



Country Fiche

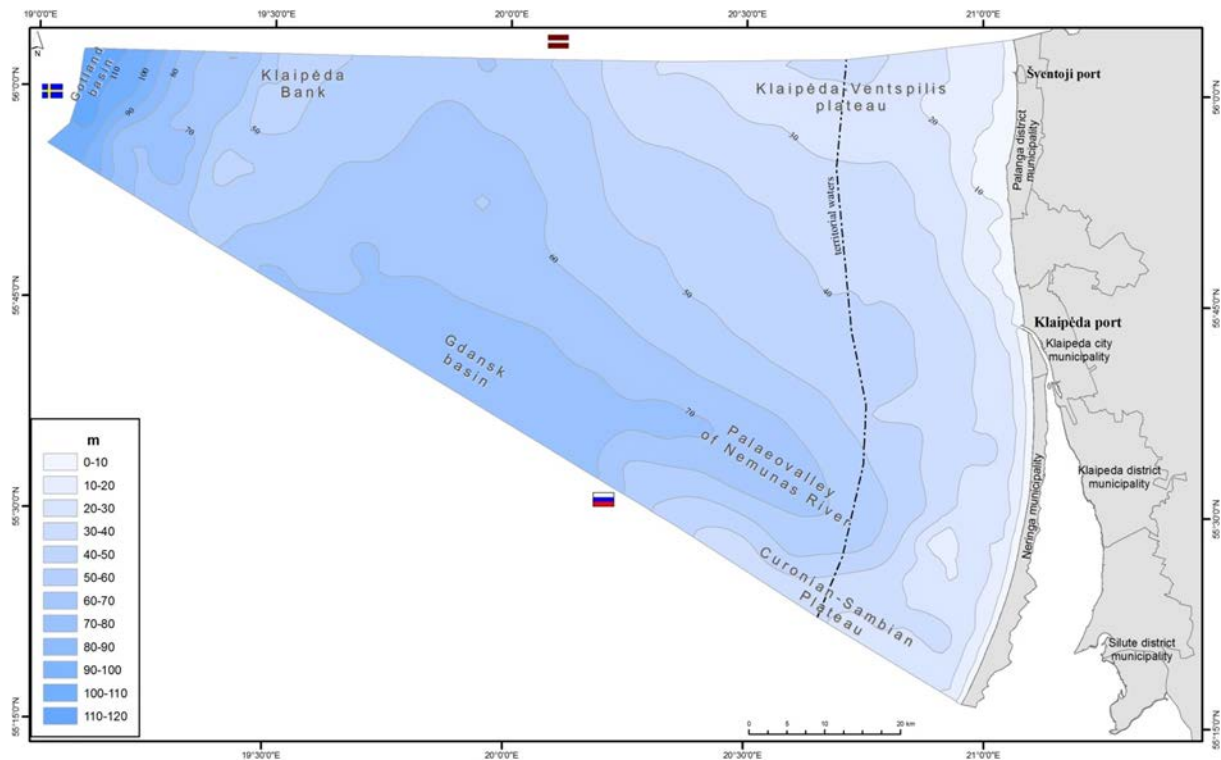
Lithuania

1. General information

The Lithuanian maritime space is delimited by the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 6 December, 2004, No. 1597 and includes internal waters, territorial waters, the exclusive economic zone, the sea bottom and the soil underneath, as follows:

- Internal waters (lagoons not included): about 35 km²
- Territorial waters (12-nm zone): about 1 810 km²
- Exclusive economic zone including adjoining zone: about 4 560 km²

Marine areas borders Latvia in the North, the Russian Federation in the South (Kaliningrad oblast) and Kingdom of Sweden in the West. The nearshore area within a 20 m water depth is part of the “Coastal Strip”.



1.1. Governance

According to Art. 47 of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, the exclusive right for the Lithuanian maritime space belongs to the Republic of Lithuania (i.e. owned by the state). Current governance of the sea space is defined by legal acts relating to the use of the sea space and responsibilities of the Republic of Lithuania as stipulated in international legal acts in which it participates. The Comprehensive Plan of the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania is complemented by marine spatial solutions adopted on 11 June 2015 by Seimas (the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania) Resolution No XII-1781.

1.2. Contacts

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2. General information on legislation

Republic of Lithuania is a signatory state of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. There are more than 20 legal acts (laws and governmental resolutions guiding the use of the sea space.

The maritime spatial planning (MSP) in Lithuania is included into the national legislation regulating spatial planning - Law on Territorial Planning and its secondary legal acts. The revised Law on Territorial Planning adopted on 27 June 2013, which came into force on 1 January 2014, includes stipulations on the sea space planning. The same stands at different levels of planning are included into the Rules for Preparation of Complex Territorial Planning Documents (adopted by the Minister of Environment Order No. D1-8 on 2 January 2014) as an executive legal act, following the revised Law on Territorial Planning. Part of the marine space (up to 20 m isobath) also falls under the regulation of the Law of the Coastal Strip.

Basing on the stipulations of national legal acts, Lithuanian marine territories were planned while extending the existing Comprehensive Plan of the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania by one more part – Marine territories, which included marine spatial solutions for the Lithuanian territorial waters and the EEZ.

3. General applicability (e.g. territorial Sea, EEZ, other distinctions)

MSP applies to the entire marine area of Lithuania including territorial waters and the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

4. Spatial Plans

4.1. Extension of the Comprehensive Plan of the Republic of Lithuania by part “Marine territories”.

4.1.1. Legal basis

The Comprehensive Plan of the Republic of Lithuania (and its part “Maritime territories “) is a legally binding document:

- obligatory for the state governmental institutions, taking decisions on national level, related to the use, management and protection of the territory of the country, forming regional policy, spatial integrated maritime policy;
- forms planning conditions for national level special plans, long term programmes and strategies, lower level comprehensive and special plans;
- development of strategies of economy sectors, other strategic plans and programmes of state institutions have to rest upon solutions of the Comprehensive Plan of the Republic of Lithuania.

4.1.2. Legal impact

It serves as a legal basis for protection and use of the sea space as well as for the further development of regulatory framework for different sea uses.

4.1.3. Area covered

The Comprehensive Plan of the Republic of Lithuania part “Maritime territories“ - covers the entire maritime area of Lithuania including territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zone. It is important to admit, that after complementing the Comprehensive Plan by the part “Maritime territories“, this document comprises now both terrestrial and sea space planning solutions in one document.

4.1.4. Historic development

Basing on the Seimas Resolution (2011), preceded by the decision of the Government, *the Programme* for the Project of complementing the Comprehensive Plan of the Republic of Lithuania by the part “Maritime territories“ was prepared in 2011 by the Planning Organizer (MoE/LT) and after its approval by the “Inter-ministerial Commission for Reconciliation of Strategies, Plans and Programmes of Economy Fields“, was adopted by the Order of the Minister of Environment. TOR was prepared and Consultant team for preparing the Plan was selected in open competition. The drafting of the territorial planning document was started in December 2011 and the final document adopted by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania in 11 June 2015.

4.1.5. Objectives of the plan

The objectives of planning were: to ensure the transparent, known in advance conditions of the use of the territory in whole of the state and in the space under responsibility of the Republic of Lithuania and to implement a consequent planning of land and sea territory in one document. Extending the existing (mainly – a terrestrial) plan, supplementing it with marine spatial solutions allowed to create preconditions for development of maritime economic activities in need of the sea space and for sustaining a good status of the marine environment, also providing necessary territorial regulations for safeguarding cultural heritage in the sea.

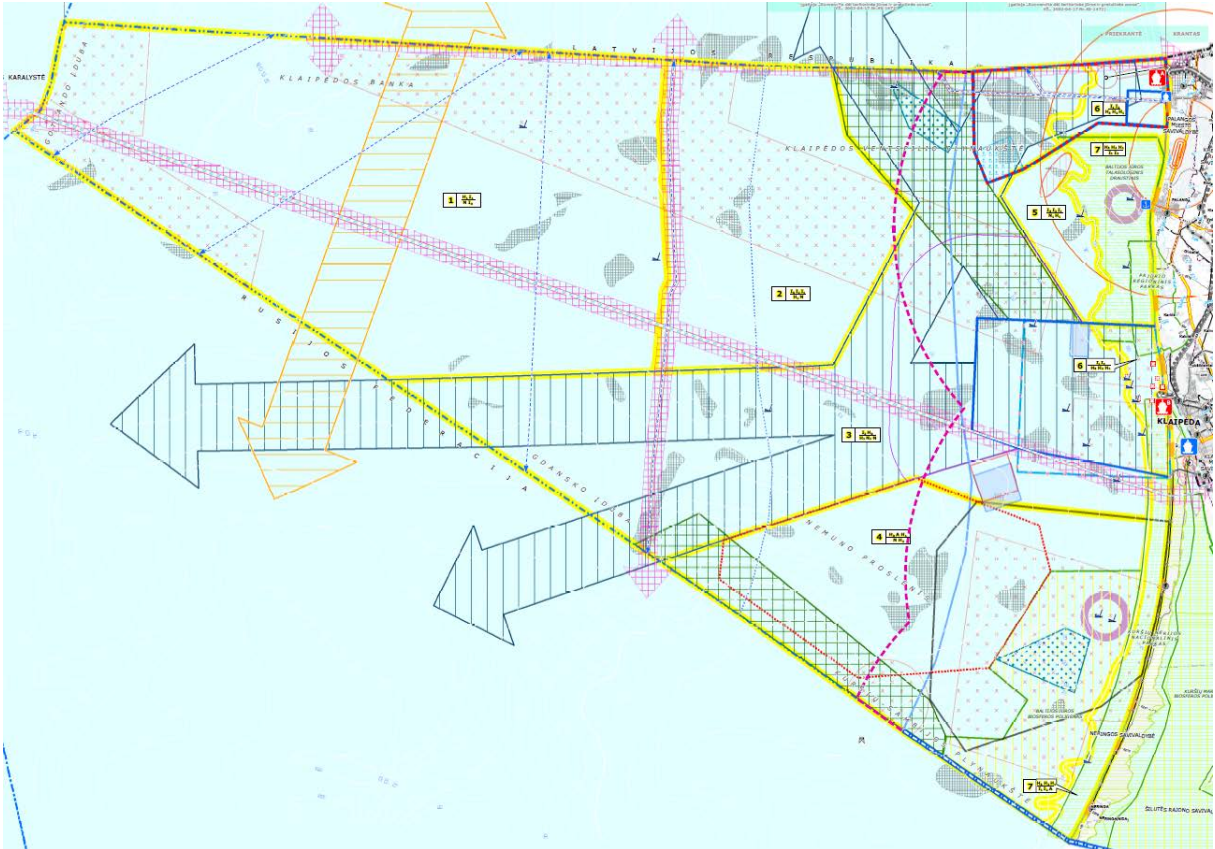
Main objectives of the plan were:

- 1) to maintain equilibrium between economic and ecological development, create conditions for territorial cohesion, sustainable development of the territory of the state, coherent spatial functional integration policy implementation, solving in complex way of territory-related problems and tasks;
- 2) to form a healthy and harmonious environment for creating better living conditions in the whole state;
- 3) to form a common integrated policy of development of different fields of activity;
- 4) to protect, restore and rationally use resources of nature and recreation, values of natural and cultural heritage;
- 5) to reserve territories for infrastructure and for other development needs of various kind of activities in the maritime territories;
- 6) to promote investments for economic development, preserving and restoration of values of natural, cultural heritage and recreational resources;
- 7) to reconcile the interests of natural and legal entities, municipalities and state as well as rights of subjects of international law with regard to the use of the maritime territories, under the exclusive rights of the Republic of Lithuania for the air space over its territory, bed and subsoil, her continental shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone.

4.1.6. Map

During the elaboration of the project, a set of relevant maps has been prepared:

- (maritime) Spatial development concept and functional priorities of the territory;
- Economic activity development (including its prioritisation);
- Ensuring ecological balance and preserving the cultural heritage;
- Technical infrastructure development;
- Areas reserved for the national needs;
- Regional policy (covering near shore zone mainly).



Scale:1:200 000

4.1.7. Designation

The plan serves as a principal framework for further planning and regulation of particular economic activities. / See also the description under the points 4.1.1, 4.1.5. /

4.1.8. Regulations

N/A

4.1.9. Adoption

The plan has been adopted in 11 June 2015 by Seimas (the Parliament) of the Republic of Lithuania Resolution No XII-1781.

4.1.10. SEA

A complete SEA for the MSP was elaborated including national and transnational consultations with Lithuanian stakeholders as well as with Sweden and Latvia.

4.1.11. Public participation

In all stages of planning process the information was made public and the materials of the plan were publicly available on the webpage of the Planning organizer – the Ministry of Environment. Additionally, the Plan was publically presented during national and international conferences and specific public hearings have been organized in order to inform about the Plan. Information on planning was also made public through the mass media.

4.1.12. Transboundary consultation

Transboundary consultations were conducted with Latvian stakeholders and relevant information was sent to the Ministry of Environment in Latvia. The SEA study was of a transboundary character and therefore followed the pattern of cross-border consultations as well. Sweden was involved into the transboundary SEA procedures. /See also the description under the point 4.1.10. /

4.1.13. Harmonisation with other plans

It was achieved through Planning conditions and consideration procedure. The Inter-ministerial Commission for Reconciliation of Strategies, Plans and Programmes of Economy Fields and Inter-ministerial Experts working group have been involved through all the period of the Plan elaboration. A regular procedure of planning documents approval (by sending to relevant institutions for consideration) was performed basing on legal requirements. All the relevant planning documents have been taken into account while preparing the plan. At the same time - according to the hierarchy of the planning documents in Lithuania the Comprehensive Plan of the Republic of Lithuania is of top priority setting the pre-conditions for other plans to be developed. /See also the description under the point 4.1.1., 4.1.2./

4.1.14. Monitoring

The monitoring of the territorial planning document is to proceed as defined under the Law on Territorial Planning of the Republic of Lithuania.

A copy of the MSP was sent to the European Commission (while implementing Directive 2014/89/EU of European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014, establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning, Art. 14 requirement).

4.1.15. Electronic resources

The maps, SEA study and the text (in Lithuanian) are available on the website of the Ministry of Environment (www.am.lt).

5. What countries want to share

Experience gained / when such interest exists /.

6. New developments / current status

The Plan is adopted. The planning solutions are obligatory for implementation since making public (following the legal requirements) the information on adoption of the Plan.

7. How coastal and marine Baltic Sea protected areas (HELCOM MPAs) are taken into account in MSP

Coastal protected areas were taken into account in the terrestrial part of the Comprehensive Plan, whereas the Baltic Sea protected areas were taken into account when defining the zones of environment protection priority of the MSP part of the Comprehensive plan.