

# Overview of national waste prevention programmes in Europe



Lithuania 

2021

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## General information

Name of the country/region	Lithuania
Coverage of the waste prevention programme (national/regional)	National
Type of programme (stand alone or integrated into waste management plan)	Stand alone (existing programme runs until 2022)
Title of programme and link to programme	Valstybinė atliekų prevencijos programa (National waste prevention programme) <a href="https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.458655?jfwid=-wd7z7s141">https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.458655?jfwid=-wd7z7s141</a>
Duration of programme	The current programme duration has been extended to 2022. The duration of the new programme is 2022-2027 (a draft of the national action plan for waste prevention and management sent for consultation is available)
Language	Lithuanian
Development process of the programme/revision	The current programme will run until 2022. The development of the new programme is ongoing and it is expected to be approved by mid-2022
Budget envisaged for implementation of the project	No specific budget for the implementation of the programme is included in the programme

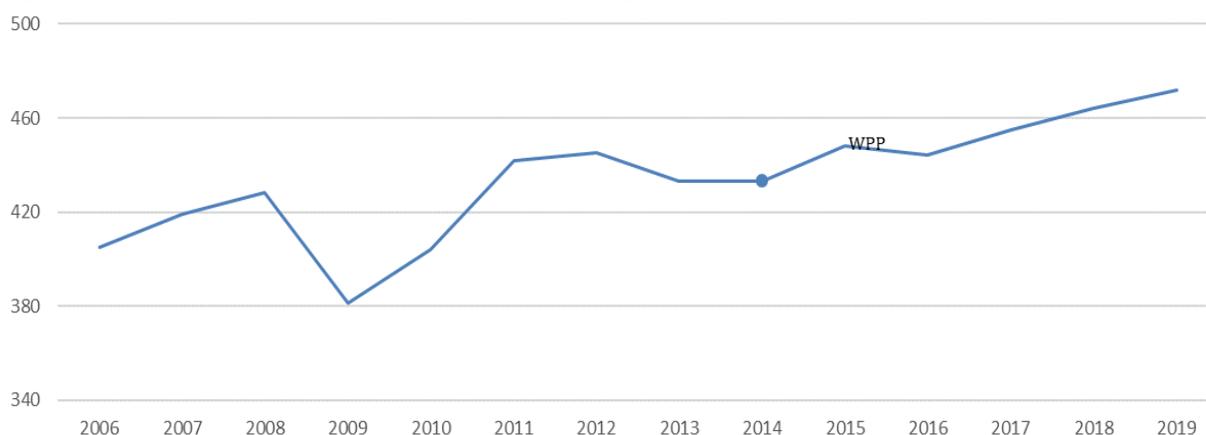
## Waste generation

The following figures illustrate the progress towards waste prevention and decoupling of waste generation from economic growth in Lithuania.

### Municipal solid waste

- The generation of municipal solid waste per capita (MSW) dropped between 2008 and 2009 after which it started rising again (see Figure 1). In 2015-2016 there was a short plateau but there has been a moderate increase in generation from 2017 onwards. In 2019, MSW generation reached 472 kg per capita per year.
- Although Lithuania's MSW generation is increasing, it is still below the European average (489 kg per capita per year).
- The 2009 MSW generation value is probably influenced by the global financial crisis that occurred at the same time. Private household expenditure per capita dropped sharply from 2008 to 2009 and started rising again in 2010 <sup>(1)</sup>.
- Lithuania's first waste prevention programme (WPP) came into force in 2014. However, it is difficult to see any clear immediate effect of the programme, and MSW generation in fact increased the following year, 2015. A small dip was noted in 2016, however, which could have been the result of measures from the WPP being implemented. As MSW generation is influenced by many factors, such as population and household expenditure, clear conclusions are difficult to make.

Figure 1: Municipal waste generation in Lithuania (kg per capita), 2006-2019



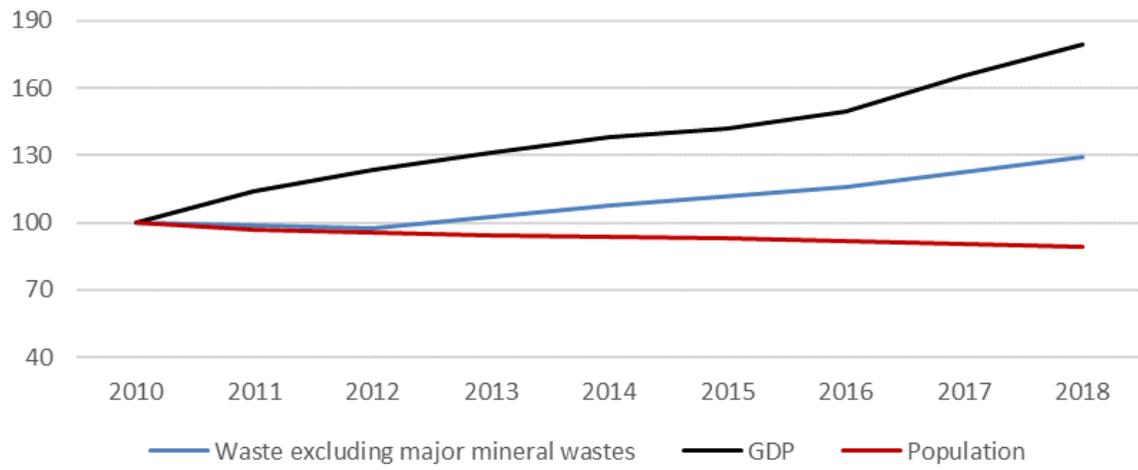
Source: Eurostat Circular Economy Monitoring Framework.

### Total waste

- Total waste generation (excluding major mineral waste) in Lithuania decreased between 2010 and 2012 after which it grew by 4-5 % per year until 2018 (see Figure 2). During the same period, GDP growth varied between approximately 3 % and 10 %, showing the smallest growth in 2014.
- Total waste generation values are available only for every second year; thus, with few data, it is difficult to reach clear conclusions on trends for the period 2010-2018. However, GDP has on average grown at a higher rate than total waste generation, indicating a slight relative decoupling of economic growth from waste generation.
- A link cannot be observed between waste generation and population growth, which has been negative.

<sup>(1)</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NE.CON.PRVT.PC.KD?end=2018&locations=LT&start=2006>

Figure 2: Growth rate of waste (excluding major mineral waste), GDP and population in Lithuania, 2010-2018 (2010 = 100)



Source: Eurostat.

## Waste prevention programme

### *Objectives and priorities*

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1. Waste prevention objectives of the programme: quantitative objectives (waste reduction) and qualitative objectives (reduction of hazardous substances/environmental impacts)	<p>Decoupling of economic well-being from waste generation and related burdens to the environment</p> <p>The existing programme strives for slower growth in the generation of waste and for the amount of waste generated not to exceed the average of the EU Member States</p> <p>The draft programme for 2021-2027, which is still being evaluated, aims to reduce the amount of waste generated; ensure the safe management of waste for human health and the environment; ensure the sustainable use of material and energy resources, thus reducing the use of natural and other resources, landfilling and environmental pollution; and provide industry with local raw materials (see below)</p>
2. Sectors covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Construction and infrastructure</li><li>• Manufacturing and industry</li><li>• Retail</li><li>• Households</li><li>• Service activities</li><li>• Hospitality</li><li>• Public services (including procurement)</li></ul>
3. Priority waste types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Food/organic</li><li>• Textile waste</li><li>• Construction and demolition waste</li><li>• Hazardous waste</li><li>• Household/municipal waste</li><li>• Packaging</li><li>• Waste electrical and electronic equipment/batteries</li><li>• Manufacturing waste</li><li>• Bulky waste</li><li>• Other miscellaneous wastes</li></ul>
4. Target groups	<p>The implementation of the current programme and its measures are coordinated by several ministries, and the State Food and Veterinary Service participates in the implementation of the programme. Other interested state institutions, municipalities and waste holders — individuals and companies — are also invited to participate in the implementation of the programme on their own initiative. The new draft programme is directed at all entities involved in waste management activities, including state, regional and municipal regulatory entities, planning, organisation and control entities, production and trade companies, producers and importers and their organisations, waste management entities, and waste holders and producers</p>

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## *Targets, indicators and monitoring*

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1. Indicators proposed	Generation of waste in the manufacturing, construction and other economic sectors and of municipal waste and its fractions of packaging, electrical and electronic equipment and biodegradable waste
2. Quantitative targets	Quantitative targets of the existing programme are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to strive for slower growth in the generation of waste in the manufacturing, construction and other economic sectors as industry and the economy grow, and for the amount of waste generated not to exceed the average of the EU Member States</li><li>• to achieve a slower growth in municipal waste generation, including packaging, electrical and electronic equipment and biodegradable waste, and to keep the amount of municipal waste generated below the average of the EU Member States</li></ul>
3. Monitoring of programme	The effectiveness of the existing programme is evaluated every 2 years (even years) and published on the website of the Environmental Protection Agency
4. Evaluation of the programme	The waste prevention programme will be evaluated every 6 years and proposals for its revision submitted

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## Prevention measures

Prevention measures implemented in accordance with Article 9 of the Waste Framework Directive

Table 1: Specific waste prevention measures structured in accordance with Article 9 of the Waste Framework Directive

<p>Promote and support <b>sustainable consumption</b> models</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The current programme includes establishing and/or amending the lists of product groups for which environmental criteria are to be applied in public procurement, assessing the possibilities and providing for waste prevention criteria</li> </ul>
<p>Encourage the design, manufacture and use of products that are <b>resource-efficient</b>, <b>durable</b> (including in terms of life span and absence of planned obsolescence), <b>repairable</b>, <b>reusable</b> and <b>upgradeable</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The current programme includes providing financial support for eco-design projects, including research, demonstration projects and training for industry on eco-design and life cycle analysis</li> <li>Prepare methodological material for ecological design of products (packaging and electrical and electronic equipment)</li> <li>Include requirements for waste prevention in the evaluation criteria of the competition ‘Lithuanian Product of the Year’</li> </ul>
<p>Target products containing <b>critical raw materials</b> to prevent those materials becoming waste</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include an obligation to include measures to promote waste prevention for waste electrical and electronic equipment, including information on waste prevention measures in regional and/or municipal waste management plans and to collect information on waste prevention measures included in these plans</li> </ul>
<p>Encourage the reuse of products and the setting up of systems promoting <b>repair</b> and <b>reuse activities</b>, including in particular for electrical and electronic equipment, textiles and furniture, as well as packaging and construction materials and products</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The current plan includes initiating agreements with trade sector bodies with significant transport packaging, and associations of beverage producers, in order to maintain and develop existing packaging reuse systems and reduce the generation of packaging waste</li> <li>The amendment of Waste Management Rules (2017) introduced the preparation for reuse activity code R101 and EU funds were designated to establish the infrastructure of preparation for reuse</li> <li>The new programme draft includes measures to assess the need and, if necessary, initiate amendments to the VAT law, providing for a reduced VAT rate on second-hand products and their repair services (textiles, furniture, toys, books, sporting goods, household goods, electronics, etc.)</li> </ul>

<p>Encourage, as appropriate and without prejudice to intellectual property rights, the <a href="#">availability of spare parts, instruction manuals, technical information</a>, or other instruments, equipment or software enabling the repair and reuse of products without compromising their quality and safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish requirements for products for reuse and a certification system</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#">Reduce waste generation</a> in processes related to industrial production, extraction of minerals, manufacturing, construction and demolition, taking into account <a href="#">best available techniques</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current plan includes providing financial support to companies in the industrial and construction sectors implementing environmental management systems</li> <li>• The ministry will prepare a study to evaluate feasible waste prevention measures and their effectiveness in Lithuanian industrial enterprises to plan further application of waste prevention measures together with industry</li> <li>• Include requirements for waste prevention in the evaluation criteria of the competition 'Environmental Achievement' and establish a prize and/or nomination for achievements in the field of waste prevention in the competition</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#">Reduce the generation of food waste</a> in primary production, in processing and manufacturing, in retail and other distribution of food, in restaurants and food services as well as in households as a contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goal to reduce by <b>50 %</b> per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and to reduce food losses along production and supply chains by 2030</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase awareness among farmers and agricultural companies of the potential for and benefits of waste prevention and of the economical use of natural resources</li> <li>• Organise training on waste prevention for companies and institutions where catering waste is generated, as well as for the employees</li> </ul>
<p>Encourage <a href="#">food donation</a> and other redistribution for human consumption, prioritising human use over animal feed and reprocessing into non-food products</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lithuania will provide tax incentives and financing measures to promote food sharing and food donation opportunities</li> </ul>
<p>Promote the <a href="#">reduction of the content of hazardous substances</a> in materials and products, without prejudice to harmonised legal requirements concerning those materials and products laid down at EU level, and ensure that any supplier of an article as defined in point 33 of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council provides the information pursuant to Article 33(1) of that regulation to the European Chemicals Agency as from 5 January 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The existing programme includes qualitative aspects of waste prevention, and Lithuania is working to reduce the amount of harmful substances in materials and products</li> </ul>

<p>Reduce the generation of waste, in particular waste that is not suitable for preparing for reuse or recycling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The existing programme will provide financial support for the implementation of low-waste, innovative and efficient technologies that enable more efficient use of natural resources and cleaner production and avoid waste generation, and for waste prevention projects</li> </ul>
<p>Identify products that are the main sources of littering, notably in natural and marine environments, and take appropriate measures to prevent and reduce litter from such products; where Member States decide to implement this obligation through market restrictions, they should ensure that such restrictions are proportionate and non-discriminatory</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the programme of measures (PoM) for Lithuania under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, one of the targets is ‘to reduce the impact of marine litter on the coastal and marine environment’, and indicators for marine litter have been included in the programme</li> <li>The Law on the Protection of the Marine Environment states that the Lithuanian government shall develop a programme to monitor the sea environment, including marine litter</li> <li>The PoM lists measures that are related to monitoring, awareness raising and research on the issue of litter in the marine environment</li> </ul>
<p>Aim to halt the generation of marine litter as a contribution towards the UN Sustainable Development Goal to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2019 Lithuania prohibited the distribution of light plastic shopping bags with a wall thickness of 15-50 microns free of charge at points of sale of goods or products</li> <li>A deposit system for plastic bottles is in place in Lithuania</li> </ul>
<p>Develop and support information campaigns to raise awareness about waste prevention and littering</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public authorities will specifically inform consumers about the environmental burdens linked to online shopping and sending back products</li> <li>Awareness-raising activities will be conducted in the existing programme, especially relating to food waste prevention</li> <li>Training is to be organised for employees of industrial enterprises, farmers, agricultural companies, waste management organisations, the Environmental Protection Agency and regional environmental protection departments on the potential for and benefits of waste prevention, the economical use of natural resources, and the inclusion of these requirements in permits</li> <li>Additional campaigns will be initiated focusing on food waste prevention</li> </ul>

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Additional prevention measures implemented, not covered by Article 9 of the Waste Framework Directive

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## Food waste prevention

### *Food waste generation*

According to state waste accounting data and research on the composition of mixed municipal waste, the amount of food waste generated by Lithuanian households is growing. Almost 36 kg of food waste per capita was generated in 2017. In 2018 the amount had increased to 37 kg per capita and in 2019 to 41 kg per capita per year.

### *Measures to prevent food waste*

The existing programme includes measure for awareness campaigns to inform citizens about the economic impact of food waste generation and give advice on how to prevent food waste in households.

The draft waste prevention programme for 2022-2027 again lists measures relating to a systematic review of the legislation on food use and redistribution and waste prevention, and the review and removal of barriers to food redistribution:

- review the legal framework for the use and distribution of food for human consumption and set requirements to prevent food waste and waste generation;
- re-establish a platform for inter-institutional cooperation to find the latest, most advanced, rational solutions for food production and ensure the sustainable use of food, finding food-sharing ideas and practices;
- provide tax incentives and financing measures to promote food sharing and food donation opportunities (e.g. installing common refrigerators in dormitories to share unused food, food sharing initiatives for those in need);
- provide funding opportunities to continue and expand the initiatives for sustainable food consumption in public catering establishments, school canteens, kindergartens and workplaces, promoting buffet-based catering;
- initiate educational campaigns for the population to promote economical shopping, sustainable food consumption and reducing household food waste;
- initiate a cooperation platform (or platforms) to promote and develop regular dialogue and cooperation between producers and importers of food;
- encourage voluntary business cooperation agreements and encourage companies to report on food waste generated and to seek new solutions;
- improve the legal framework for the use and distribution of food for human consumption, promote measures for the efficient use of food in the catering sector and ensure measures for the use of unused food for animal feed.

For a more comprehensive mapping of country efforts to prevent food waste, please visit the [European Commission's Food Loss and Waste Prevention Hub](#).

## Reuse of products

### *Data*

With regard to the Commission Implementing Decision ([https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=urisrv%3AOJ.L\\_.2021.010.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AL%3A2021%3A010%3ATOC](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=urisrv%3AOJ.L_.2021.010.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AL%3A2021%3A010%3ATOC)), this section will be updated by the EEA accordingly.

### *Measures to support reuse*

While the existing programme does not specifically address reuse <sup>(2)</sup>, the draft of the new programme includes plans to initiate agreements with the trade sector in order to protect and develop the existing

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<sup>(2)</sup> Fourth waste prevention report\_reuse\_final draft\_30 Sept 2017 (002).

reuse systems for packaging, thus reducing waste generation, and to prepare a law on waste management and accompanying implementing legislation and amendments in order to establish requirements for reuse and preparation for reuse operations.

Measures include:

- establishing requirements for products selected after sorting and suitable for reuse, and establishing a certification system;
- creating and promoting opportunities for reuse (sharing platforms), encouraging the development of sharing and exchange platforms, rental, exchange and sharing of residual materials in various waste-intensive sectors (textiles, furniture, building materials, stationery, electronics);
- providing financial incentives for the reuse of items; developing a network for the reuse of items by promoting the exchange of items, their repair and support for the activities of repair shops;
- introducing regulatory measures making it obligatory to offer exchange of goods at points of sale in. for example, construction and renovation materials, furniture and textile shops and at manufacturing companies (construction, furniture, textiles), ensuring the possibility of sharing leftover materials, thus significantly reducing the acquisition of surplus materials and saving supplies.

## Best practice examples

### *Increasing textile reuse*

Textile waste accounts for approximately 8 % of the total municipal waste stream in Lithuania and most of it is disposed of or incinerated. Currently, residents can deliver textile waste to municipal bulky waste reception sites or dedicated containers (more information from [www.atliekos.lt](http://www.atliekos.lt)). However, containers for textile waste are not available in every city. Neither does the ongoing collection of textile waste guarantee that it is reused or recycled. Approximately 13 % of used textiles is collected separately.

After establishing in Lithuania in 2013, a global fast fashion brand started the collection of used clothing in any condition in the stores of its Lithuanian branch network. During this time, over 260 tonnes of textile waste were collected in Lithuania alone. For each kilogram collected, the Lithuanian branch donated two cents to the Red Cross.

**Vinted** is an online marketplace based in Lithuania for buying, selling and exchanging new or second-hand items, mainly clothing and accessories. Available on iOS, Android and desktop browsers, Vinted provides users with a platform to sell their clothing and accessories, purchase from or swap with other users, and communicate with members using the forums. Since its launch, Vinted has expanded into men's and children's clothing. As of 2020, Vinted is available in 15 countries. Its impact on global textile reuse is notable: named the world's largest marketplace for used fashion items, the number of transactions per month exceeded 4 million in 2018 <sup>(3)</sup>.

Generally, the attitude towards and motivation for textile reuse is changing. While the motivation was previously mainly economic, environmental motivation is increasing <sup>(4)</sup>, witnessed by shopkeepers of second-hand clothing stores.

**Textale** is a social business platform for responsible style, sustainable design, sharing, recycling, repair, refurbishment and reconstruction for the circular textile economy (see <https://textale.lt/together-for-the-circular-textile-economy/>).

In Lithuania 74 sites for exchanging used items have been established. These are located in all regions of Lithuania. On these sharing platforms, named Dėk'ui, Mainukai, TikoTiks, Daikų kiemas and Dalinkimės, residents can hand over items for reuse, which are repaired and can be picked up by others. It is important to note that a social programme is also running at these sites: volunteers train young people from low-income households in the craft of repairing. There are also various educational practical activities organised at these sites — shoe renewal lessons, gift wrapping from secondary raw materials, etc.

Another 36 stations will be installed in the near future.

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<sup>(3)</sup> Knowles, K., 2018, 'Step into Vinted: the world's largest pre-loved fashion marketplace' (<https://www.forbes.com/sites/kittyknowles/2018/04/10/step-into-vinted-the-worlds-largest-pre-loved-fashion-marketplace/?sh=4d8894acf910>).

<sup>(4)</sup> <https://www.tv3.lt/naujiena/verslas/laukia-naujoves-rusiuosime-ne-tik-tekstile-bet-ir-maisto-bei-statybines-atliekas-n1104980>

## Links to the circular economy

Waste prevention is an integral part of the comprehensive transformation towards a circular economy. It reduces not only the input of natural resources into the economy but also the efforts required to collect and recycle waste.

Approaches to improving circularity are often linked to successful waste prevention. The following table shows which circular strategies are explicitly integrated into the Lithuanian waste prevention and management action plan.

Topic	Addressed in the programme	Comments
Eco-design	Yes	For example, by preparing methodological material for ecological design of products (packaging and electrical and electronic equipment)
Repair, refurbishment and remanufacture	Yes	Assessment of feasibility of financial incentives for repair and reuse
Recycling	No	Increased recycling based on wider and more efficient source separation of waste is a core item in the national waste management plan
Economic incentives and finance	Yes	For example, by financial support to companies to implement environmental management systems
Circular business models	Yes	Lithuania will improve the requirements of green procurement, to set the requirements for public procurement up to 100 %. Increase green procurement by 2023, with 50 % in 2022
Eco-innovation	Yes	For example, requirements for waste prevention have been included in the evaluation criteria of the competition 'Lithuanian Product of the Year'
Governance, skills and knowledge	Yes	Several training initiatives for public organisations, ministries and waste organisations relating to waste prevention