



Country Fiche on Terrestrial Spatial Planning

Lithuania

Updated February 2026

1. Current situation and main challenges

1.1 Current Planning System

Law on Territorial Planning

This Law regulates territorial planning of the territory of the Republic of Lithuania, its continental shelf and exclusive economic zone in the Baltic Sea and establishes the rights and duties of persons involved in the process. The objective of this Law is to ensure sustainable territorial development and rational urbanization by establishing requirements for systematic solutions in the process of territorial planning and compatibility and interaction between different levels of documents, to facilitate the sustainable, natural, and anthropogenic environment and the quality of urban development by preserving valuable landscape, biodiversity and natural and cultural heritage values.

The Law on Territorial Planning, which defines key terms, conditions, and provides prescriptive guidelines, was revised and on the 27th of June 2013 and came into force on the 1st of January 2014.

New provisions aiming for more sustainable urbanization and urban quality were established in this Law and came into force on 1st July 2021. These objectives shall be achieved in fostering a local spatial planning, in coordination of social, economic, environmental interests, in application of means for climate change mitigation as well as in ensuring more transparent public participation in the spatial planning process. The Law on Territorial Planning is updated when new territorial planning objectives and goals emerge.

The Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan of the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania is one of the central and integrated territorial planning documents which is executed on the state level; establishes the spatial structure of a planned territory and mandatory provisions and requirements for the use of the territory as well as the principles of its protection.

The Comprehensive Plan of the Republic of Lithuania 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 policy;
- forms planning conditions for national level special plans, long term programs and strategies, lower level comprehensive and special plans;
- for the development of strategies of economic sectors, other strategic plans and programs of state institutions have to rest upon solutions of the Comprehensive Plan of the Republic of Lithuania.

It sets out mandatory provisions on the requirements for the spatial structure and the use of the territory and principles of protection to be used in decision-making. It serves as a principal framework for further spatial planning and regulation, establishes a legal environment to ensure sustainable development and development of territories and infrastructure. The aim of it is to define spatial development principles and directions for the whole country.

The first Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the Parliament in 2002 and was in force till 2020. The link to this Comprehensive Plan of the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania is on the website of the Ministry of Environment the Republic of Lithuania (under URL: https://map.tpdr.lt/tpdr-gis/index.jsp?action=tpdrPortal@_tpd_id=52605).

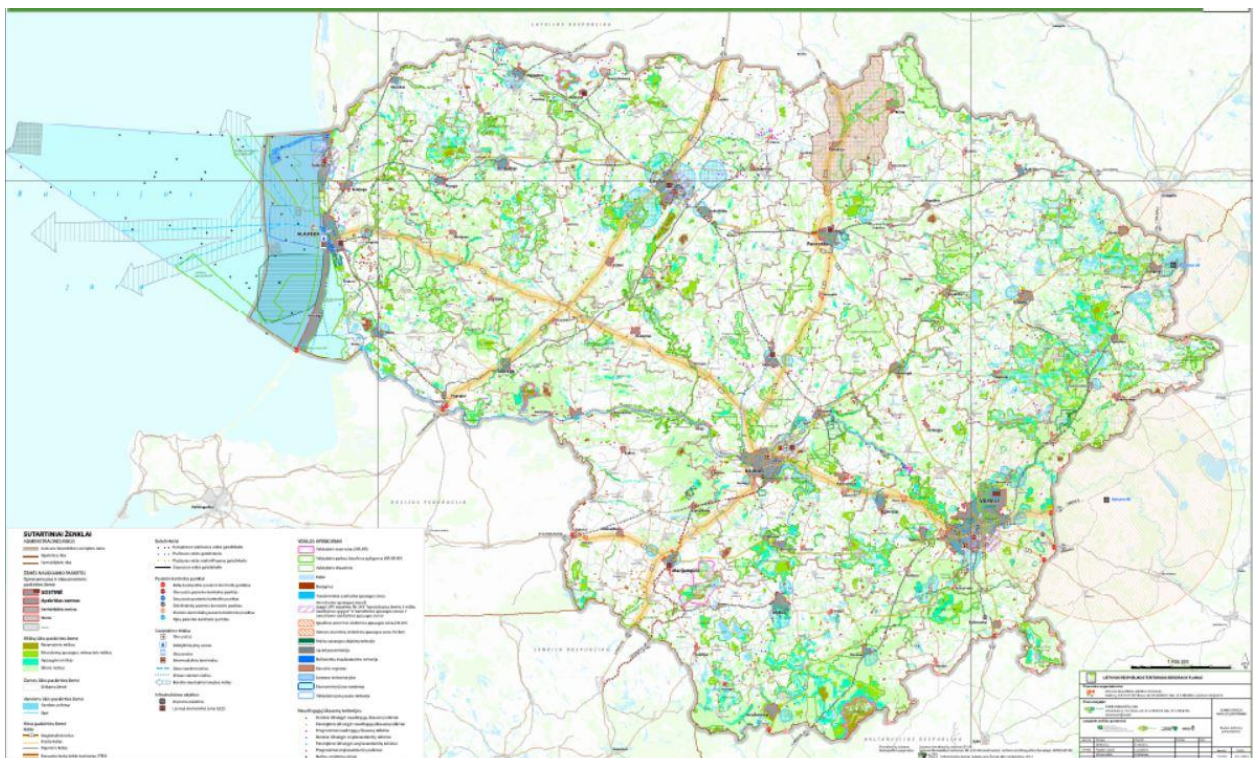


Figure 1 A first comprehensive plan presenting the use of territories in Lithuania until 2020.

1.2. Planning Levels

The Law of Territory Planning define the main levels of terrestrial spatial planning – state, municipal and local.

State level considers the entire territory of Lithuania or parts of it. Comprehensive plans and documents of special territorial planning are prepared at a scale of 1:100 000–1:400 000 for the entire territory of the State and, if necessary, parts thereof which are characterized by administrative (regions, counties) or functional commonality.

Municipal level - territories are characterized by administrative (municipal) or functional commonality are planned. Comprehensive plans and documents of special territorial planning are prepared at a scale of 1:20 000–1:50 000.

Local level is concerned with territorial planning of parts of the territory of a municipality: cities (or parts thereof), towns (or parts thereof), villages and steadings (comprehensive plans of separate urbanized territories or territories under urbanization are prepared at a scale of 1:2 000–1:10 000, detailed plans at a scale of 1:500–1:1 000 and documents of special territorial planning at a scale of 1:500–1:10 000).

Each level is correspondent to the higher-level spatial development and directions, land-use specifics, regulations, and other relevant topics in question, hence each lower level of territorial planning must operate in compliance with the approved solutions of documents of higher-level territorial planning and detail them.

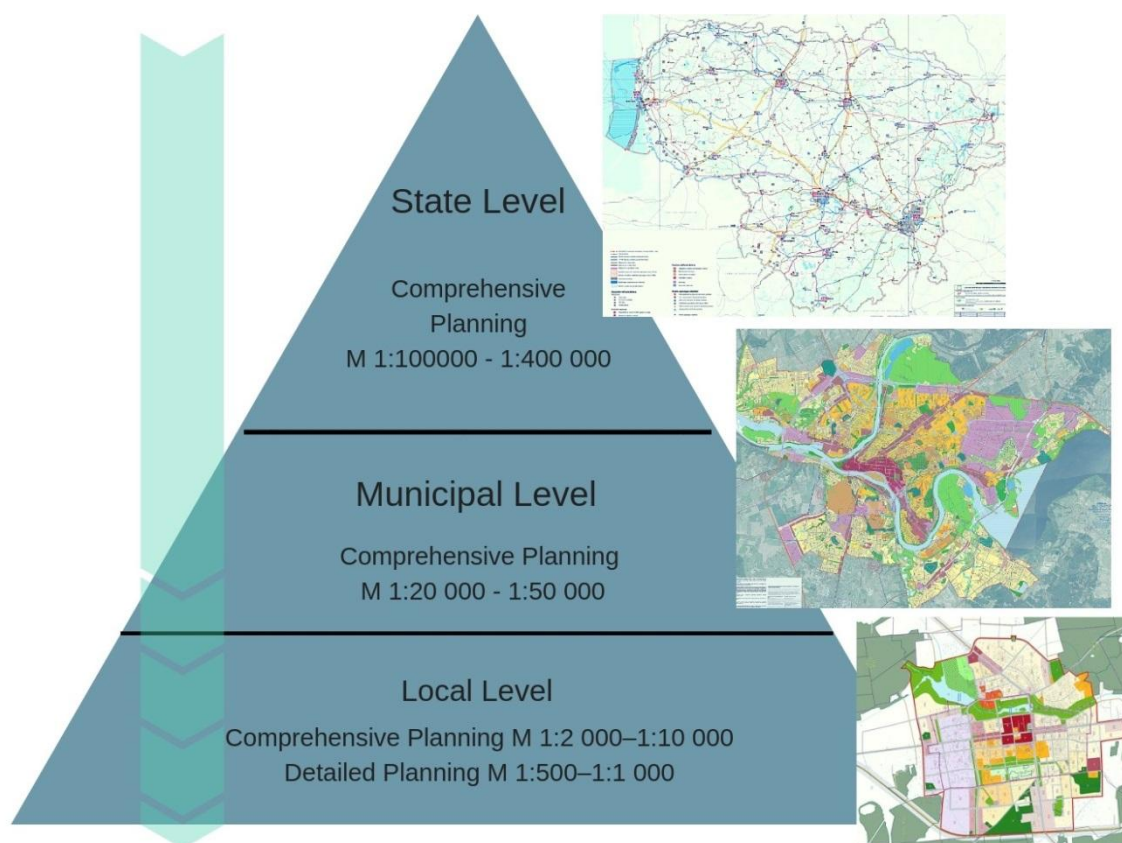


Figure 2. The spatial planning system in Lithuania. Planning levels and the representative maps.

The new Comprehensive Plan 2030-2050

The preparation of new Comprehensive Plan of the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania has started in 2018. Compared to its previous counterpart, the Comprehensive Plan is expected to be a *live document*, as it contains a room for a constructive reflection and might be updated given any new development challenges or trends if it is needed. It is one of the documents that form

the state spatial territorial development strategy and vision, coordinate its implementation in the spheres of territorial planning, territorial cohesion, and urban development. It incorporates national level long term programs and strategies considering their territorial dimension. All the relevant planning documents had been considered while preparing the Comprehensive Plan. It integrates Sustainable Development Goals adopted by all United Nations member states, as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It is believed that this Plan will be an efficient and operational document, which sets out a comprehensive and integral vision for spatial, environmental, social, and economic development, defines protection and use priorities and directions.

The Concept of this Plan (until 2050) was adopted by the Parliament on 4th of July 2020. The Comprehensive Plan (until 2030) was approved by the Government in 2021.

The link to the Concept of the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania - <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/124b7b10b12e11ea9a12d0dada3ca61b?positionInSearchResults=0&searchModelUUID=6355fe92-fd5b-4613-894e-c42eb599ef49>

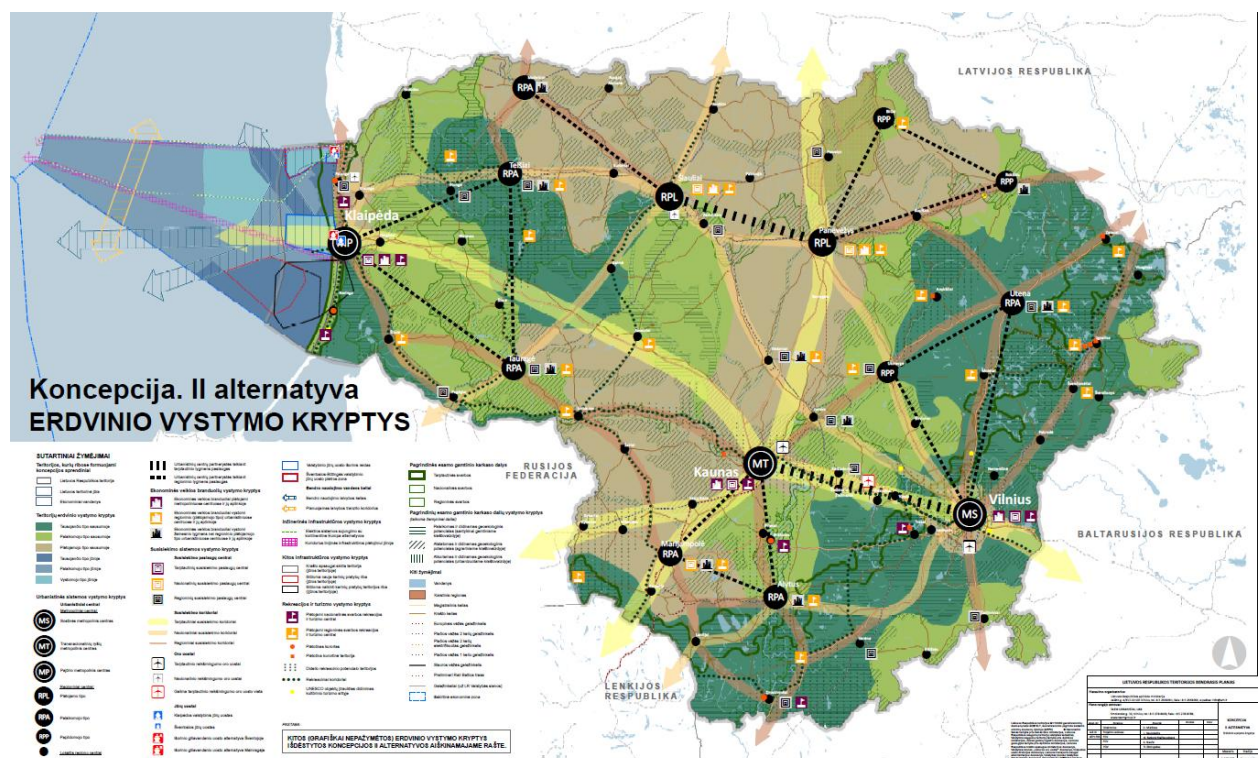


Figure 3. The Concept of the Comprehensive plan presenting the spatial development directions until 2050.

The link to the Comprehensive Plan of the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania:
<https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/563c5570267011ecad73e69048767e8c>

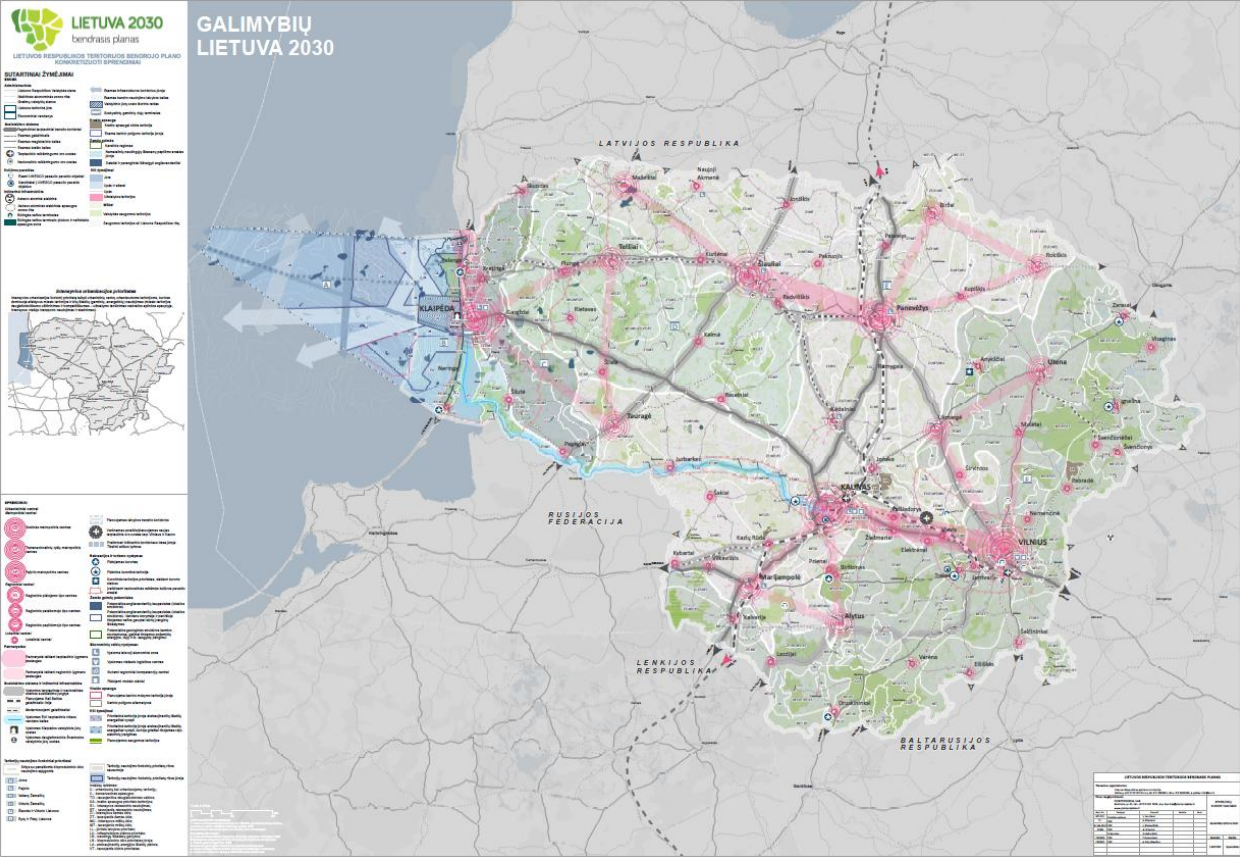


Figure 4. The Comprehensive plan presenting country's spatial development until 2030.

Guidelines for the development of sustainable cities

In 2023 the Guidelines for the development of sustainable cities were approved by the Minister of Environment. It is a document aimed at defining strategic areas, principles, and measures for sustainable development, as well as recommendations for sustainable and balanced urban development. It also seeks to create a basis for evaluating and comparing the sustainability of Lithuanian cities and its changes over time.



Figure 5. Eight sustainability guidelines that define the main goals and objectives for sustainable cities (from the document Guidelines for the development of sustainable cities)

Guidelines are established for four strategic areas: anthropogenic (compact city, sustainable city guidelines), natural (green city, clean and climate change-resistant city guidelines), economic (vibrant city, inclusive city guidelines) and socio-cultural environment (productive city, circular economy city guideline), characterised by sustainability indices that assess the current level of sustainability and, accordingly, estimate what should be achieved in each area. Indices include measurable territorial indicators with target values (if possible to identify). Measures and possible actions are provided for the achievement of the set guidelines.

The link to the Guidelines for the development of sustainable cities: <https://am.lrv.lt/media/viesa/saugykla/2024/3/CQbIEVrHBhU.pdf>

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