

Lithuania: Road towards OECD membership

Lithuania in global and regional perspective

Lithuania's Human Development value and rank. According to UNDP Human Development Report 2014 Lithuania's Human Development Index (HDI) value for 2013 is 0.834— which is in the very high human development category — positioning the country at 35 out of 187 countries. The rank is shared with Poland. From the European Union countries which are close to Lithuania in 2013 HDI rank and to some extent in population size are Estonia and Latvia, with HDIs ranked 33 and 48 respectively.

Lithuania's global competitiveness index rose from 48 to 41 place, according to the World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Report 2014-2015, maintaining close lead over neighbour Latvia. Highest rankings: FDI and technological transfer (7), flexibility of wage determination (8), pay and productivity ratio (12), women in

labour force (13), secondary education enrolment (18), rail infrastructure quality (22), population with higher education (22), quality in math and science education (23), internet access in schools (23), university-industry collaboration (27) and the quality of scientific research institutions (28). In an effort to further improve competitiveness conditions, Lithuania specifically targeted public governance and regulatory policy for its first OECD-conducted reviews under the current Lithuania-OECD Action Plan.

Life SCIENCES in the Baltic region. On 10-12 Sept. the second international forum Life Sciences Baltics 2014 was organized in Vilnius, Lithuania. 1200 participants from 40 countries explored Lithuanian and regional potential in the field of life sciences. Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are on the fast track of becoming Northern Europe's Life Sciences Hub.

Co-operation calendar (September)

9-10 Sep. 2014 – 11th Baltic Competition Conference “Competition Enforcement: Trends and Case-Studies”, which attracted close to 200 experts and practitioners from 7 countries to Vilnius. Head of OECD Competition Division J. Davies was among the speakers.

17-18 Sep. 2014 – International Conference “How to Make Formal Work Attractive” in Vilnius, with the participation of high level representatives of OECD and ILO. OECD Deputy Secretary General W. Danvers presented the opening statement. Mr. Danvers also met tête-a-tête with ministers of Foreign Affairs and Social Security and Labour.

18-19 Sep. 2014 – Lithuania and OECD expert meeting on the OECD Codes of Liberalization organized by the MFA and Ministry of Finance. The experts discussed preliminary position of Lithuania under the Codes, to be evaluated by the OECD in 2015.

26 Sep. 2014 – A meeting of inter-institutional working group for preparation for OECD accession.

High-level meetings, consultations: Israel, Belgium, Korean Rep., OECD Secretary General (in Riga), Norway, Turkey.

Status

30 May 2013 – OECD Ministerial Council passes “Resolution on Strengthening the OECD's Global Reach”, signals period of enhanced cooperation with Lithuania with a view to potentially beginning accession talks in 2015. **22 Oct. 2013** – Lithuania-OECD Action Plan made public. The Plan is designed to foster close and mutually beneficial cooperation between Lithuania and the OECD.

Major OECD Policy Reviews of Lithuania under way: Public Governance review; Regulatory Reform review. 4 additional reviews set to start in Q1 of 2015.

Data and facts

Lithuania set to join the Euro zone on 1 Jan., 2015.

Annual GDP growth revised up to 3.3% for 2Q 2014.

1 in the Central and Eastern Europe for the number of FDI projects relative to population size (*fDi Markets*).