithuania's effective and professional diplomatic dialogue in key sub-European regional formats help strengthen Vilnius' voice on the international stage.
- **Development of bilateral strategic partnerships.** Vilnius will secure consistent and credible cooperation with key international partners.
- **Effective multilateral cooperation.** Lithuania will support a reinvigorated multilateralism and shape discussions on global policy issues.
- **Global environmental protection.** Lithuania will increase its focus on and involvement in development cooperation, taking into account environmental and climate change issues as well as national interests.

#### **Strengthening the resilience of the state:**

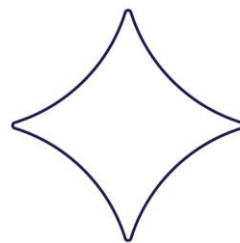
- **A holistic national defence system.** The public will have an easy access to, a clear understanding, and a strong buy-in of the national defence plan. Citizens are motivated and ready to defend the country.
- **A robust crisis management and prevention system.** We will put in place effective energy, digital, economic, climate, space, and epidemiological resilience agendas.



- **Stronger host country capabilities.** The country's infrastructure will fully support military mobility. We will be ready to provide critical services in times of crisis, particularly related to communication, transport, data management, and energy.
- **A comprehensive integration into Western Europe.** We will improve the physical transport and communication infrastructure connecting Lithuania to its key partners, and increase Lithuania's influence in shaping these policies.
- **A strong national defence industry.** Lithuania's will actively and effectively participate in the international defence industry networks.
- **International economic and diplomatic cooperation.** The country's commercial diplomacy will support the pursuit of opportunities for economic breakthrough and will shape a robust economic security policy.
- **Cybersecurity.** The development of a national cybersecurity and cyber defence framework will enable Lithuania to achieve and maintain a high level of cybersecurity.

#### **Inclusiveness of foreign policy:**

- **Effective network diplomacy.** Lithuania will mobilize the informal networks of individuals and organisations to strengthening the dialogue with existing and potential international partners.
- **A strong public role.** We will engage citizens in the discussion on key foreign policy and security issues.
- **Attractive global image.** We will showcase our country's history and culture abroad in a compelling and user-friendly manner, both physically and in digital environments.
- **Attractive cultural diplomacy.** Lithuania will boldly and strategically represent its culture in the world and, enhancing its appeal for tourism, business opportunities, and talented individuals.



## LITHUANIA IN 2050

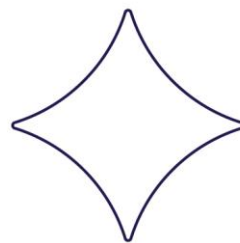
Lithuania is an active and credible member of the Euro-Atlantic community. A resilient society, a progressive economy, clean environment, and a strong value-based posture provide opportunities to implement ambitious foreign policy. The country's international policy strategy strengthens Lithuania's voice on the global stage. A strong international position helps ensure the security of the state and the commitment of foreign partners to Lithuania.

Open dialogue and mutual trust among institutions and the public have ensured that citizens trust in and feel responsible towards the state. The country can strategically prepare itself for and cope with crises, and the public is determined to support Lithuania in challenging and disruptive times. We have and continue to turn the challenges brought about by crises into opportunities for breakthroughs through cooperation between the government, businesses, science, and the public.

The way forward is based on democratic and Euro-Atlantic values. Lithuania is guided by the ideas and norms of its political community and makes constructive proposals to the EU, shapes the regional agenda, and inspires as well as leads international partnerships. The Lithuania of 2050 has a strong and clear voice in the global dialogue among the nations, projecting ideas that inspire the great powers, support emerging forces, and contribute to the strengthening of the international order.

### **5. A CONNECTED COUNTRY WITH SUSTAINABLE AND WELL-BALANCED DEVELOPMENT**

The potential impact of demographic trends, especially population aging and changing migration patterns, presents a profound challenge to Lithuania's future. Lithuania of the future will be a good space to live –as a polity, as an economy, as a community, and also as a physical environment. Our vision for the way to 2050 entails fostering an environment where individuals can lead active and comfortable lives, regardless of whether



they reside in rural or urban areas. Every citizen, wherever their home, should have unhindered access to high-quality services and the opportunity to relish nature.

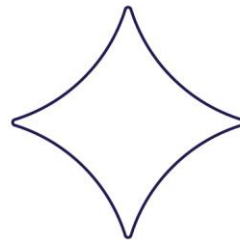
**A steadily growing Lithuania. Three key areas for change:**

- **Well-balanced and sustainable territorial development.** Public and commercial services will be easily and quickly accessible throughout the country.
- **Harmonious coexistence with nature.** The cornerstone of our future society is cultivating a lifestyle characterized by moderation and balance that will allow to conserve nature.
- **Good connectivity within the country and with the world.** Mobility encourages action, participation in public life, and discovery. Transport and communications infrastructure will ensure national security and economic competitiveness.

**THE STEPS TOWARDS LITHUANIA OF 2050**

**Well-balanced and sustainable territorial development:**

- **Sound and reliable critical infrastructure.** We will upgrade and adapt infrastructure to meet the diverse needs of society.
- **Responsible and holistic development.** We will pursue development in a way that is responsible and sensitive to regional demographic projections, nature, and cultural heritage, grounded in universal design and creative place-making principles.
- **Cooperation among municipalities and regions.** We will ensure easier access to and better management of public services.
- **Integrated public services.** We will improve accessibility through greater cooperation among NGOs, communities, the government, and the private sector.
- **Sustainable renovation of multi-apartment buildings.** We will accelerate the modernisation, renovation, and decommissioning of energy-inefficient multi-apartment buildings.



- **Responsible urban solutions.** We will focus on creating and preserving green spaces and ensuring efficient public transport in the whole country. We will promote sustainable use of materials in construction.

#### **Harmonious coexistence with nature:**

- **Conservation of natural resources.** Our aim is nature-friendly solutions that bring environmental, social, and economic benefits to the country. We will promote the greater use of ecosystem services.

- **A zero-emission economy.** We will responsibly and systematically implement our international commitments.

- **Abundance of protected areas.** The country will have more well-functioning and well-connected protected areas. We will focus on conserving ecosystems and natural processes rather than individual species.

- **Thriving biodiversity.** We will foster and protect nature and species from extinction.

- **A committed climate agenda.** The state will responsibly pursue climate change and adaptation policy for the long-term.

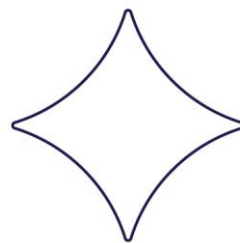
#### **Good connectivity within the country and with the world:**

- **Efficient transport infrastructure.** We will agree on and implement a long-term national transport model.

- **Convenient international connections to the EU and third countries.** We will enjoy a range of connections with the rest of the world supported by well-developed and convenient infrastructure.

- **Adapting the infrastructure for the people and the country of tomorrow.** Lithuania's future infrastructure will meet the needs of quality of life, tourism, business, and national defence. Public transport will accommodate people with mobility impairments.

- **Development of digital infrastructure.** We will deliver an effective model for reducing social, cultural, and economic exclusion.

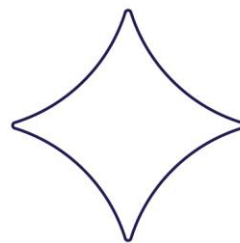


## LITHUANIA IN 2050

National development is sustainable, responsible, and responsive to the needs of citizens, communities, and regions. We know how to cooperate and agree on architectural and urban solutions. There is a prevailing focus on fostering ecological balance, preserving cultural heritage, and creating high-quality public spaces in all our cities. Vilnius has become well-known in Europe as a modern urban centre with many green spaces.

Modern life features, public services, and other important amenities are easily accessible not only in major centres but also in rural areas and remote regions. We developed a convenient transport infrastructure responsive to shifting demographics, which strengthens the links between cities, towns, and rural communities. The country's convenient international transport system opens up new routes for both the locals as well as visitors.

The state and society approach climate and the environment as a key priority. We have rediscovered our connection with nature and embraced an eco-centric attitude that emphasizes coexistence with the environment and consideration for the world around us. Easy access to nature promotes both physical and mental well-being, allowing individuals to rediscover serenity, moderation, and equilibrium. We have adapted to climate change while protecting biodiversity. The country's natural surroundings are Lithuania's competitive edge. We stand out as one of the greenest regions in Europe, attracting visitors for recreational activities and offering an ideal environment for both living and recreation.



## PUTTING THE VISION INTO ACTION

Lithuania's vision for the future 'Lithuania 2050' is implemented through the National Progress Plan, which encompasses a strategic framework consisting of goals and targets, as well as a financial plan that will guide the country's progress over the next decade. The successful implementation of Lithuania's vision for the future relies on fostering dialogue and unity between society and the public bodies. In line with these principles, special attention is paid to close involvement of the public in issues relevant to the implementation of the vision.

The Implementation of the vision is overseen by the State Progress Council. It initiates public debates, analyses the progress of the state, regularly submits opinions, proposals, and recommendations to the Seimas and the Government, and maintains a continuous open dialogue with the public.

The planned initiatives for the upcoming decade include the following:

- implementation of public governance reform.
- development and consolidation of a comprehensive defence system.
- ensuring economic, energy, and cyber security and resilience of the state.

Throughout the entire period leading up to 2050, an integrated policy is being implemented to address population decline and to achieve climate neutrality in the country.

This must be accompanied by the establishment of a competitive science and innovation system, the development of a socially responsible and environmentally sustainable economy, as well as well-balanced and sustainable territorial development.

Quality education, strong democratic principles, and a vibrant culture are the sources of our strength and constant renewal, serving as the driving force behind the changes creating the Lithuania of 2050.



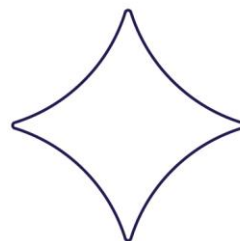
## VISIONARIES BEHIND THE CONCEPT

The charting of Lithuania's vision for the future took more than a year. For this purpose, we employed a method of foresight and embraced the principle of co-creation.

**Authors of the vision.** The process of developing 'Lithuania 2050' was open and inclusive. The process involved a wide range of stakeholders, including the State Progress Council, experts, representatives from the public sector, academia, education, business, cultural and creative industries, human rights organizations, schoolchildren and students' organizations, representatives from the social and health sectors, and other citizens. We aimed for the broadest possible geographical, institutional, and socio-economic representation, with approximately 2,500 people with different backgrounds contributing to the charting of Lithuania's vision for the future.

## STAGES IN CHARTING OF THE VISION

- **Preparing the ground.** We analysed major trends shaping the future and the key uncertainties in their interactions, which allowed generated four possible scenarios for the future of Lithuania. We organized meetings with citizens during the 'Expedition to Lithuania 2050' project.
- **Gathering ideas.** We held thematic discussions with a broad range of experts, meetings with co-creators (organisations that expressed their willingness to contribute to the creation of 'Lithuania 2050') and organized a Citizens' Council that brought together public representatives. Proposals for the development of the 2050 vision also came from municipalities. We co-creation workshops on the key initiatives and further steps.
- **Charting the vision for the future of the state.** Based on suggestions from 383 citizens regarding strategic ambitions as well as insights from experts, we drafted an initial version of 'Lithuania 2050'. The final stage in the charting of the vision began in late 2022, when we presented the initial draft and consulted the citizens and co-creators in an iterative process. In April 2023, the vision for Lithuania's future was presented to the



State Progress Council, and then, following the Government's approval, it was submitted to the Parliament.

\*\*\*\*

Thousands of people have contributed to creating Lithuania's vision for the future 'Lithuania 2050.' However, it is important to recognize that each and every one of us serves as a co-creator of Lithuania's future success, and this active participation is what will enable us to move forward. Navigating this uncharted path becomes easier when we traverse it together, united by a shared goal: to journey towards Lithuania of 2050, a country where we aspire to live and create, and one that we wish to preserve for future generations.

\*\*\*\*