

MSP

Country Fiche

Lithuania

Updated November / 2024

1. General information

- Internal sea waters: 427 km²
- Territorial sea (12-nm zone): 1814 km²
- Exclusive Economic Zone: 4564 km²

1.1. Governance

The Territorial Sea and Exclusive economic zone is governed by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania is coordinating Maritime Spatial Planning and the territorial. Participating ministries: Ministry of Energy, Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture. The latest maritime spatial plan was integrated into the Comprehensive Territorial Plan of the Republic of Lithuania and was approved by the Parliament and the Government on 29 September 2021.

1.2. Contacts

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2. General information on legislation

The comprehensive plan of the territory of the Republic of Lithuania is a spatial territorial planning document, which determines the directions of the spatial development of the territory and the functional priorities of the use of the territories, ensuring the compatibility of the strategic planning documents valid and being created in Lithuania, which have a spatial (territorial) expression. The new general plan of the territory of the Republic of Lithuania is a system that ensures the spatial integrity of all the country's strategies. The general plan of the territory is a tool to qualitatively harmonize various activities carried out in the country - business, agriculture, tourism, recreation, environmental and cultural heritage protection, infrastructure.

The purpose of the general plan of the territory of the Republic of Lithuania is to determine the spatial development directions, use and protection priorities of the country's territory in accordance with the provisions of Article 3, paragraph 1 of the Territorial Planning Law.

The general plan of Lithuania is the main document of the country's spatial development, the formulated solutions of which will be valid until 2030, and the proposed vision even until 2050. Decisions are

particularly important for the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, because each country must provide certain measures to achieve them.

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

Spatial structure of maritime areas:

1. The maritime territories of the Republic of Lithuania (maritime district) consist of territorial waters (territorial sea) and exclusive economic zone;
2. Sea area of the Republic of Lithuania - inland waters of the sea area of the Republic of Lithuania, Territorial seas of the Republic of Lithuania and exclusive economic zones of the Republic of Lithuania the waters, the seabed, and the depths of the earth beneath.
3. Coast - the part of the coastal belt, which includes the Baltic territorial waters of the Republic of Lithuania sea water area up to 20 m depth isobath.

4. Spatial Plans

4.1. Title of Maritime Spatial Plan:

The Comprehensive Plan of the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania

4.1.1. Legal basis

Territorial Planning Law of the Republic of Lithuania (1995 December 12, Nr. I-1120) constitute the legal base for marine spatial planning in Lithuania. According to article 11 of the Territorial Planning Law, decisions of the general plan of the state territory must be prepared according to the concept of the General Plan of the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania. The object of the general plan of the state territory is the territory of the Republic of Lithuania (including the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone in the Baltic Sea). According to Article 7, The Parliament approves the concept of the general plan of the territory of the Republic of Lithuania, which determines the long-term directions of the spatial development of the territory of the state (including the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone in the Baltic Sea) and the functional priorities of the use of the territories. The Government formulates state policy in the area of territorial planning: approves general plans of the state territory or part of it and provides state budget funds for their preparation, implementation and implementation monitoring. The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania have to approve the implementation plan of the General Plan of the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania.

The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania is the owner of the plan and responsible for procedures needed for the plan.

2014-2020 In the National Progress Program, approved by Lithuania 2012 of the Government of the Republic November 28 by resolution no. 1482 "For the years 2014-2020 approval of the national progress program", determined by long-term state priorities implementation directions. These directions include: Increasing Lithuania's competitiveness through maritime development and inland water transport; water resources (including the Baltic Sea) management, protection and floods risk mitigation.

Relevant national legislation:

- Law on Territorial Planning of the Republic of Lithuania, No. I-1120, 12 December 1995;
- Order On the Approval of Spatial Data Specifications for Territorial Planning, No. D1-1009, 31 December 2013;
- Resolution On the Approval of the Spatial Development Directions and Functional Priorities for Territorial Use in the General Plan of the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania, No. XIII-3021, 4 April 2020;

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- Resolution The Approval of the General Plan of the Republic of Lithuania, No. 789, 29 September 2021;
 - Resolution on the Approval of the Implementation Program for the Solutions of the General Plan of the Republic of Lithuania, No. 741, 20 September 2023;
 - Resolution On the Approval of the National Agenda "National Energy Independence Strategy", No. XI-2133, 26 June 2012;
 - Law on Marine Environment Protection of the Republic of Lithuania, No. VIII-512, 13 November;
 - Law On the Coastal Zone of the Republic of Lithuania, No. IX-1016, 2 July 2002;
 - On The Implementation of Integrated Maritime Policy in the Republic of Lithuania, No. 1280, 24 October 2012.

4.1.2. Legal impact

The decisions of the general plans of the state territory and parts of the state territory are implemented:

- 1) detailing solutions in lower-level territorial planning documents (plan of part of the state territory);
- 2) when the planning organizer prepares decision implementation programs, which are combined with long, medium, or short-term planning documents, predicting the possibilities of implementing investment projects in the planned territories and creating conditions for attracting private investments.

4.1.3. Area covered

The subject of the Comprehensive plan of the territory of the Republic of Lithuania is the territory of the Republic of Lithuania (including the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone in the Baltic Sea).

4.1.4. Historic development

Spatial planning of maritime territories implements the cooperation of Lithuanian state institutions and, as a horizontal direction, directly or indirectly related to all the directions of implementation of the integrated maritime policy of the Republic of Lithuania by the resolution of the Government of the Republic no. 1280 adopted in 2012 October 24 "On the integrated maritime policy of the Republic of Lithuania implementation".

The Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania supplemented the General Plan of the Republic of Lithuania in 2015 June 11 by resolution no. XII-1781 with the part "Maritime Territories". There were identified spatial planning objectives. This was the first MSP of the Republic of Lithuania.

The second national MSP was updated in accord with the planning process of the Comprehensive plan of the territory of the Republic of Lithuania between 2018 and 2022.

4.1.5. Objectives of the plan

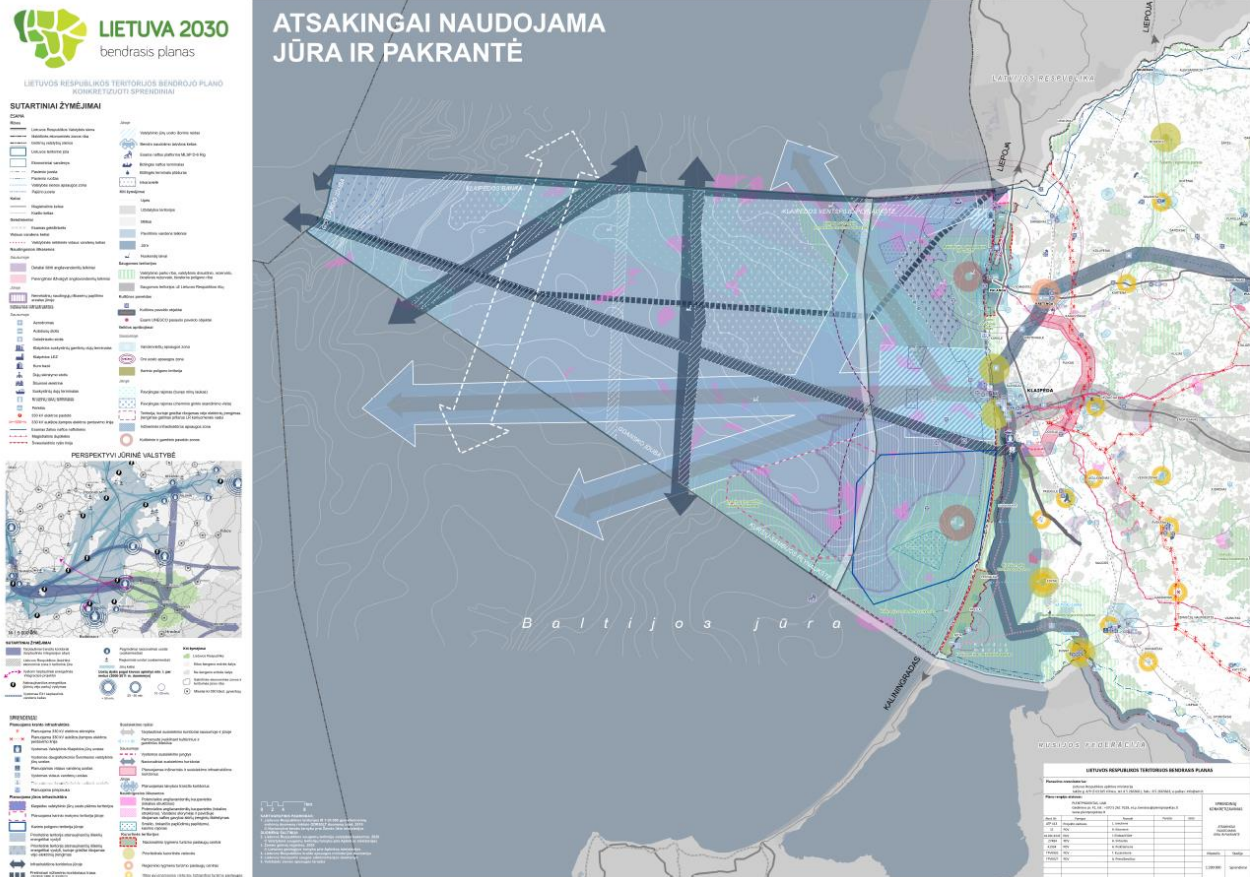
1. Maintain the balance of the economic and ecological development of the state's maritime territories; to ensure conditions for territorial cohesion, sustainable development of the state territory, consistent spatial policy implementation of functional integration, and deal with the planned territory in a complex manner between related tasks;
2. to form a healthy and harmonious environment, trying to create better living conditions in the country;

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3. form a unified policy for the development of various fields of activity;
 4. protect and rationally use natural and recreational resources, natural and cultural heritage values, to restore the abundance of natural and recreational resources;
 5. to reserve (designate) territories for different types of development of infrastructure and other areas of activity in maritime areas;
 6. harmonize natural and legal actors, their associations, organizations or groups, municipalities, state interests and the rights of subjects of international law regarding the use of maritime territories, assessing the exclusive rights of the Republic of Lithuania to the airspace above its territory, the continental shelf and the economic zone in the Baltic Sea;
 7. promote investments for economic development, natural and cultural heritage values and recreation for conservation and restoration of resources.

Activities that take place on the surface of the water, above the water, under the water and in the depths, in Lithuanian marine areas are developed in accordance with the following principles:

1. the principle of partnership, equal opportunities is followed in order to use natural resources and protect them, develop various maritime activities in order to maintain the traditions of the coastal region and features;
2. the principle of responsibility is followed in order to reduce maritime activities (shipping, energy) environmental impact;
3. the principle of ecological efficiency (dematerialization) is followed in order to be more efficient use natural resources and manage waste. Energy production and maritime services (shipping, cargo and other related services) must grow faster than the natural resources used, that is less energy and other natural resources must be used to provide the same amount of services resources;
4. following the principle of flexibility, development priorities, goals, tasks, and their implementation measures are coordinated and refined taking into account changing environmental conditions;
5. the principle of consistent development is followed in order to protect the marine landscape, biological diversity, cultural values. Landscape change must be consistent and not reduce its value. The type, scale and intensity of all planned activities must correspond to the planned territory natural development opportunities.

4.1.6. Map



4.1.7. Designation

- Designation categories

In the functional zone for decentralized development in the open sea, priority is given to the activities of the following groups: commercial fishing, aquaculture, maritime routes, energy transmission, and telecommunications lines, as well as other economic activities. Alongside these activities, the following may also be developed: extraction of mineral resources, installation of renewable energy (wind, wave, current, etc.) parks and their accessories, and reserving marine space for other, currently unknown activities.

In the functional zone for the extraction of renewable energy resources, priority is given to the following groups of activities: installation of renewable energy (wind, wave, current, etc.) parks and their accessories, construction of engineering systems' power supply facilities (transformer stations, etc.) and other engineering installations, as well as laying energy and telecommunications lines. In addition to these activities, other activities can be developed, including commercial fishing, aquaculture, and other economic activities that do not disturb the priority activities and extraction of mineral resources.

In the functional zone of intensive shipping, priority is given to the following groups of activities: maritime routes, pipelines, energy and telecommunications lines, and ecosystem conservation activities. In this zone, other activities can be developed, including commercial fishing, extraction of mineral resources, and reserving marine space for other, currently unknown economic activities, without disrupting priority activities.

In the functional zone for ecosystem protection and military exercises in the open sea, priority is given to the following groups of activities: ecosystem conservation activities, national defense activities, shipping, and commercial fishing. In addition to these activities, other activities can be developed, such as mineral extraction and recreational activities.

In the mixed-purpose functional zone, priority is given to the following groups of activities: extraction of renewable energy (from waves and currents), pipelines, energy and telecommunications lines, and other engineering installations. Other activities being developed in this zone include removal of excavated soil, recreational activities, and development of aquaculture.

In the functional zone for port development, priority is given to the activities of these groups: construction of seaports, small boat harbors, piers, navigation equipment, other engineering installations, and hydraulic structures, as well as maritime routes, port fairways and anchorages, pipelines, water supply, sewage disposal, and energy and telecommunications lines. Other activities that conserve ecosystems, recreational activities, commercial fishing, water extraction for drinking or production purposes, sewage discharge, and other economic activities can also be developed in this zone.

In the functional zone for the protection of coastal ecosystems, priority is given to activities that conserve ecosystems, commercial fishing, recreational fishing, water sports, leisure, tourism, and other recreational activities. Considering and nurturing the conservation-oriented nature of the area, small ports and piers related to priority activities might be established in this zone, along with the construction of energy transmission lines and the execution of military exercises.

- **Planned Sea-uses**

- **Ecology and environmental protection:**

- 1. Maintaining the ecological balance and preserving the sustainability of the environment is one of the of the most important Baltic Sea problems faced by all countries of the Baltic Sea region, among them Lithuania. In the Baltic Sea environmental protection strategy approved by Lithuania 2010 of the Government of the Republic August 25 by resolution no. 1264 "About the Baltic Sea of the environmental protection strategy", actions are presented: biodiversity in the sea preservation, protection of ecosystems, harmful and dangerous chemicals and reduction of drug threats. Lithuania, implementing the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, envisages actions for achieving a good state of the marine environment by 2020. The biggest the challenges of ecological sustainability are of concern: eutrophication, biodiversity conservation, pollution from ships, pollution by hazardous chemicals, climate change, chemical substances left over from the First and Second World Wars sunk in the sea;

- 2. Good environmental conditions are one of the essential conditions ensuring the quality of available natural resources. Considering that the Baltic Sea is a particularly sensitive ecosystem, it is important to protect natural ones' values and to achieve a ood condition of the marine environment as a necessary condition for the use of resources for the development of related economic activities. Lithuania is successful in implementing the EU's environmental protection policy and n to ensure the protection of the most valuable maritime territories, forming European importance Natura 2000 network of marine protected areas. Establishment of new Natura 2000 areas, protection and monitoring of protected values and new scientific research will be one of the most important activities that will create

conditions for controlling and correcting the directions of sustainable development and scale at sea.

Protection of cultural and natural heritage under water:

1. Under the water there are many discovered and still unknown traces of human activity, which are partially or at least 100 have been completely, intermittently or continuously under water years. Lithuania, as a party to the Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage (Convention was ratified in 2006 March 30, by Law of the Republic of Lithuania no. X-539 "Due to of the ratification of the Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage"), fulfills the commitments obligations, protects underwater cultural and natural heritage and cooperates in this in the area with other states, parties to the Convention;
2. the protection of underwater cultural and natural heritage allows preserving the identity of the area, the diversity of the maritime landscape and the historical memory. Accordingly, the sea is tolerated such with activities related to cultural and natural values, which are combined with underwater culture and protection of natural heritage, increases knowledge about it and improves its condition, makes it public opportunities to get to know the underwater cultural and natural heritage at its location;
3. knowledge of underwater cultural and natural heritage is promoted through international cooperation, archaeologists and other underwater culture and natural heritage specialists exchange, application of new research methods. State - Underwater culture the parties to the heritage protection convention have an exclusive right in exercising their sovereign rights regulate and grant permission to carry out with the underwater cultural and natural heritage located in its internal waters, archipelagic waters and territorial sea, related activities. Conventions countries are responsible for the protection of underwater cultural and natural heritage in exceptional in the economic zone and continental shelf;
4. in order to ensure the preservation of underwater heritage objects, special attention is paid for scientific research, selection of found objects, evaluation and registration of cultural values in the register, for protective measures.

Economic integration and competitiveness:

1. planning of maritime territories must promote Lithuania's economic integration with the EU and especially countries of the Baltic region, as well as to increase the competitive opportunities of the entire maritime sector With the development of the "blue" economy in the EU and global markets. The sea area is not only the most convenient way to reach the markets of other countries, but also space for traditional and new maritime ones to develop economic activities;
2. the competitiveness of traditional and new maritime activities directly depends on EU Lisbon implementation of the goals set by the strategy. Innovation, research and knowledge reasonable transformation of the traditional maritime economy allows for the expansion of maritime territories possibilities of use, to attract new investments. Integrated is being developed in Klaipėda science, study and business center (valley) for the development of the Lithuanian maritime sector, intended to strengthen not only maritime business and scientific relations, but also to implement Lithuania's interests and obligations, undertaken in the implementation of the EU's integrated maritime policy in the areas of environmental protection, maritime innovation and others areas. It is proposed to develop breakthrough directions: 1) marine environment: natural resources and aquaculture, environmental protection and coastal management, recreational resources and tourism; 2) marine technologies:

maritime transport and ports, marine structures and technologies, marine mechatronics systems. New activities - renewable energy activities - are especially important for maritime territories utilization of resources.

Assimilation of marine resources:

1. rational and effective use of energy and other natural resources is one of strategic activities of the Baltic Sea region. A reliable energy supply is especially important safety at sea. Lithuania, like many other countries of the Baltic Sea region, has abundant own renewable energy resources, but they are underutilized. In order to strengthen the position of the state and at the same time the entire region in energy and other economic sectors, related to the extraction and use of available useful resources, it is necessary to identify state's natural resources in the sea and to formulate assumptions that promote them sustainable use;
2. The planning of Lithuanian maritime territories opens up opportunities to create conditions for useful minerals at sea for search and exploration and to absorb renewable energy resources at sea. 2011 m. May 12 Renewable Energy Energy Law of the Republic of Lithuania No. XI-1375 provides to ensure that the share of energy from renewable resources compared to the country in total final energy consumption, 2020 this part would make up at least 23% would be further increased using the latest and most efficient renewables technologies for the use of energy resources and promoting energy efficiency.

Maritime transport and communications:

1. The territory of Lithuania, its coastal area and maritime territories are extremely important in the Baltic Sea part of the region, ensuring the smooth movement of transit cargo West-East and North-South directions. The transport infrastructure of the Baltic Sea region has an important importance in the world economy. The planning of maritime territories must ensure the increase of Lithuania's competitiveness in the East-West transport corridor;
2. although special attention is paid to the transport infrastructure, a lot of effort is still needed to the general level of infrastructure would reach the most developed countries of the European Union standard. Lithuania, like the entire Southeast Baltic, is too isolated from the rest of Europe Union Territories. This part of the region is an important European-level gateway connecting Europe and Asian markets;
3. In the strategy of the Baltic Sea region, one of the priority projects is the East-West "green" transport corridor. The "green" transport corridor is information technology a solutions-based transport and service corridor that enhances the entire logistics chain efficiency. In this corridor, only those that cause little damage to nature are expected to be used means of transport - mainly sea transport and railways. It is important to develop the sea highways in the region. On the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea, this aspiration is lacking modern infrastructure. General capacity of the East-West transport corridor increase and efficiency should be ensured by the development of East-West maritime highways Klaipėda–Karlshamn and other projects;
4. integration into the common integrated European maritime transport area must increase the Lithuanian sea efficiency of transport, ensuring its long-term competitiveness, accessibility of the country by sea. It is extremely important to maintain the port of Klaipėda as a strategic hub for Southeast Baltic logistics and East-West transit node. Observing the dynamics of port activity and shipping, one can see the objective need for no not only to expand the infrastructure of the existing Klaipėda port, but also to establish an external deep-water port In

Melnragė or Šventoja (Sventoji-Būtinge area), as well as reconstructed Šventoji port. The current situation reveals the obvious lack of small ports in the Lithuanian sea on the shore, therefore the prerequisites for the development of a network of new yachts and small boats ports/ports in the open are sufficiently heavy on the seashore;

5. the development of ports influences the directions of shipping routes and promotes the intensity of shipping. Shipping the corridors must correspond to the most intensive shipping lines crossing the sea and ensure shipping security;

6. Lithuania has a widely developed communication network and modern internet infrastructure, among them broadband internet. An optical cable was built from Lithuania to Sweden, which passes through Lithuania territorial sea. It is necessary to ensure communication corridors of new connections, new technologies development opportunities in maritime areas.

Fisheries and Aquaculture:

1. Strengthening the competitiveness of the fisheries sector is one of the priority areas in the Baltic Sea region. The European Union's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) encompasses the conservation, management, and use of aquatic resources, as well as the processing and trade of fisheries and aquaculture products. It outlines clear measures related to the conservation, management, and use of living aquatic resources, limiting the environmental impact of fishing, access conditions for waters and resources, fleet capacity, control, aquaculture, general market organization, and international relations.

2. Lithuania, with significant fishing fleet capacity at the EU level and fishing rights, as well as longstanding fishing traditions both in the Baltic Sea and distant fishing areas, aims to create favorable conditions for the development of the fishing business, with special attention to the small-scale fishing fleet, which is sensitive both socially and economically.

3. Commercial fishing is developed in the Baltic Sea's coastal and open sea areas. Recreational fishing is becoming increasingly popular. Due to the intensification of other maritime activities, there is decreasing space for the fishing industry at sea. Therefore, it is important to ensure opportunities for commercial fishing in the most fish-rich and convenient areas. To preserve opportunities for developing coastal fishing businesses, it is advisable to develop the infrastructure of small ports and piers along the coastline from Klaipėda to Šventoji.

4. As natural fish resources dwindle and efforts are made to preserve them, plans are in place to develop marine aquaculture. Given the rapid progress in marine aquaculture technologies, it is essential to designate marine aquaculture areas in Lithuania's territorial waters or exclusive economic zones where they will have the least impact or be least impacted by other activities.

Energy security:

1. In Lithuania, as in the neighboring states of the Baltic Sea region, it is very important to implement plans for cross-border energy connections, which must increase states and consumers energy security. Lithuania is particularly interested in the fastest and most efficient regionalization possible solving energy challenges. The main objectives of the Baltic Energy Market Connection Plan are: full integration of the three Baltic states into the European energy market; connection strengthening between the Baltic states and their neighboring states. According to the energy infrastructure adopted by the EU Lithuania, together with Sweden and Latvia, implemented the project financing plan for the electricity connection NordBalt project. In 2017, updated in the National Energy Independence strategy

(NENS) envisages an additional electricity connection with Sweden (NordBalt II) feasibility assessment and make decisions on project implementation, taking into account the need and possibilities of implementation on the scale of the Baltic region;

2. taking into account the rapidly developing wind in Europe as well as in the Baltic Sea growth rates of the offshore energy sector, offshore wind farms must be foreseen installation areas and corridors connecting these parks to land networks. It is appropriate to initiate The creation of an integrated network of wind farms in the Baltic Sea region, making it possible to join the EU funded wind farms in Denmark, Poland, Sweden and Germany were able to connect and planned energy parks in the sea territories of Lithuania and other Baltic countries;

3. efficient transportation of energy resources and increase of energy security can ensure environmentally friendly pipeline transport at sea.

Safety and Security:

1. All other factors of regional prosperity depend heavily on safety and security. The sea area plays an important role in ensuring safety and security. A favorable strategic position, esp in terms of communication, promotes intensive shipping of the Baltic Sea. Constantly transported by sea large quantities of dangerous goods. In Lithuania, through Klaipėda port and Būtingė oil terminal transportation of oil and oil products, transportation of liquefied natural gas. Russia near the sea border with Lithuania produces oil in field D-6. Oil is possible in the future development of works not only in the neighboring countries, but also in the Lithuanian water area. It is necessary to activate Lithuania position on the inclusion of neighboring countries in joint and bilateral actions in the resolution of the sea environmental issues in the development of oil spill response plans and cleanup consequences, compensating the damage caused by pollution;

2. Lithuania contributes to ensuring exemplary shipping in the Baltic Sea region. Shipping safety is ensured by coordinating the joint actions of the countries, implementing high navigation and ships safety standards in the development of marine surveillance, search and rescue systems. Necessary development of cooperation between emergency response services, their capacity modernization, preparation of actions for major disaster scenarios, organization of preparation plans and exercises; in the case of disasters at sea and on shore – threats analysis and identification of potential disaster sites at sea and on shore, appropriate response ensuring the safety of plans and people;

3. Lithuania's maritime territories have a state border not only with EU member states, for which the Schengen Agreement is valid, but also the external border of the European Union with the Russian Federation. Lithuania contributes to the external border protection of the European Union.

Recreation and tourism:

1. tourism has great potential in the Baltic Sea region. Especially with large recreational resources the Curonian Spit and the continental coast and the entire seacoast are characterized. One from the Baltic Sea strategic aspirations of the region, to develop and develop the tourism sector, ensuring the region attractiveness and accessibility; promote competitiveness by offering new tourism developments direction, increasing the accessibility of hitherto undisclosed, hard-to-reach areas;

2. Exploitation of the recreational potential of the Curonian Spit, the continental coast, and the seacoast and so far, new in Lithuania - maritime recreation and maritime cultural and natural heritage promotion of knowledge is one of the key

goals in order to ensure the attractiveness of the state in the field of maritime tourism. In addition to the cruise tourism developed in Klaipėda, it is necessary to create conditions for the growth of other maritime tourism and the development of related infrastructure. Need to ensure compliance with common European regulations for small yachts and small craft ports/harbors installation of a network along the entire coast of the Baltic Sea, maintaining a minimum distance of 50 km between them. At the same time, environmental and other requirements and restrictions must be assessed. It should a network of marinas for yachts and small ships should be created on the coast of the Lithuanian sea, by equipping them near the settlements of Karklė and Šventoji;

3. When Lithuania identifies itself as a maritime state, cognitive tourism must be encouraged and maritime entertainment services, actively using maritime culture and natural heritage opportunities provided by objects. Therefore, it is necessary to expand the objects of maritime culture and natural heritage scientific research, to ensure their protection and accessibility to the public;

4. In order to ensure a good quality recreational space, sea water pollution must be taken into account the need to reduce and solve the problems of coastal erosion and marine debris.

5. It is necessary to respond appropriately to possible changes in climate change and the intensification of coastal erosion. As a result, continuous maintenance of the sea beaches and the protective dune ridge must be ensured and the application of coastal protection measures, making it possible to use beaches for restoration at sea existing sand sources and clean soil excavated in ports.

4.1.8. Regulations

The territorial designation indicates the primary uses of an area, as well as any additional uses that may be developed in alignment with the main designated function. These additional uses must not interfere with the primary use. According to national zoning regulations, the primary use must occupy at least 50% of the entire zone. The remaining area can be allocated for other functional uses.

4.1.9. Adoption

The comprehensive plan of the territory of the Republic of Lithuania was adopted in 2021 September 29, by the resolution Nr. 789 “Nutarimas dėl Lietuvos Respublikos teritorijos bendrojo plano patvirtinimo”.

4.1.10. SEA

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) is made in line with the Procedure for the Strategic Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes as approved by Resolution No 967 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 18 August 2004 at the concept stage of drawing up of comprehensive territorial plans. The subject of the assessment is a long-term strategic document – conceptual provisions and alternatives of the comprehensive plan of the territory of the Republic of Lithuania (The Plan) brought forward to SEA developer. Assessment methods, aspects and environment components are chosen in relation to the strategic level of the document in question and also indicated in the technical specification of the tender documentation.

SEA procedures are carried out domestically, also at the cross-border level by delivering necessary SEA materials to EU member states and other countries specified in the abovementioned Procedure.

Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania as the organizer of the comprehensive plan.

Consultative working group comprised of representatives of a number of public authorities (Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania, State Service for Protected Areas, State Forest Service, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Lithuania, Ministry of National Defence, Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Economy and Innovation, Ministry of the Interior and Ministry of Agriculture).

The Plan Coordination Commission ('Coordination Commission') comprised of ministerial representatives.

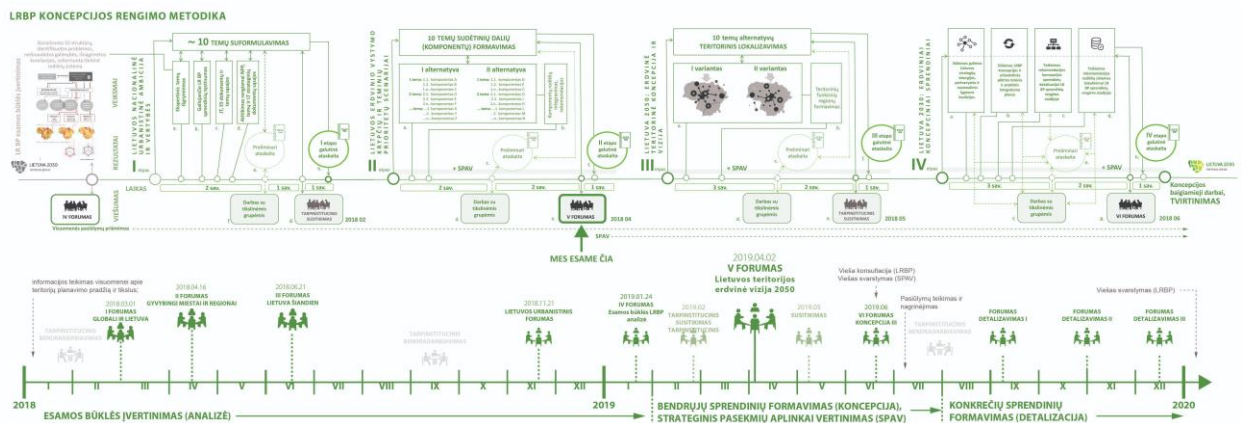
The public SEA stakeholders should produce their conclusions on The Plan concept solutions and the quality of SEA documents in accordance with the provisions of the Procedure. The consultative working group and the public get engaged in the process by the rights of non-SEA stakeholders. Members of the consultative working group should provide information and advice to the Plan organiser and developers. The public may make comments and proposals with regard to the SEA report and draft plan. The Coordination Commission will accept completed the Plan solutions in the form of spatial development strands of the national territory and functional priorities of territorial use. Solutions should be selected and adopted on the basis of the conclusions of the SEA report.

4.1.11. Public participation

At the concept development stage, documents for determining the scope of the strategic environmental impact assessment are prepared and discussed with the responsible institutions, an assessment of the strategic environmental impact of solutions (hereinafter referred to as SEA) is carried out and presented to the public for discussion while consulting on the prepared solutions.

The methodology for preparing the concept of the general plan of the territory of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the LR BP) was presented to the general public for the first time during the 4th LR BP Forum. This presentation was followed by events for a narrower group of stakeholders. In total, 8 events took place, and more than 400 participants took part in 2019 from January 24 until March 7. The purpose of these presentations was to acquaint the public with the conclusions of the analysis of the current state of BP of the Republic of Lithuania and the concept, to gather experts' insights and suggestions to form the concept of BP of LR.

The structure of stakeholder engagement and public participation is depicted in the scheme below. The specified consultations, workshops and meetings were structured according to the methodology needs and based on the resolution on public information, consultation and participation when making decisions regarding the approval of territorial planning provisions. Every stage was finalized with a public forum.



4.1.12. Transboundary consultation

Two neighboring countries have expressed interest in the international consultation process for the territorial plan and its Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Representatives from these neighboring states were invited to discuss shared concerns and clarify the processes and decisions related to the plan. The consultations concluded successfully with the approval from the neighboring states.

4.1.13. Harmonization with other plans

The document of the National Comprehensive Territorial Plan is synchronized with the system of strategic documents of the Republic of Lithuania, the National Development Plan (NPP), national future vision "Lietuva 2050" and its implementation is linked to long-term state development plans. In addition, the cross-border synchronization with territorial plans of the neighboring countries has been carried out during the process of international consultations.

4.1.14. Implementation, Monitoring, evaluation, follow-up MSP

The Comprehensive Plan of the territory of the Republic of Lithuania is sets the targets for 10 years and is valid for unlimited time until the update of the plan is initiated. The Program for the implementation of solutions of the Comprehensive Plan of the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania was adopted in 2023 September 20. According to the Law on Territorial Planning of the Republic of Lithuania, the evaluation of the progress of the implementation program is carried out at least once in 5 years. The detailed territorial plans at lower level are carried out under the framework of The Comprehensive Plan of the territory of the Republic of Lithuania.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 29 of the Law on Territorial Planning of the Republic of Lithuania, the implementation program until 2030 of Territorial Plan of the Republic of Lithuania is being prepared. The document is prepared under the authority of the Government according to the procedure established by the institution. In order to implement the decisions of the Comprehensive Plan of the Republic of Lithuania, it is necessary to change legislation, prepare, to correct or change territorial planning documents at the state or municipal level, to continue or prepare new projects important to the state, reserving territories for state needs.

The theme "Responsibly Used Sea and Coast" establishes guidelines for strengthening and developing the connections between land and sea. The goal is to enhance the region both nationally and internationally, promote the growth of the "blue economy" while adhering to sustainability principles, and improve the quality of the marine environment and its resilience to the impacts of climate change.

The section "Responsibly Used Sea and Coast" corresponds to the SDG goals. Goal: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development: 14.2., 14.3., 14.5., 14a.

4.1.15. Electronic resources

- Website(s) with further information about MSP
Website: <https://www.bendrasisplanas.lt/>
Legal document: <https://e-seimasx.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/ab6b8b21266f11ec99bbc1b08701c7f8>

SEA:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CS9JxOcBL_IHkXpFcyMYaDOcvM9r8114/view?usp=sharing

- Access to MSP data - Link(s) to the national MSP data portals or information where to access MSP data (via pan-Baltic and/or national web services)

National source: <https://maps.planuojustatau.lt/map/main/>

Basemap: <https://basemaps.helcom.fi/>

Emodnet: <https://emodnet.ec.europa.eu/geo>

5. What countries want to share:

5.1. Pilot plans

N/A

5.2. Good practices

N/A

6. New developments / current status

Currently, offshore renewable wind energy parks are in the development process. The first territory designated for the park was leased to a private company. The design procedures are currently underway.

7. MSP role in protection of marine environment

HELCOM MPAs, as well as other protected areas, were taken into consideration when planning other activities in the MSP. For example, Offshore Wind farms or aquaculture areas are not overlapping with protected areas.

8. MSP role in Climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience

N/A