

VILNIUS

[The home of AMLA]





When the European Commission proposed the establishment of AMLA in July 2021, the Lithuanian Government immediately decided to launch a bid to host this significant institution in Vilnius. For us, it wasn't a tough decision – we saw it as a natural next step in the evolution of Lithuania's financial and compliance sector, in line with our long-term strategic direction to keep AML/CFT issues at the forefront of our national policy agenda.

With a steadfast commitment to combating money laundering, Lithuania has developed a comprehensive and robust risk management framework. The effectiveness of our framework is acknowledged internationally – for example, by the Basel AML Index of 2023, which ranks Lithuania among the top 10 countries globally with the lowest risk for money laundering. This recognition also serves as a testament to the extensive regulatory and supervisory experience we have accumulated in both the conventional banking sector and the FinTech segment, which has seen substantial growth in recent years, making Lithuania a leading FinTech hub in Europe.

Locating AMLA in Vilnius would ensure better geographical balance within the European Union when it comes to the distribution of EU agencies. Moreover, against the backdrop of current geopolitical realities, the establishment of AMLA in Lithuania would send a signal of confidence for Lithuania and the entire region, advancing deeper integration into the EU institutional and financial framework.

Vilnius proposes a remarkable opportunity for AMLA to have brand new premises in the heart of the EU's greenest capital, renowned for its top-notch digital infrastructure. The state-of-the-art facility ensures the highest standards for office buildings, offering an inspiring and innovative workspace. Together with high-quality healthcare and education services, and abundant opportunities in the labour market, Vilnius makes it a perfect home for AMLA employees and their family members. Importantly, Vilnius offers an excellent quality of life at a more affordable cost compared to most major Western European cities.

Finally, in Lithuania, we boast a team of over 10,000 specialists dedicated to compliance, with more than 7,500 focusing on financial services, banking, and related sectors. Our vibrant and dynamic financial sector ecosystem – powered by a strong public-private partnership and coupled with a large talent pool of compliance professionals – presents numerous synergy opportunities that will undoubtedly propel the new agency to a successful start of operations.

Together, we can pave the way for a stronger, more secure European financial landscape, with Vilnius as the proud home of AMLA.



Gintarė Skaistė

Minister of Finance of Lithuania

Vilnius offers
a brand new
set of premises
for AMLA



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Vibrant and Green City

Vilnius provides an oasis of greenery at every glance, with nearly half the city filled with parks, squares and forests, inviting everyone to immerse themselves in nature without leaving the city or even the Old Town.

Vilnius has committed to turning itself into a climate-neutral city by 2030. This vision includes electromobility, alternative fuels and sustainable mobility.

Work-life balance is also a key part of the Lithuanian work culture. Here, both employers and employees value quality leisure time and create plenty of opportunities for it. Instead of wasting hours on long commutes, professionals have the opportunity to pursue leisure activities of their preference. Whether it's a brisk morning run in a park or a coffee break at a local café, the absence of a lengthy commute allows for a more fulfilling use of time.

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Vilnius has committed to turning itself into a climate-neutral city by 2030

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European Green Capital 2025



61% of the city's territory is covered by greenery



UNESCO-listed city centre



Prime office rental costs in Lithuania are among the lowest in the EU (FDi Intelligence, Global Cities of the Future).



Vilnius holds 1st place in the cost-effectiveness category. (FDi Intelligence, Global Cities of the Future ranking)

Geographically balanced choice

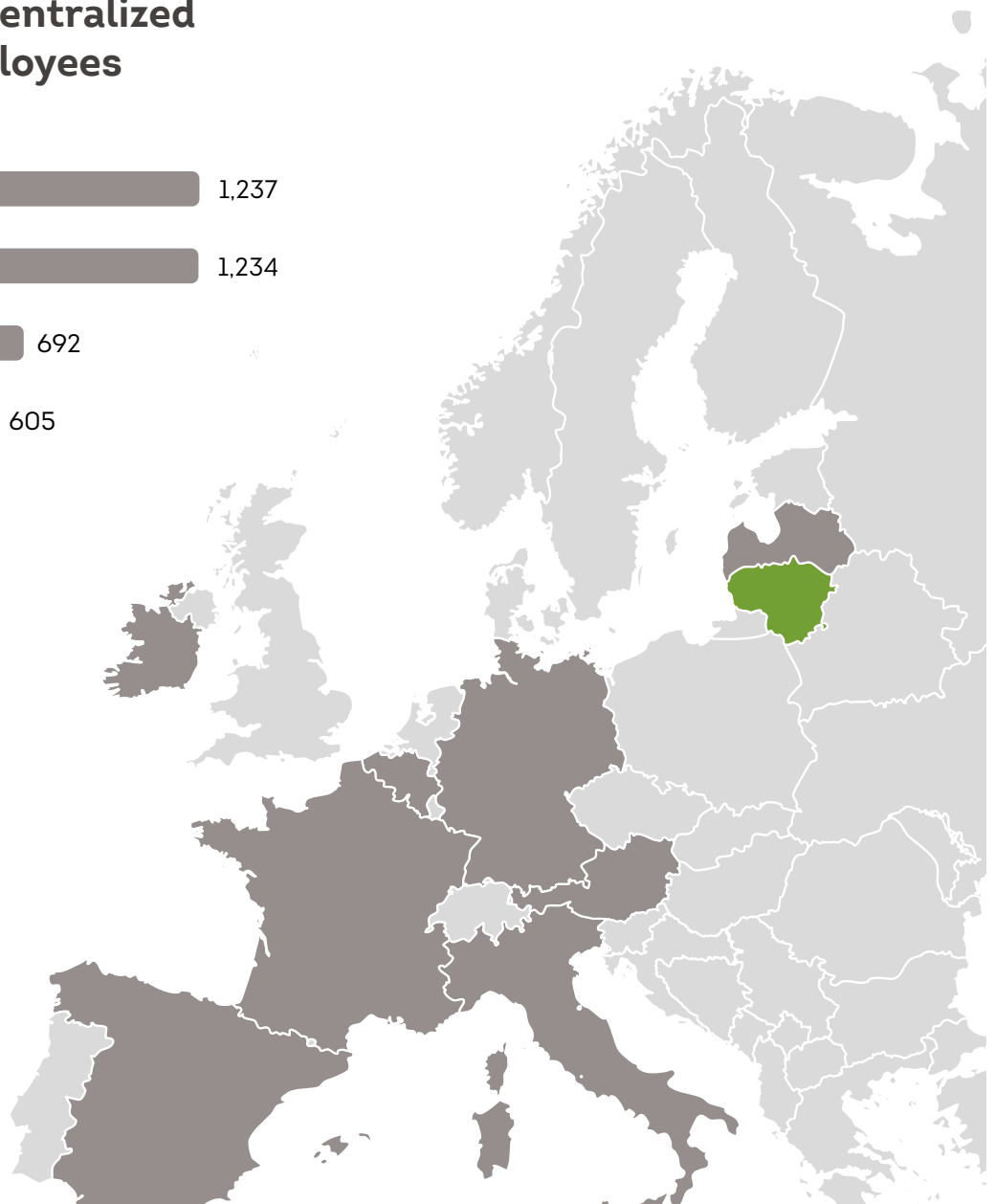
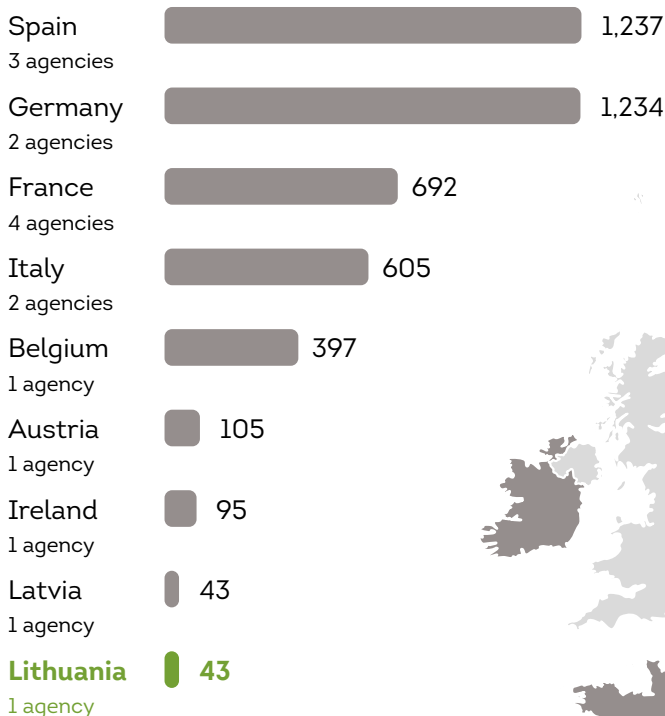
Geographical balance considerations must be central when deciding on AMLA's location, in line with the repeated emphasis on this factor by the European Parliament, the European Commission, and the Council¹.

The distribution of EU agencies carries significant implications, not only economically but also politically. These agencies enhance the visibility of the Union and, more importantly, they can serve as indicators reflecting the degree of integration of Member States into the EU.

The current distribution of EU agencies among Member States is highly uneven, both in terms of the number of agencies and the size of personnel employed in each country. This demonstrates that the core values of geographical balance and equal treatment within the Union are far from attained.

The decision on AMLA's location must avoid further concentration of EU institutions and should contribute to enhancing the geographical diversification of EU agencies, thereby strengthening the sense of equality among Member States.

Number of EU decentralized agencies and employees



1. A Joint Statement of the European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the European Commission on decentralised agencies on 19 July 2012, stating that the spread of agencies adds to the visibility of the Union in the different Member States. The European Council's conclusions of 19/20 June 2008, stressing that seats of future agencies should be located primarily in the Member States that acceded to the Union in or after 2004.

Good track record in risk management

Since 2017,
Lithuania established
itself as
**a thriving
international
Fintech hub**

AML/CFT and compliance issues are high on the domestic policy agenda with the goal to continuously improve and strengthen the national risk management regime. Lithuania boasts a thriving financial sector ecosystem, underpinned by effective public-private collaboration, which stands ready to support AMLA in achieving its full potential.

The local finance sector will create a trustworthy synergy with the existing talent pool and entities operating as part of the broader ecosystem to ensure AMLA's smooth take-off, and fuel its journey towards a resounding success.

Extensive regulatory and supervisory experience in addressing AML/CFT risks, both in conventional banking system and in the innovative segment of the financial system, related to various Fintech business models.

**There are over
10,200 experts
in the field
of compliance**

of which more than 7,700 specialise in financial services, banking and related sectors within the financial domain. Lithuania is demonstrating its commitment to fostering robust and sustainable growth of its financial sector.

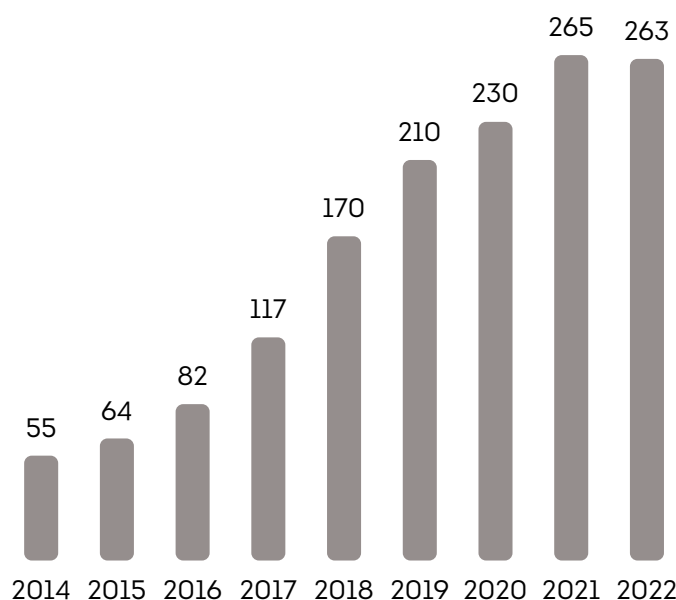
The Lithuanian regulator is considered to be at the frontier of innovation, with projects such as the Newcomer Programme and Regulatory Sandbox. Moreover, RegTech and SupTech solutions are employed to ensure high regulatory standards and reporting requirements, promoting comprehensive risk management without hindering the sustainable development of the financial system.

We always aim to stay one step ahead and prevent emerging new risks when it comes to regulatory frameworks. Lithuania adopted changes to national legislation related to cryptocurrency assets to increase the transparency of the regulatory system in this segment and prevent emerging risks without waiting for the EU-level Markets in Crypto-Assets (MiCA) regulation to enter into force. Further improvements to the national cryptocurrency sector regulatory framework are already prepared and currently being finalised.

The national regulatory experience and accumulated know-how will undoubtedly pave the way for the smooth functioning of the new EU AML/CFT agency.

Number of Fintechs in Lithuania

Source: Invest Lithuania, Data as of the end of 2022



Global ranking of Basel AML Index in 2023

The Basel AML 2023 Index comprehensively encompasses data from 18 publicly accessible sources, thereby complementing the FATF assessment and providing a broader context with more cross sections. The index also provides a ranking of countries. The index incorporates FATF data and its fourth-round methodology. Lithuania attained the outstanding position as one of the TOP 5 European Union Member States and the TOP 10 globally, characterised by the lowest ML/TF risks.

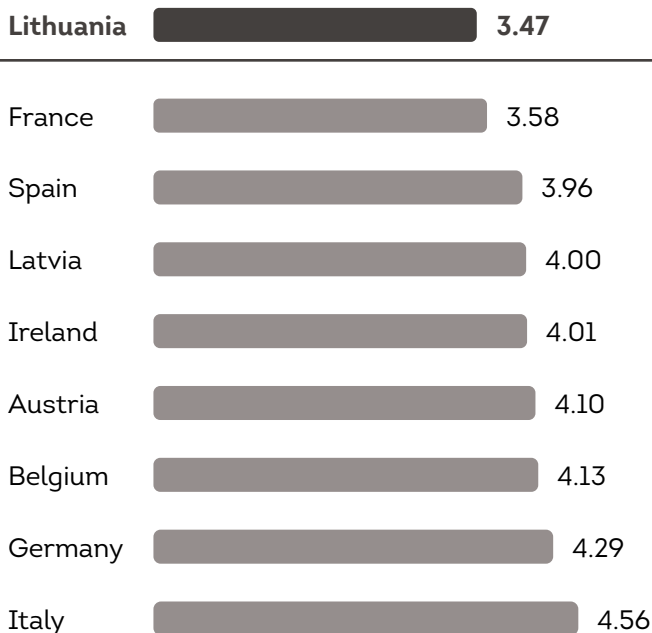
The Centre of Excellence in Anti-Money Laundering was established in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Lithuania, alongside key players in the banking system, to ensure the national compliant talent pool continues to grow, both in size and quality. The innovative, progressive and leadership-driven Centre of Excellence is based on public and private sector cooperation, which encourages dialogue and identifying the best solutions to specific real-life cases of ML/TF risks.



Lithuania attained an outstanding position as one of the TOP 5 European Union member states and the TOP 10 globally characterized by the lowest ML/TF risks



Lithuania is ranked highest compared to the other candidates.



0 = low risk to 10 = high risk



Investing in the talent pool

To share experience and elevate compliance standards across the entire financial sector, the centre, together with Mykolas Riomeris University, has prepared the Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Prevention Certification Programme.

The centre also organised 16 highly successful complimentary training sessions for financial market participants last year, attracting nearly 4,500 eager participants.

Introductory, periodic, individual and specific training courses are offered by private market players, such as ECOVIS Proventus Law, Mokymų Klubas, Lewben, Countline and Mokymų LAB. Some of these companies can also offer qualification improvement courses, such as an AML Certification Programme (Mokymų LAB). Upon request, all training and certification programmes can be conducted in English.

The Basel
AML INDEX 2023

[Read more](#)

The AMLA building

Vilnius proposes a remarkable opportunity to have brand new premises as the home for AMLA, located in the heart of the UNESCO-listed city centre. The Class A Yellowstone business centre is situated at 14 J. Jasinskio str. within the prestigious Business Triangle, which serves as a hub for numerous esteemed corporations and enterprises. The nine-storey building stands on the left side of the Neris River, where Vilnius meets its urban arteries.

The proposed premises for AMLA will be available immediately. The availability of the premises, including fit-out and necessary adaptation works, is envisaged in Q2 2024.

All costs related to the AMLA premises for a period of five years will be covered by the Republic of Lithuania.

The Yellowstone consists of nine floors of ergonomically designed offices that can accommodate 400 AMLA employees, with a possibility of extension in the future.

The premises cover all AMLA needs, ensuring complete safety and restricted access to entrances for the agency's staff. The proposed AMLA building features a breath-taking panoramic terrace with stunning views from above.

The proposed premises for AMLA will be meticulously designed to align with the specific requirements necessary for the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and FIU-related functions. The designated spaces will be accessible exclusively to authorized personnel and will be outfitted with IT terminals.

In line with the commitment to digital security and connectivity within the AMLA building, a comprehensive approach has been implemented, encompassing both physical and IT infrastructure. In addition to the robust Wi-Fi network, an advanced optical (fibre) network has been strategically integrated within the premises. This ensures swift and reliable data transmission while reinforcing the capacity to meet the growing demands of the digital age. The protection of critical server rooms is managed with the utmost seriousness. Access to these vital areas is fortified through a rigorous access control system, granting entry permissions solely to authorized personnel.

The proposed premises for AMLA will be available immediately!



The building is developed in accordance with the international BREEAM (EXCELLENT) standard for sustainable buildings. Including:

Class A energy efficiency, ensuring extremely low energy consumption

Two-storey underground parking for cars, bikes and e-scooters

Renewable energy (solar power plant)

Electric car parking/charging spaces

Environmentally friendly and adjustable LED lighting

Individual building management system

Status sensors, temperature and CO2 sensors, air filters

Individual ventilation system

Building Management Systems

Innovative solutions for acoustics and sound insulation

Modern cooling system for space cooling and partial heating

Air circulation solutions that meet the highest standards

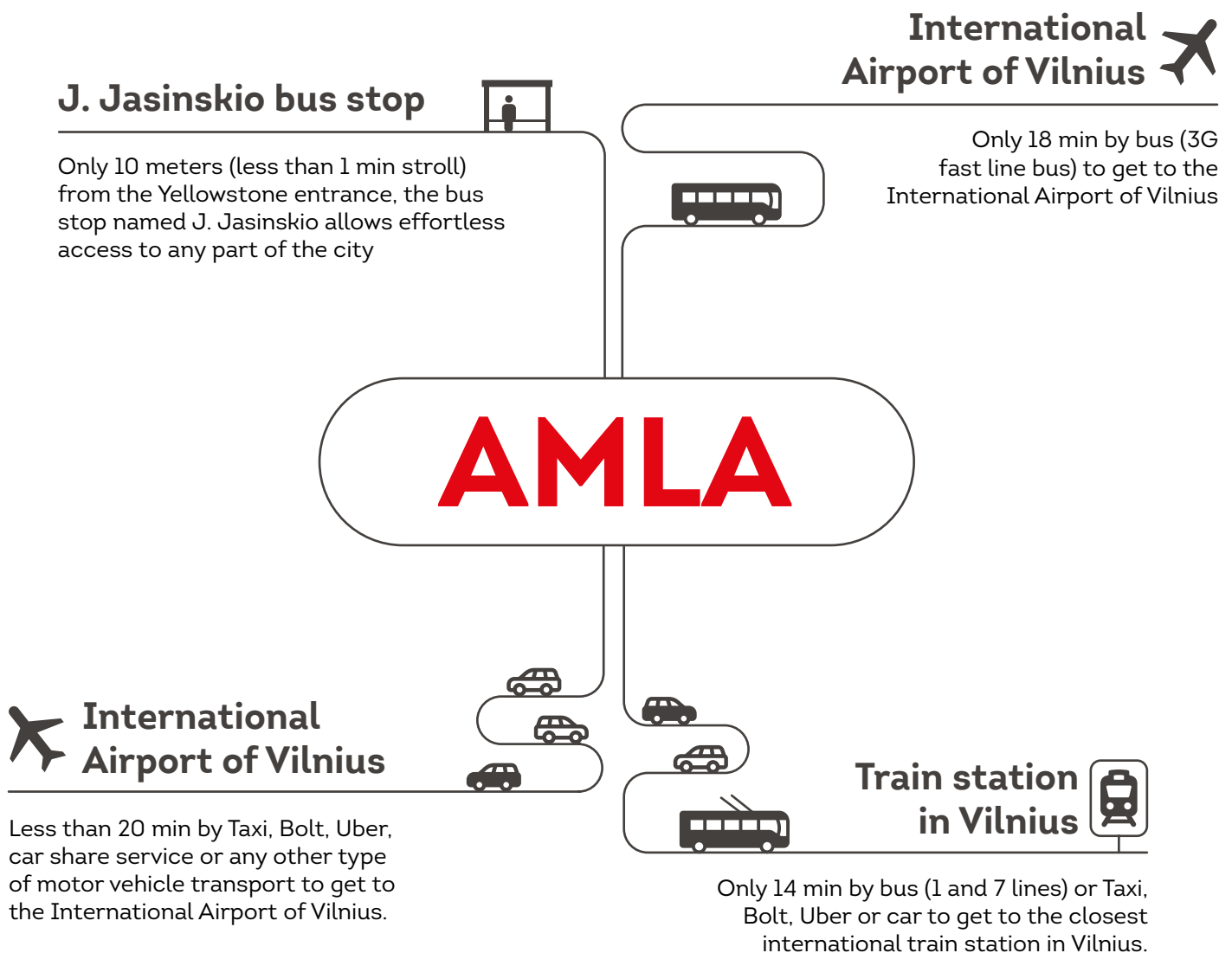
High-speed lifts with intelligent control

Mobile access control system

A green and lively inner square with restaurant and café terraces and restaurant and café space on the ground floor

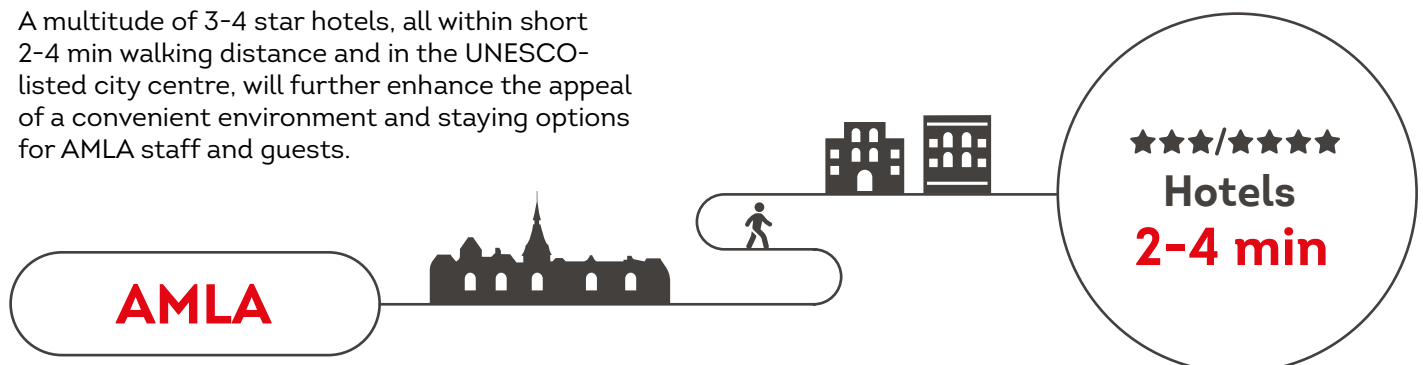


The proposed premises for AMLA are also very conveniently accessible by any type of transport:



The AMLA building will also enjoy its prestigious location, encompassed by a variety of high-class accommodations:

A multitude of 3-4 star hotels, all within short 2-4 min walking distance and in the UNESCO-listed city centre, will further enhance the appeal of a convenient environment and staying options for AMLA staff and guests.





Vilnius is ranked first among EU capitals for per capita mobility alternatives. Besides using public transport, locals and guests can get around by taxi, Uber/Bolt or car sharing (CityBee, Bolt Drive), bike sharing and electric scooter sharing platforms. The journey from the airport to the proposed AMLA premises by taxi, Uber or Bolt takes less than 20 minutes and is budget-friendly, with the fare not exceeding EUR 10.

Currently, Vilnius has a network of around 150 km of high-quality cycling paths connecting different parts of the city and covering 58% of the urbanised area within a radius of 250 metres. By the end of 2025, this figure is expected to increase to 90%, with around 190 km of paths, making cycling or moving by any other type of motorless vehicle even more convenient.

Vilnius stands out as a very convenient city to get around by walking – it is among top five European capitals for short-distance commuting.



Digital connectivity & Accessibility

Digital connectivity

Vilnius boasts excellent internet connectivity, with widespread access to high-speed fibre. This infrastructure makes Vilnius one of the world's best-connected cities, which offers free WiFi hotspots in hotels, venues and public spaces. Moreover, 5G coverage extends across almost the entire territory of Lithuania, and in Vilnius, 5G connectivity is available everywhere.

Lithuania increased the spread of 5G internet by reaching 99% of the country's territorial coverage in July 2023.

Lithuania has a commitment to comply with EU and NATO recommendations on ensuring the security of 5G infrastructure and other 5G Development Guidelines (2020-2025), underlying the maintenance of highest security standards and a coordinated approach.

6th in the ITU Global Cybersecurity Index, offering both EU-leading connectivity and internet speeds and a strong pipeline of dedicated IT specialists. To deliver best-in-class services for AMLA activities, Vilnius will provide fast, reliable infrastructure and a smart, flexible IT talent pool, which are crucial for the agency's functioning from the outset.

According to the European Commission's European e-Government Benchmark 2023, Lithuania ranks 7th and is among the leading countries in terms of the most technologically advanced public e-services.

Lithuania has a strong tradition of e-government, with many public services accessible online. Residents can interact with government agencies, pay taxes and access important documents through a user-friendly digital platform. Currently, Lithuania's e-Government Gateway portal (www.epaslaugos.lt) offers more than 650 electronic services. In 2022, 79.6% of the Lithuanian population aged 18-74 used the portal, demonstrating that digital connectivity is friendly enough for any age group.

1st

globally for digital skills availability (IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2023 rating)

2nd

globally in the National Cybersecurity Index

6th

in the ITU Global Cybersecurity Index

7th

Lithuania ranks 7th and is among the leading countries in terms of the most technologically advanced public e-services.

98

direct connections from
Lithuanian airports

60

from Vilnius International
Airport alone

110

There are plans to increase
this number to 110 by the
end of 2024



Accessibility

Lithuania is connected with Europe and the rest of the world via three international airports, located in the capital of Vilnius, the industrial hub of Kaunas and the port city of Klaipėda/Palanga.

Serving the administrative and financial capital, Vilnius International Airport is the main gateway to Lithuania, conveniently positioned less than three hours away from most European capitals. Kaunas International Airport is located just one hour away by car from Vilnius, extending the air accessibility of the capital city.

Situated just seven kilometres from the UNESCO-listed city centre, Vilnius International Airport offers reliable and convenient connectivity across Europe and beyond.

A wide range of airlines ensure reliable, convenient and frequent direct air connectivity between Vilnius and Riga, Tallinn, Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Frankfurt, Munich, Paris, Zurich, Helsinki, Vienna, Warsaw and a most of other cities across Europe.

In 2023, Lithuania's airports boasted 98 direct connections, of which almost 60 were at Vilnius International Airport, with plans to increase the total number of routes to 110 by the end of 2024.

Lithuanian authorities have prepared a strategic roadmap to further increase the number and frequency of flights to European and international destinations. With additional financial resources allocated to this goal, Lithuania is enhancing connectivity with 27 destinations, with 23 additional upcoming flights from Vilnius. Priority destinations include major European capitals like Copenhagen, Brussels, Berlin, Helsinki, Paris, Madrid, Dublin, Lisbon, Amsterdam, Warsaw and other European cities.

Net zero emissions by 2050

No less significant is Lithuania's ambition to offer reliable, convenient and sustainable air connectivity. Lithuanian Airports has committed to reaching Net Zero emissions by 2050, whereas Vilnius International Airport is the only airport in the Baltics to reach Level 3 Optimisation in the Airports Council International Airport Carbon Accreditation

programme. Over the past years, Vilnius International Airport has invested greatly in sustainable infrastructure solutions, such as green energy, LED lighting and emissions reduction. Alongside improved infrastructure, the airport is building a new, state-of-the-art departure terminal that will enhance the passenger experience through sustainable design and the latest technological innovations.

Conference venues and hotels

Vilnius Meeting
Planner's Guide

[Read more](#)

From traditional to modern, Vilnius has an array of unique venues for events and conferences outside the AMLA premises to choose from.

6

well-known
5-star hotels

21

distinguished
4-star hotels

18

sound 3-star hotels, including
options for using their rooftop
terraces as event venues

236

venues for events and
conferences by a range
of prestigious hotels

20-900

people can be
accommodated at
these multipurpose venues

55

special venues capable
of accommodating gatherings
ranging from 70 to an
impressive 13,000 attendees



Education facilities

Kindergartens

- Over 300 nurseries in English, French, Lithuanian, Polish, and Spanish.
- Vilnius ensures that the children of AMLA's staff have access to a variety of choices for their early education.
- The public (municipal) pre-school (nursery and kindergarten) education system in Vilnius operates on a shared funding model. The average cost is around EUR 80-90 per month for one child.
- The cost of private kindergartens varies from EUR 170-1600 per month. The Vilnius Municipality reimburses all parents whose children attend private kindergartens up to EUR 120 of the monthly fee per child.
- 11 kindergarten companies offering education and childcare in English, French, Spanish, and Russian/Belarusian languages. Private kindergartens also provide foreign language activities and offer lessons in English, Spanish, and other languages.

International schools

- 11 school companies provide high-quality primary and secondary education in English, French, and Polish.
- Supplementary language practicing opportunities, such as Spanish language classes.
- Tuition fees vary EUR 4,000-17,000 per school year.
- 2 public (municipal) schools offer International Baccalaureate (IB Diploma) classes and provide education in English for senior classes.
- 14 public (municipal) schools offer education in Polish language for various age children.

Higher education facilities (university level or equal)

- 10 education facilities offering university-level education and committed to delivering world-class education in English, French, German, Lithuanian, and Polish languages. Higher education in one of the four colleges that have study programmes in English.
- More than 500 study programmes across various fields taught in English.
- EU citizens who have a right of permanent residence in Lithuania can be accepted for state-funded study places in Lithuanian higher education institutions or apply for scholarships.
- The average cost of studies at public and private universities is within a range of EUR 1,248-11,587 per year for first-cycle (bachelor's) studies, and from EUR 2,242-12,581 per year for second-cycle (master's) studies.
- Two universities in Vilnius (four in Lithuania) have gained international recognition as top universities worldwide: Vilnius University (ranked 400th) and Vilnius Tech University (ranked 751-800th).



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Access to the labour market, social security & medical care

Access to medical care

Lithuania boasts a comprehensive healthcare system comprising both public and private healthcare institutions.

8

Private specialised medical clinic chains, providing a wide range of healthcare services and treatments and five top-tier private health clinic chains.

10

Public municipality clinics in Vilnius for primary outpatient healthcare services, including family medicine, dentistry and home care, as well as secondary specialised outpatient healthcare services and day hospital services.

15

State and municipality hospitals, bolstered by an additional five hospitals specialising in dentistry, oncology, obstetrics and psychiatric care. This robust healthcare infrastructure ensures a comprehensive and diverse range of medical services for the community.

An up-to-date tool to search for highly qualified jobs at international companies in Vilnius

[Read more](#)

Emergency services are provided free of charge to all permanent residents of Lithuania, regardless of their nationality or whether they are covered by compulsory health insurance.

Labour market and its capacity to offer international job opportunities

Technology-driven and globally minded, Vilnius is a place to tackle global challenges – from life sciences to developing FinTech and cybersecurity products used by millions around the globe.

With an unemployment rate of 6.2% (2023 Q3) and a vacancy rate close to historic highs (1.9% in 2023 Q2), the labour market in Lithuania is highly favourable for individuals seeking new job opportunities.

GDP per capita in the capital region of Vilnius well exceeds the EU average (reaching 126% in 2021, according to the latest available Eurostat data), providing plenty of economic opportunities that could also benefit family members of AMLA staff.

8th

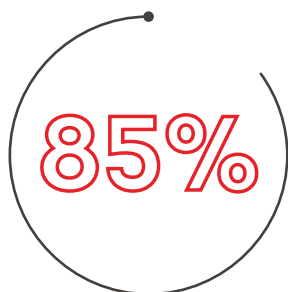
Lithuania is ranked 8th in the world in terms of remote work conditions.

According to NordLayer Index, Lithuania performs extremely well in legal actions (1st place), responds well to emerging cyber threats (2nd place) and demonstrates excellent cybersecurity (3rd place). In addition, Lithuania is strong in terms of infrastructure (4th place) and attractive to tourists (10th place).

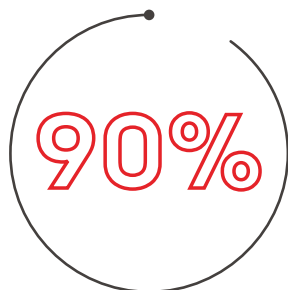


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Vilnius is the most business-friendly city in emerging Europe, topping the 2023 Business-Friendly City Perception Index. Vilnius scored particularly well in the business climate, pool of talent, infrastructure and connectivity and quality of life categories.



Of young professionals exhibit fluency in English.



Of public sector services have undergone digitalisation, exemplifying a robust commitment to efficiency, accessibility and modernization in the delivery of essential government services.

The Work in Lithuania platform serves as a link between people looking to land their dream job and international companies keen on hiring specialists from abroad. The platform sees constant growth, with the number of monthly visitors rising to more than 27,000, with more than 1,300 monthly job application submissions. The community of employers using the platform to look for global talent has also expanded from 190 to over 250. While the number of international employers still outside the platform might be even more significant.

International House Vilnius is ready to assist newcomers with anything they might encounter on their way towards integrating seamlessly in Lithuania's capital.

IH Vilnius offers free consultations and services related to relocation to Lithuania and living in Vilnius, from residence permits and social insurance, to employment services, taxes, starting a business and much more. IH Vilnius has united the Migration Department, Tax Inspectorate, Social Insurance Agency and Employment Service, all of which have representatives working at IH Vilnius and serving foreign clients as a one-stop shop, creating huge benefits for customers. As such, foreigners receive all the necessary services in one visit and specialists from different institutions can consult with each other and jointly find the best solutions to unusual situations.

More about
International
House of Vilnius

[Read more](#)



VILNIUS

