



# Country Fiche on Terrestrial Spatial Planning

## Lithuania

Updated January 2018

## 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 urbanisation 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 adopted on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2013 and came into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2014.

#### ***The Comprehensive Plan***

The Comprehensive Plan of the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania is one of the central and integrated territorial planning document's 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 link to the 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](https://map.tpdr.lt/tpdr-gis/index.jsp?action=tpdrPortal®_tpd_id=52605)).

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 programmes and strategies, lower level comprehensive and special plans;
- for the development of strategies of economic sectors, other strategic plans and programmes of state institutions have to rest upon solutions of the Comprehensive Plan of the Republic of Lithuania.

The **current** Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the Parliament in 2002 and is in force till 2020. 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.

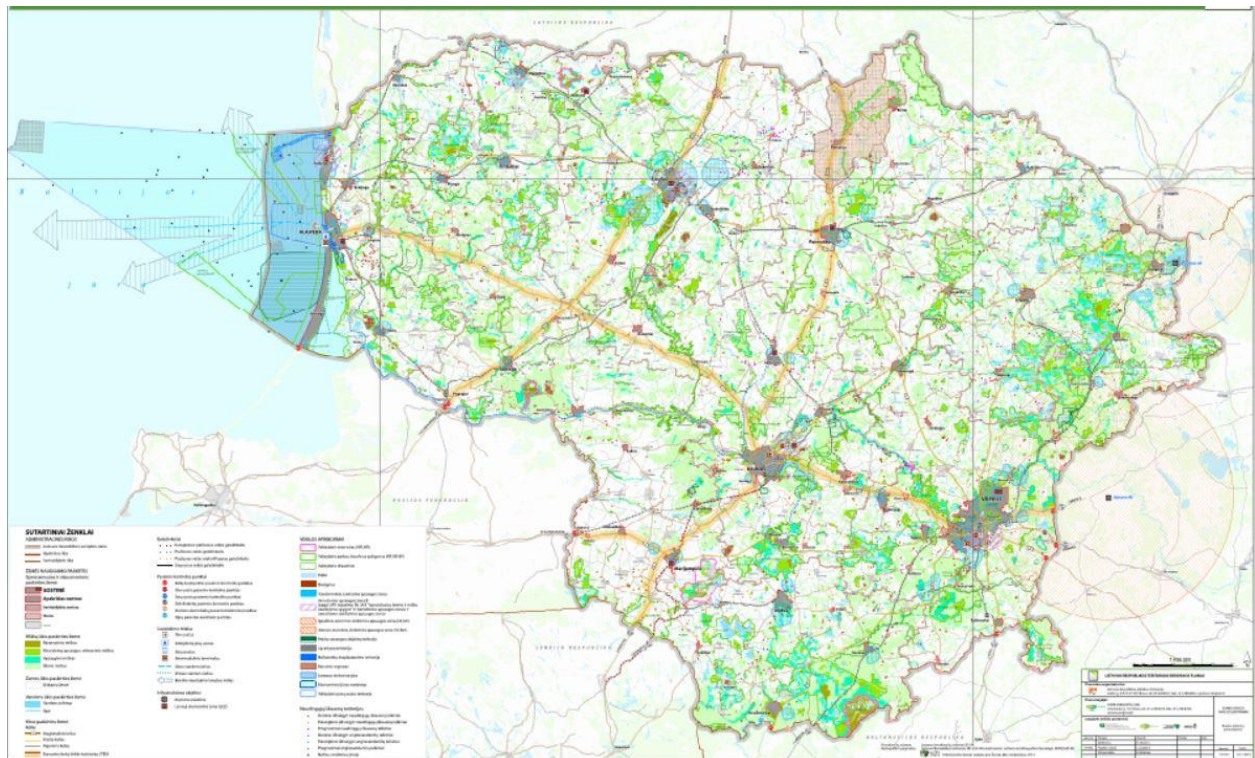


Figure 1 A comprehensive territorial plan presenting the current use of territories in Lithuania.

## 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 characterised by administrative (regions, counties) or functional commonality.

*Municipal level* - territories are characterised 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 urbanised territories or territories under urbanisation 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.

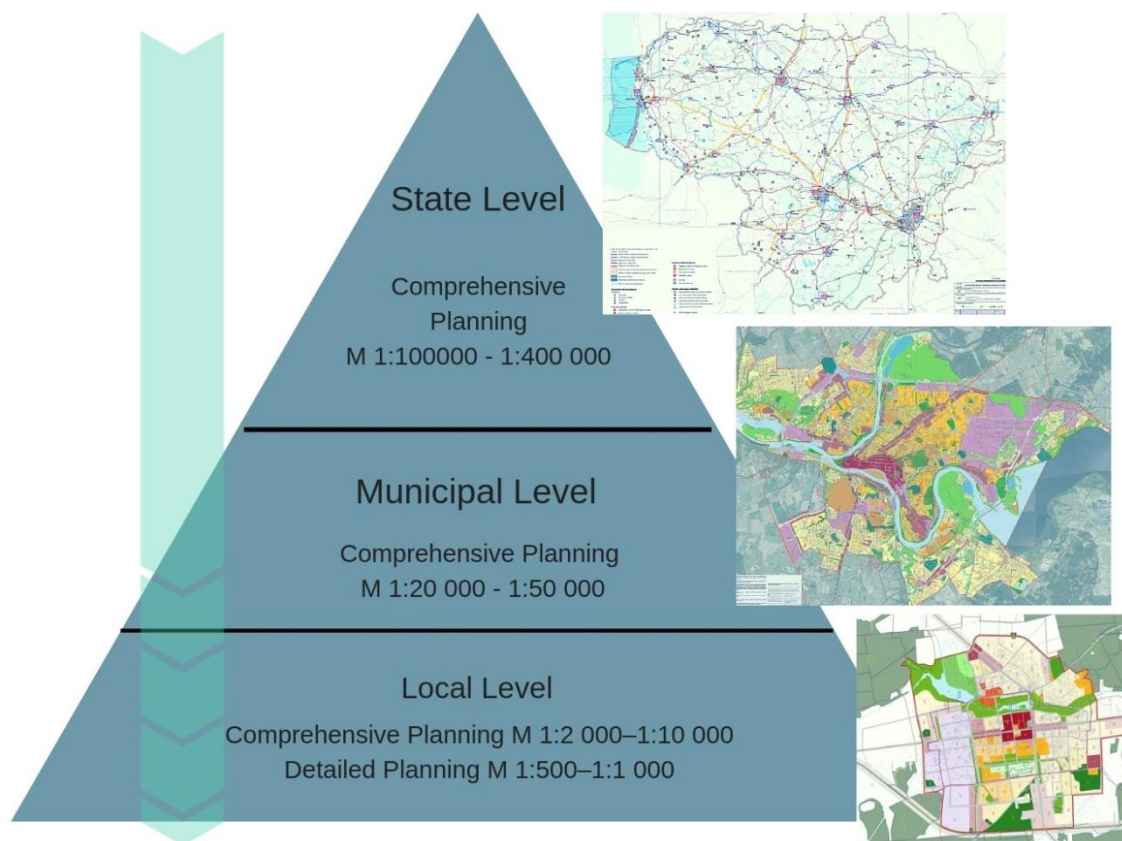


Figure 2. The spatial planning system in Lithuania. Planning levels and the representative maps.

### ***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 will be a *live document*, meaning that it will not become a rigid and stagnant document; it will always contain room for a constructive reflection and will be updated given any new development challenges or trends if it is needed. It will be 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 also will incorporate national level long term programmes and strategies considering their territorial dimension. It is believed that development strategies of economy sectors, other strategic plans and programmes of state institutions will be the part the Comprehensive Plan. Furthermore, the new plan will integrate Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

A major challenge is to make it as an efficient and operational document as possible, which sets out a comprehensive and integral vision for spatial, environmental, social and economic development, defines protection and use priorities and directions.

## 2. Contacts

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