LITHUANIA

2024 Digital Public Administration Factsheet

Supporting document

Main developments in digital public administrations and interoperability

JULY 2024

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Icons Glossary		
Political Communication	*Legislation*	*Infrastructure*

The **Digital Decade policy programme 2030** sets out digital ambitions for the next decade in the form of clear, concrete targets. The main goals can be summarised in 4 points:

1) a digitally skilled population and highly skilled digital professionals;
2) secure and sustainable digital infrastructures;
3) digital transformation of businesses;
4) digitalisation of public services.

Skills
20 million employed **ICT specialists**, more
graduates + gender balance
80% of adults can **use tech** for everyday tasks

Government
Key Public Services – 100% online
Everyone can **access health records online**
Everyone can use **eID**

Infrastructure
Gigabit connectivity for everyone, **high-speed mobile coverage** (at least 5G) everywhere
EU produces 20% of world's **semiconductors**
10 000 **cloud edge nodes** = fast data access
EU **quantum computing** by 2025

Business
75% of companies using **Cloud, AI or Big Data**
Double the number of **unicorn startups**
90% of **SMEs taking up tech**

The production of the **Digital Public Administration factsheets and their supportive documents** support the objectives and targets of the Digital Decade programme. By referencing national initiatives on the digital transformation of public administrations and public services, as well as interoperability, they complement existing data and indicators included in the Digital Decade reports and related resources. They also highlight and promote key initiatives put in place or planned by EU countries to reach the Digital Decade's targets.

1. Interoperability State-of-Play

In 2017, the European Commission published the European Interoperability Framework (EIF) to give specific guidance on how to set up interoperable digital public services through a set of 47 recommendations divided in three pillars. The EIF Monitoring Mechanism (MM) was built on these pillars to evaluate the level of implementation of the framework within the Member States. The mechanism is based on a set of 91 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) clustered within the three scoreboards (Principles, Layers, Conceptual model and Cross-border interoperability), outlined below.

Starting from the 2022 edition, an additional scoreboard, Scoreboard 4, focusing on cross-border interoperability, has been incorporated. This scoreboard assesses the adherence to 35 Recommendations outlined in the EIF framework. Specifically, it encompasses Interoperability Principles 2, and 4 through 11 from Scoreboard 1, all recommendations pertaining to Interoperability Layers from Scoreboard 2, as well as Conceptual Model recommendations 36 to 43 and 46 to 47 from Scoreboard 3.

Scoreboard 1 Interoperability Principles	Recommendation(s) n°
Principle 1 - Subsidiarity and Proportionality	1
Principle 2 - Openness	2-4
Principle 3 - Transparency	5
Principle 4 - Reusability	6-7
Principle 5 - Technological neutrality and data portability	8-9
Principle 6 - User-centricity	10-13
Principle 7 - Inclusion and accessibility	14
Principle 8 - Security and privacy	15
Principle 9 - Multilingualism	16
Principle 10 - Administrative simplification	17
Principle 11 - Preservation of information	18
Principle 12 - Assessment of Effectiveness and Efficiency	19

Scoreboard 2 Interoperability Layers	Recommendation(s) n°
Interoperability Governance	20-24
Integrated Public Service Governance	25-26
Legal Interoperability	27
Organisational Interoperability	28-29
Semantic Interoperability	30-32
Technical Interoperability	33

Scoreboard 3 Conceptual Model	Recommendation(s) n°
Conceptual Model	34-35
Internal information sources and services	36
Basic Registries	37-40
Open Data	41-43
Catalogues	44
External information sources and services	45
Security and Privacy	46-47

Scoreboard 4 **Cross-border Interoperability**

Source: European Interoperability Framework Monitoring Mechanism 2023

Each scoreboard breaks down the results into thematic areas (i.e. principles). The thematic areas are evaluated on a scale from one to four, where one means a lower level of implementation and four means a higher level of implementation. The graphs below show the result of the EIF MM data collection exercise for Lithuania in 2023, comparing it with the EU average as well as the performance of the country in 2022.
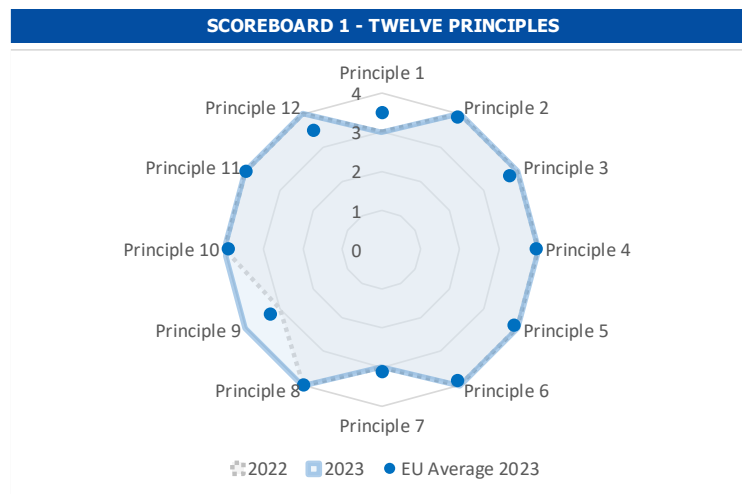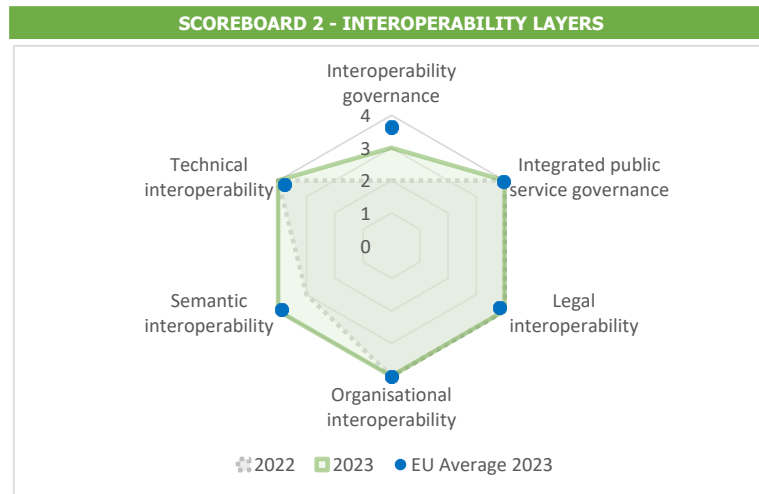

Source: European Interoperability Framework Monitoring Mechanism 2023

The Lithuanian results in Scoreboard 1 stand for an overall good implementation of the EIF Principles. In 2013, Lithuania improved its performance in Principle 9 (Multilingualism) compared with 2022, reaching the maximum score of four and outstanding the EU average. There are still room for improvement for Principle 1 (Subsidiarity and proportionality) and Principle 7 (Inclusion and accessibility). In order to improve its performance in these Principles, the country should

ensure that its national interoperability framework and strategies are aligned with the EIF, but also tailored to address the national context and needs (Recommendation 1 – Principle 1) and ensure that all European public services are accessible to all citizens (Recommendation 14 – Principle 7).
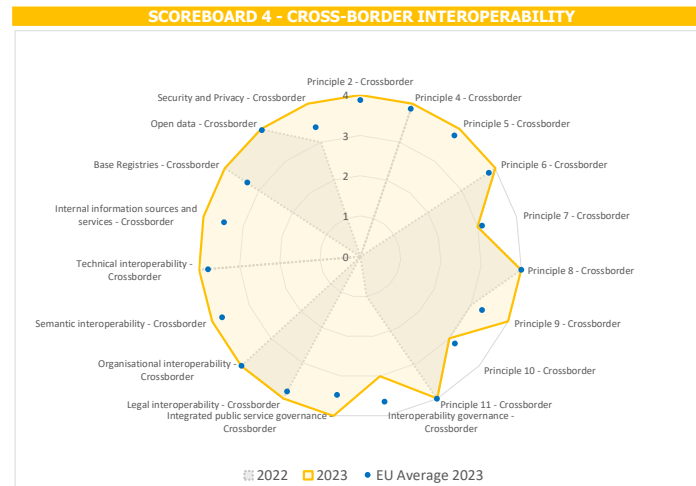

SCOREBOARD 2 - INTEROPERABILITY LAYERS

Source: European Interoperability Framework Monitoring Mechanism 2023

Lithuania's scores in Scoreboard 2 illustrate a good performance in five interoperability layers, and an improvement of the score in semantic interoperability, from a score of three in 2022 to four in 2023. Regarding areas of improvement, the interoperability governance layer has still some margin. To increase its score, Lithuania could concentrate its efforts in putting in place processes to select relevant standards and specifications, evaluate them, monitor their implementation, and test their interoperability (Recommendation 22). Furthermore, the country could actively participate in standardisation work relevant to its needs to ensure that its requirements are met (Recommendation 24).
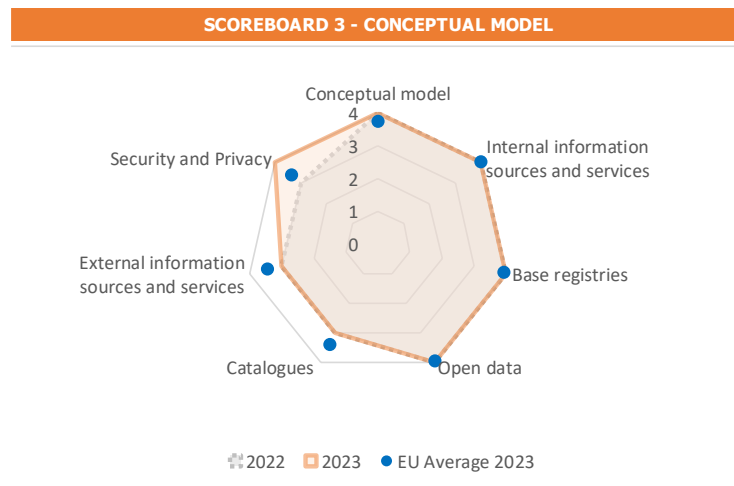
SCOREBOARD 3 - CONCEPTUAL MODEL

Source: European Interoperability Framework Monitoring Mechanism 2023

The Lithuanian results in relation to the Conceptual Model in Scoreboard 3 show a good performance. Lithuania has a high performance in security and privacy, performing better than the EU average in this area. To perfect its score on external information sources and services, Lithuanian public administrations could use more external information sources and services while developing European public services, when useful and feasible to do so (Recommendation 45). To increase its score on catalogues, Lithuania could increase its efforts to put in place catalogues of public services, public data, and interoperability solutions and use common models for describing them (Recommendation 44).

Source: European Interoperability Framework Monitoring Mechanism 2023

The results of Lithuania on Cross-Border Interoperability in Scoreboard 4 show an overall very good performance of the country. Particularly, Lithuania has the maximum score of four in seven principles, and all the other elements except interoperability governance. To increase its score in indicators that have not reached the score of four, Lithuania could concentrate its efforts in ensuring that all European public services are accessible to all citizens, including persons with disabilities, the elderly and other disadvantaged groups (Recommendation 14 – Principle 7). In addition, simplifying processes and using digital channels whenever appropriate for the delivery of European public services, to respond promptly and with high quality to users' requests and reduce the administrative burden on public administrations, businesses and citizens (Recommendation 17 - Principle 10) could improve the performance of the country for Principle 10 (Administrative simplification).

Additional information on Lithuania's results on the EIF Monitoring Mechanism is available online through interactive dashboards.

Curious about the state-of-play on digital public administrations in this country?

Please find here some relevant indicators and resources on this topic:
- Eurostat Information Society Indicators
- Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI)
- eGovernment Benchmark
- Repository of good practices on the EIF implementation

2. Digital transformation of Public Administrations

Main Digital Strategies, Action Plans and Legislations

📢 State Digitalisation Development Programme for 2021–2030

In 2020, the principles of Lithuania's strategic planning were changed. The main planning document is the National Progress Plan 2021–2030, setting out the objective of promoting the digitalisation of the country. The Ministry of Economy and Innovation is the main Ministry responsible for achieving this objective, but all Ministries contribute by implementing digitalisation-related measures within their own sphere of activity.

In 2021, the main digitalisation document, the State Digitalisation Development Programme for 2021–2030, was approved. This programme sets out the following priorities for digitalisation:

- Consolidating State information resources, as well as information technology (IT) infrastructure and services;
- Ensuring the reliability of public sector data and the possibility to share them across sectors;
- Developing advanced tools and technological solutions, and integrate them into eServices to ensure interoperability, security, convenience and accessibility (especially for people with disabilities) of these services, not only at national but also at cross-border level, giving priority to the development of advanced solutions based on artificial intelligence (AI), natural language processing and comprehension, machine learning, data analytics, electronic identification (eID) and trust; and
- Increasing digital competencies, as they are necessary in everyday life to meet the growing need to behave safely in the online space, understand about AI and the Internet of Things (IoT), and be able to use smart devices.

📢 Berlin Declaration on Digital Society and Value-Based Digital Government

In December 2020, the Lithuanian government signed the Berlin Declaration on Digital Society and Value-Based Digital Government, thus re-affirming its commitment – together with other EU Member States – to foster digital transformation in order to allow citizens and businesses to harness the benefits and opportunities offered by modern digital technologies. The Declaration aims to contribute to a value-based digital transformation by addressing and strengthening digital participation and digital inclusion in European societies.

📢 Operational Programme for EU Structural Funds Investments

On 8 September 2014, a multi-fund Operational Programme (OP) for Lithuania, also involving the European Social Fund (ESF), was launched to reach the country's goals within the EU 2020 Strategy. It brought together several key EU investment funds aimed at helping Lithuania's economic development as well as tackling social exclusion, unemployment and vital issues like energy security.

On 3 August 2022, the government approved the new Programme for the European Union Funds' Investments for 2021–2027. The budget of the programme amounts to almost EUR 8 billion and aims to ensure long-term economic and social well-being, and the resilience and competitiveness of the Lithuanian economy. In light of the Lithuanian government's programme and the policy goals set in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, investments for the period 2021–2027 target the following main areas: (i) innovation and digitisation; (ii) education; (iii) skills development; (iv) green transformation; (v) advanced, safe and diverse transport; and (vi) sustainable and integrated development of cities and regions.

One of the specific objectives is "to reap the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies, research organisations and public authorities". In this regard, investments contribute to the digitisation of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the public sector. The focus in the period 2021–2027 will be on the promotion of SMEs giving priority to the introduction of eCommerce models that allow SMEs to redirect themselves to the digitisation of products (products that they produce and/or services that they provide), eCommerce and eDelivery of products, as well as on the development of new, innovative shared tools and technological

solutions in eServices, making them more available for both businesses and citizens. Investments will also be targeted at trust services which do not exist in the market or are not used widely. Finally, in the period 2021–2027 special attention will be also paid to the use of open data of the public sector to create financial incentives for businesses to use open data solutions.

Decree on the Government Programme Implementation Plan

The Decree on the Government Programme Implementation Plan (2021—2024) was adopted on 10 March 2021. Most eGovernment-related goals are in section 9.2 of the decree, titled '360° eGovernment'. It encompasses: (i) the development of a State data architecture; (ii) the implementation of a new stage of centralisation of State IT services; (iii) the creation of State information resources and a digital transformation management mechanism; (iv) the use of mandatory basic components (rights management, interoperability, classifications, metadata structures, functional requirements, opening, eServices, etc.); (v) the development and implementation of a digital skills competency model in the civil service; (vi) the creation of the necessary conditions for businesses to create innovative and convenient technological solutions for consumers; and (vii) the reliance on businesses for the provision of certain public services.

Law on Public Administration

The new wording of the Law on Public Administration was adopted in the Seimas (i.e. the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania) in order to (i) improve the management of public sector bodies; (ii) clarify the competences and optimise the administrative structures of public sector bodies; (iii) refine the scope of public administration; (iv) clarify the concepts of public administration, administrative regulation and public service so that they are well understood; (v) improve public service administration; (vi) refine the concept of public service so that it is easier to identify public services and separate them from administrative services and other functions; (vii) spell out the administrative decision-making process; (viii) eliminate excessive regulation related to the submission and processing of applications; (ix) adjust other legal provisions taking into account practical application problems; and (x) update the legal regulation of economic entities. The law entered into force on 1 November 2020.

Law on Services

On 15 December 2009, the Lithuanian Parliament adopted the Law on Services to implement Directive (EU) 2006/123 of the European Parliament and the Council of 12 December 2006 on services in the Internal Market (OJ L376/36 of 2006). The law intends to simplify procedures and formalities that service providers need to comply with. In particular, it requires that unjustified and disproportionate burdens be removed to foster the establishment of businesses and the cross-border provision of services. The law also strengthens the rights of the recipients of such services and prohibits discriminatory conditions based on the nationality or the place of residence of the service recipient (e.g. discriminatory tariffs).

General Requirements for Websites and Mobile Applications of State and Municipal Institutions and Bodies

The General Requirements for Websites and Mobile Applications of State and Municipal Institutions and Bodies (hereinafter referred to as the General Requirements) were approved by Resolution No. 480 of the government of the Republic of Lithuania on 18 April 2003. The purpose of the General Requirements is to enable the public to access online all public information referred to in Article 5(2) of the Law on the Right to Receive Information and Reuse Data, to unify the websites of all institutions and bodies, and to ensure the relevance, reliability and searchability of the information provided therein.

Digitalisation of Internal Processes

Bailiff's Information System

The Bailiff's Information System assists bailiffs in (i) creating an enforcement file; (ii) checking the financial situation of a debtor in real time; (iii) creating procedural documents; (iv) validating procedural documents with eSignature and sending them to the recipients by electronic means (Electronic Enforcement File Portal) or by post; (v) submitting cash restrictions or write-offs to the Cash Restrictions Information System by electronic means; (vi) forming property

seizure acts and submitting them to the Register of Property Seizure Acts by electronic means; and (vii) arranging and announcing forced sale auctions on the forced sale auctions' portal.

The Bailiffs' Information System has interfaces with the Tax Accounting System managed by the State Tax Inspectorate under the Ministry of Finance, as well as with the Tax Accounting and Control Information System managed by the Customs Department under the same Ministry. These systems send to the bailiffs, through the Bailiffs' Information System, decisions on recovery of tax arrears from property, decisions on recovery of overdue fines imposed for administrative offences from property, decisions to recover pursuant to the request of a foreign State and other decisions on recovery from property. In addition, they also receive the information related to the recovery process from the Bailiffs' Information System.

Information about enforcement files, executed legal proceedings and adopted enforcement measures enables the Ministry of Justice, which supervises the activities of bailiffs, to control their activities.

TEISIS

The Legal Aid Information System (TEISIS) is used to organise State-guaranteed legal aid in Lithuania. TEISIS makes it easier and faster to obtain State-guaranteed legal aid by providing the possibility to request legal aid online, without the need to submit large sets of paper documents, as all necessary information from other information systems is received directly by TEISIS. When State-guaranteed legal aid is granted, the legal aid beneficiary can follow the course of legal aid provision (for example, see the requests or legal documents prepared by the appointed lawyer). If a person is not satisfied with the legal aid services, TEISIS also provides him/her the possibility to request a change of legal aid provider. After the end of the case and legal aid provision, the legal aid beneficiary is asked to evaluate the legal aid received. Thanks to automation (i.e. the fact that data is gathered without manual input), TEISIS also reduces the administrative burden on State-guaranteed legal aid providers and State-guaranteed legal aid organisers.

Digitalisation Supporting the EU Green Deal

No particular initiatives in this field have been reported to date.

3. Interoperability and Data

Interoperability Framework

Baseline for a National Interoperability Framework

In 2021, the State Digitalisation Development Programme for 2021–2030 was approved. According to the programme, one of the priorities in the field of digitalisation is consolidating State information resources, as well as IT infrastructure and services. To that end, the programme ensures further consolidation of the State's information resources infrastructure, as well as the interoperability of State information resources.

Concerning the National Interoperability Framework (NIF), no formal document focuses on it in Lithuania. However, the country has integrated its approach towards interoperability in the State Digitalisation Development Programme for 2021–2030, in the Law on the Management of State Information Resources and in the State Information Resources Interoperability Platform (SIRIP). SIRIP is the multifunctional platform ensuring the provision of public and administrative eServices on a 'one-stop-shop' basis through a central eGovernment portal and seeking to achieve the State information resources' functional, technical and semantic interoperability. It provides data exchange, person identification in the electronic space, payment of State fees or other charges for the provision of public and administrative services, and eService design services to institutions.

Law on the Management of State Information Resources

The Law on the Management of State Information Resources, adopted in 2011, regulates the principles of the interoperability of registers, along with the platform for interoperability of State information systems. The law was amended in December 2023, aiming for the creation of a sustainable and resilient hybrid State IT infrastructure, thereby also strengthening national security.

The law sets out binding objectives and principles for the management and governance of data and information systems. It also introduces the possibility of using public cloud services for the development of public information resources, enabling institutions to use AI, data management, blockchain, performance management and groupware solutions, which are usually provided as a service in the public cloud. It also encourages the development of shared information systems and the centralised provision of IT services. The law will also introduce simpler ways of sharing data and creating user-friendly eServices. Finally, the implementation of security requirements will become an integral part of the development of information systems.

State Information Resources Interoperability Platform

The State Information Resources Interoperability Platform (SIRIP), also known as the eGovernment Gateway, is managed by the Ministry of Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania. Its proper functioning is ensured by the Information Society Development Committee. Since 1 January 2024, the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, as the institution defining the policy in the field of public administration, has become responsible for coordinating the filling in of public service provision descriptions in SIRIP.

SIRIP is a system delivering centralised access to public services: it is a convenient electronic platform that offers an easy way for public administrations to design, deliver and manage eServices, and it is also a universally accessible virtual space where these services can be requested. SIRIP provides the possibility to determine the identity of service users in a flexible, safe and reliable way. System users can connect using a mobile or electronic signature, European Union (EU) identity cards or electronic banking systems. It also enables recipients to pay for services in a safe and convenient manner through different payment methods, while allowing external systems to perform and administer them in the SIRIP space.

SIRIP has developed one modernised and three new compound eServices according to live events such as birth of a child, losing and finding a job, moving or preparing to move to another country, and starting farming. The compound eServices are user-oriented, proactive and designed according to the Once-Only principle, meaning that data which is available on national registers or information systems is received automatically and users do not need to provide it manually. The compound eServices have been available for citizens using the eGovernment Gateway (epaslaugos.lt) since March 2023. For further information, please visit the SIRIP website.

In 2023 the portal had 77.6 million visitors and provided access to over 3 825 eServices. In the first two months of 2024 the number of visitors amounted to 6.5 million.

The Digital Services Platform (DSP) is a solution aiming to modernise/rebuild SIRIP, which will be more user-oriented, and based on building blocks and a microservice architecture. The DSP will be the main portal for the integration of the Single Digital Gateway Once-Only technical system.

Data Access, Management and Reuse

Open data

Data Opening

Data opening is one of the strategic goals of the Lithuanian State and was put forward in the State Digitalisation Development Programme for 2021–2030. Data is a top priority also in the Lithuanian new government's four-year programme, approved at the end of 2020, where it is considered the cornerstone of the government's decisions and communication.

The Ministry of Economy and Innovation, which defines the open data policy in accordance with the recommendations of the EU and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), ensures that the provisions of the EU legal acts on open data and reuse of public sector information are implemented in the programme.

Lithuania has reached tangible results in amending legislation in this regard. The legal amendments address obligations on opening relevant data, and seek to increase reuse of publicly funded information and to bring the legislative framework up to date with the advances in digital technologies. Amendments to the Law on the Right to Receive Information and Reuse Data entered into force in July 2021, transposing the provisions of Directive (EU) 2019/1024 on open data and the re-use of public sector information, and establishing a data opening model which obliges institutions to inventory their data to know what data is owned by the State and open data on user demand. The data opening model also establishes a centralised data opening scheme, which should significantly speed up the data opening process. Datasets of State institutions are anonymised and opened centrally through the State Data Management Information System managed by State Data Agency. Data opening is currently being harmonised, focusing on automated processes and on establishing an organisational structure in the institutions. All public bodies are obliged to appoint a person responsible for organising the opening of the authority's data, the 'open data coordinator'. The designated coordinator has to ensure that the process of opening data is carried out, together with its supervision and compliance with the requirements laid down in the legislation.

In recent years, a strong focus has been put on opening up high-value datasets in accordance with European Commission implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/138. All open datasets, including high-value data sets, are published on the Lithuanian Open Data Portal.

Lithuania's open data policy has received several international recognitions. According to the Open Data Maturity Report 2023, the country is a fast-tracker, ranking 7th in terms of open data maturity. In the 2023 Open Data Study (OURdata Index) conducted by the OECD, Lithuania ranks 10th among OECD countries.

Law on the Right to Receive Information and Reuse of Data

The original Law on the Right to Receive Information from State and Local Authorities and Institutions of 2000 was amended several times, to comply with Directive 2003/98/EC (PSI Directive) and Directive 2013/37/EU, resulting into the Law on the Right to Receive Information from State and Local Authorities and Institutions No. XII-2666 of 11 October 2016. The amended law increased the scope of information intended for reuse, including in libraries, museums and archives, which account for a significant part of the public sector information resources, in particular upon the increase in digital materials as a result of the implementation of digitisation projects. The new law also established the conditions for the open licence to use public sector information based on the creative commons licence.

The law was amended again in 2018 to transpose Directive (EU) 2016/2102 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the accessibility of websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies. Then, in the beginning of 2021, the Ministry of Economy and Innovation prepared new amendments to the law, transposing the provisions of Directive (EU) 2019/1024 on open data and the re-use of public sector information. The amendments address obligations on opening data, and seek to increase reuse of publicly funded information and bring the legislative

framework up to date with the advances in digital technologies. The amended Law on the Right to Receive Information and Reuse of Data entered into force on 17 July 2021.

Law on Official Statistics and State Data Governance

Following the adoption of the Law on Official Statistics and State Data Governance, additional instruments for data collection and quality use were created.

Statistics Lithuania has acquired new tasks and tools, and has become a more efficient and operative body. Renamed as State Data Agency, it has been assigned two different roles in the State, i.e. that of producer of the official statistics, as in the past, and that of administrator of State data. The State Data Agency combines different data of different State institutions and is also responsible for the creation of the national data lake, which will work as a system where the private and public sector, and scientists will use analytical tools and reuse public data.

The purposes of using State data have been expanded. In addition to official statistics, it can be used for the monitoring of the development of the country, for decision-making, for researches and innovations, for the legitimate needs of State and municipal institutions, for crisis data management, for education, for governmental projects, and for data opening and reuse.

On 1 January 2023, a new version of the Law on Official Statistics and State Data Governance entered into force. It establishes a new approach to the management of State data and the regulation of their processing, reduces the administrative burden on data-providing institutions, and ensures more flexible use of collected data in the public sector as well as faster data sharing between State data systems.

'Creation of the Data Lake' Project

Investments have been planned for moving public sector data into a common space to enable its operational use for a wide range of analytical purposes and to open it up to the public. The aim is to consolidate data and bring it into a common space where it can be 'put to work' in data-driven decision-making, research and digital innovation.

By the summer of 2026, all key data managed by the State will be integrated into a single data lake – the State Data Management Information System. In this system, data will be managed from the very beginning, i.e. from its collection, to the end, i.e. to its use for legitimate purposes and its opening on the Lithuanian Open Data Portal. The entire data management cycle will be overseen by a single host, allowing to ensure easily accessible, seamless and reliable public sector data in one place.

'Creation of the Data Model' Project

The Information Society Development Committee will create a public sector data management model that will allow institutions to exchange data more efficiently. This will accelerate the implementation of digitisation solutions and the development of digital services in the public sector.

The State holds a high volume of high-value data, which is, however, isolated in separate information systems and difficult to share. A unified public sector data model will allow data to be used to digitise public services more efficiently. The goal is for the State to function as a unified digital platform, and for the public sector, businesses and society to have access to a set of high-quality, reliable and standardised data as well as to its analysis. The public sector will gain the opportunity to promptly receive data from various institutions, and the process of obtaining data itself will become more flexible and faster. Both residents and businesses will benefit from this development, as it will significantly speed up the creation of digital services and the implementation of digitisation solutions by State institutions, and make institutions more efficient in making and implementing management decisions.

By 2026, a large-scale inventory of State data will be carried out. Then, information on all data processed in State information systems and registers will be gathered in one place - the Metadata Catalogue. All data will be described and processed according to a uniform standard. Then, it will be determined what data can be opened up, and residents, businesses and institutions of Lithuania and EU member states will be able to exchange it much more easily and integrate it in their information systems.

Finally, another innovation will be introduced in the public sector. Smart contracts will reduce the administrative burden, speed up the conclusion, management and implementation of data provision contracts, and save human resources to conclude and manage contracts.

Governance of Main Registers

Lithuania's organisation and governance of base registers are among the most streamlined and straightforward in Europe. The State information resources of critical importance are processed in the main State registers, which are listed in the Law on the Management of State Information Resources. The main State registers are the Population Register, the Address Register, the Real Property Register and Cadastre, the Register of Legal Entities. They are owned by the Ministry of Justice (except for the Real Property Register and Cadastre) and manged by the Centre of Registers, i.e. a single State enterprise charged with the processing of the data of these registers. The Register of Legal Acts is also included among the main registers, but its management is entrusted to the Office of the Seimas.

With the creation of the Register of Registers and Information Systems, now available in Lithuania, data and data owners are easy to retrieve. The Register of Registers and Information Systems can be accessed even without credentials. It contains information such as the name of the register, its identification code and the register object. Its proper functioning is ensured by the Information Society Development Committee.

Base Registries

The following table lists the Lithuanian main registers:

National	
Business	The Law on the Register of Legal Entities establishes that the Register of Legal Entities is a main State register. In addition, it defines the creation of the register, and identifies the controller and the processor of the register's data, namely the Ministry of Justice and the Centre of Registers, respectively. The Ministry of Justice is also the owner of the Register of Legal Entities. The Register of Legal Entities registers businesses, institutions and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and collects detailed data about Lithuanian legal entities, their branches and representative offices, and branches and representative offices of foreign companies and organisations. The Register contains complete information (and historical data) about the legal form and status of legal entities, their objectives, the size of the authorised capital, the members of sole and collective management bodies, etc. The Register of Legal Entities is integrated with the Population Register, the Address Register, the Real Property Register and Cadastre, the Register of Legally Incapable Persons and Persons with Limited Legal Capacity, the Register of Powers of Attorney, and the Information System of Legal Entities Participants (JADIS). Integration is ensured partly at the database level through calls to the application programming interface (API), and partly via snapshots and/or web services." The tools and technologies used are Java8, JavaScript and Oracle PL/SQL, and the data formats used are database tables copies or structured data in SOAP/XML format.
Land	The Regulations on the Real Property Register establish the purpose of the register, and regulate the objects for registration, the functions of the register data controller and the register data processor (i.e. the Centre of Registers), the processing of data, and the interoperability with other registers, cadastres and information systems. The owner of the Real Property Register is the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania. The Real Property Register and Cadastre contains data of all real property objects registered in Lithuania. Information includes cadastral data and maps, ownership rights and other real rights, including their history and legal facts related to real rights, etc. Data in the Register is public, including cadastral maps. Archive documents containing cadastral files and copies of transaction documents may be provided to the persons specified in the Law on the Real Property Register. The Real Property Register and Cadastre is integrated with the Register of Legal Entities, the Population Register, the Address Register and the Register of Powers of Attorney. Integration is ensured partly at the database level through calls to the application programming interface (API), and partly via

	snapshots and/or web services." The tools and technologies used are Java8, JavaScript and Oracle PL/SQL, and the data formats used are database tables copies or structured data in SOAP/XML format.
Population	The Regulations on the Population Register contain provisions on the purpose of the Population Register, the objects for registration, the processing of data, the interoperability with other registers, the protection of data, and the provision and use of the Register's data. The main purposes of the Population Register are (i) to collect, process, store and protect personal data; (ii) to manage the central database of the Register; (iii) to provide the data to the national government institutions, local government bodies, courts, prosecutor's offices and other institutions as stated in the regulations; (iv) to form and to provide personal codes (national identification numbers); and (v) to provide other public services for individuals. The owner of the Population Register is the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania; the data processor of the Population Register is the Centre of Registers. The Population Register is integrated with the Address Register, the Real Property Register, the Information System of Electronic Health Services and Collaboration Infrastructure, the Information System of Lithuanian Courts, the State Information Resources Interoperability Platform, the Register of Legally Incapable Persons and Persons with Limited Legal Capacity, the Identity Documents Issuance System and the Foreigners Register. Integration is ensured partly at the database level through calls to the application programming interface (API), and partly via snapshots and/or web services." The tools and technologies used are Java8, JavaScript and Oracle PL/SQL, and the data formats used are database tables copies or structured data in SOAP/XML format.
Addresses	The Regulations on the Address Register regulate the purpose of the Address Register, its objects, its functions, the rights and obligations of the register data controller and processor, the processing of the data, the interaction with other registers, as well as the security, publication and provision of the Register's data. Data in the Address Register are open, and are stored both in textual and graphical form. The Register indicates not only whether a certain object exists, but also where such object is located. The search and address location service are publicly available and free of charge. Datasets or a full copy of the database of the Register can be acquired on a commercial basis. The owner of the Address Register is the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania; the data processor of the Address Register is the Centre of Registers. The Address Register is integrated with the Population Register, the Real Property Register and Cadastre, the State Cadastre of Forests and the Register of Legal Entities.
Legal Acts	The Register of Legal Acts is a paperless information system for publishing legislative acts. It is used for registering and publishing legal acts and their consolidated versions, as well as depersonalised rulings and international treaties. All acts are publicly available, free of charge and 24/7. The system users are State and municipal institutions, and other legal bodies involved in legislation. Once a legal act is registered and published on the Register, it is considered officially promulgated. A legal act reaches the Register in the form of an eDocument bearing an eSignature.
Register of Contracts and Restrictions on Rights	The purposes of the Register of Contracts and Restrictions on Rights are (i) to register the objects of the Register; (ii) to collect, accumulate, process, systematise and store the Register's data and documents, and provide them to natural persons and legal entities; and (iii) to perform other data processing actions. The objects of the Register of Contracts and Restrictions on Rights include: (i) contractual and forced pledges (except for the pledge of property rights to real property objects registered in the Real Property Register); (ii) mortgages of ships and aircraft for which mandatory legal registration is established; (iii) corporate mortgages; (iv) conditional mortgages; (v) instalment purchase and sale contracts for non-registrable items; (vi) purchase and sale contracts for non-registrable items with the right of repurchase; (vii) leasing (financial

	lease) contracts whose object is a non-registrable item; and (viii) leasing or loan for use contracts for non-registrable items.
Sub-national	

Data Platforms and Portals

The following table lists the Lithuanian data platforms and portals infrastructures:

Lithuanian Open Data Portal	The Lithuanian Open Data Portal was launched on 1 July 2020 as the single access point to all open datasets in Lithuania. Currently, the portal relies on information provided by 255 organisations, and contains 1 459 datasets and 30 use cases. The portal is intended for public sector bodies, businesses and all open data users who might be interested. It offers data providers functionalities allowing them to stocktake datasets and evaluate priorities, describe datasets with metadata and upload open data. The portal also allows data users to search for and have access to relevant data, make comments about datasets or send requests for new datasets. It also provides space for sharing best practices, solutions, open data use cases as well as learning material.
TAIS	The Law on the Legislative Framework of 1 January 2014 establishes a centralised information system to track and coordinate the legislative process (TAIS). TAIS is used for drafting legal acts and for ensuring that the outcomes of the legislative process are accessible to the public in a single space.
Geoportal Open Data	At the end of 2014, a dataset of Lithuanian place names was created by order of the National Land Service under the Ministry of Agriculture, for the collection and management of place names data of the territory of the Republic of Lithuania. The set of place names is provided at Geoportal.lt, and is publicly available and free of charge.
LTAID	The LTAID webpage is an effective open data platform on Lithuania's development cooperation and humanitarian efforts. It is freely accessible for all – public, policy makers, NGOs, academia, businesses, etc. Information is provided in a user-friendly digital map and can be filtered out across different segments. Data on initiatives and programmes financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs allows stakeholders to analyse and extrapolate successful cases that can be adapted and implemented at different scales, fostering innovation and collaboration. Furthermore, calls for project applications, legal documents and procedures are freely accessible on the webpage, encouraging a wider range of organisations to participate in and contribute to development cooperation efforts.
State Data Management Information System	The State Data Management Information System is a public sector data lake and common analytical platform. Its objectives can be summarised as follows: standardised and fast (primary) data collection, data consolidation, information production, data exchange and reuse, and provision of analytical spaces for users. The State Data Management Information System also works as heath data reuse platform.

Cross-border Infrastructures

The following table lists the European cross-border infrastructures of which Lithuania is part of:

European Business Register	Lithuania is a member country of the European Business Register (EBR), making it easy for anyone to find out information about Lithuanian firms and businesses. Lithuania also takes part in the Business Registers Interconnection System (BRIS) – a joint effort of EU governments and the European Commission linking the business registers of all EU countries, as well as Iceland,

	Liechtenstein and Norway. The eJustice portal BRIS allows to get free information about legal entities of EU Member States, as well as to order legal entities' documents in business registers and receive them free of charge.
EUCARIS	Lithuania is a participant in the European Car and Driving License Information System (EUCARIS), and is thus providing vehicle and driving licence information based on the EUCARIS Treaty. Lithuania is also a participant in the EU Driving Licence Network (RESPER).
TESTA	The Secure State Data Communications Network (Secure Network) provides secure nationwide communication services for the most important Lithuanian institutions. The Secure Network is the national network (domain) for the Trans European Services for Telematics between Administrations (TESTA). It currently covers all of Lithuania and connects only the most important Lithuanian institutions which are assigned functions during emergencies, natural disasters, mobilisation and other crises. The government-approved secure list of network users contains 500 institutions, including public authorities and their subordinates, hospitals, municipal administrations and others.
Once-Only Technical System (OOTS)	The Once-Only Technical System (OOTS) is an innovative initiative by the EU aimed at reducing the administrative burden on citizens and businesses across Member States, including Lithuania. The system enables the sharing of information between public administrations across EU countries, which is a significant step towards enabling cross-border online procedures for EU citizens. Lithuania is currently developing the national OOTS components, adapting the integration services of the national main registers for cross-border data exchange. The country is also customising its eServices to meet the needs of EU citizens. Such eServices cover a wide range of administrative functions, from tax filings and business registrations to social services and healthcare.
EU Digital Wallet	Lithuania participates in the eIDAS Expert Group, which discusses the technological solutions needed to develop the EU Digital Wallet. Lithuania also participates in two consortia: ▪ Potential, for the testing of a driving licence service; and ▪ DC4EU, for the testing of a diploma recognition service. Lithuania is also participating in the development of the Single Digital Gateway, where user authentication will be carried out using eIDAS-based tools.
European Blockchain Services Infrastructure (EBSI)	Lithuania participates in the European Blockchain Services Infrastructure (EBSI) as an observer.

4. Digital Transformation of Public Services

Digital Public Services for Citizens

Law on Information Society Services

The Law on Information Society Services was adopted in May 2006 to ensure the implementation of Directive 2000/31/EC on certain legal aspects of information society services, in particular on electronic commerce in the Internal Market (eCommerce Directive). The main purpose was to establish legal grounds to regulate the provision of information society services. The law defines the requirements for the information provided and the conclusion of agreements by electronic means, regulates the responsibilities, rights/duties and activities of service providers, and establishes the means for dispute resolution. It also protects the freedom to provide information society services towards a party established outside the country. Restrictions may apply in certain cases, such as intellectual property rights, the freedom of choice of the law applicable to a contract, and others.

eGovernment Gateway Services Catalogue

The Ministry of Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania and the Information Society Development Committee, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, have implemented an improvement of the eGovernment Gateway Services Catalogue. From now on all data on public and administrative services provided will be available through the eGovernment Gateway Portal.
A service catalogue wizard has been developed and implemented in the eGovernment Gateway Portal. Additional functionalities, such as the service application creation form and the approval process, have also been introduced. Following the improvement of the Service Catalogue:
- Public and administrative services are accessible for residents and service providers even more conveniently and quickly;
- Information systems previously publishing information on public and administrative services have been consolidated. The integration of systems paves the way for solutions aimed to improve the quality and accessibility of service provision, as well as for a more efficient use of resources;
- The administrative burden on service providers and administrators has been reduced; and
- Service descriptions will no longer need to be provided in two information systems.

The projects implemented by the Information Society Development Committee will also expand the functionalities of the eGovernment Gateway Portal (epaslaugos.lt) to collect information about public services, as well as to collect and monitor information on indicators of the quality and accessibility of services.

eInvoicing

eInvoicing Legislation

Lithuania launched a new standard eInvoicing module on 1 July 2019. It enables contracting authorities and entities to receive and process eInvoices from other EU countries that comply with the European standard EN 16931-1:2017. eInvoices based on the new standard can be delivered by suppliers through any certified Peppol Access Point that uses the Peppol AS4 Profile. Lithuanian businesses and contracting organisations are encouraged to get ready for changes in advance, and to harmonise the content and format of their eInvoices with the new standard eInvoicing module.
Importantly, the eSaskaita eInvoicing modernisation project was launched in 2022. The aim of the project is to overhaul the system through the creation of a Common Information System for Invoicing Management (CISIM). The main changes implemented in CISIM are:
- The development of a new system architecture;
- The development of a more user-friendly environment;
- The improvement of the system's speed and security; and

- The increase in the number of simultaneous users, and the introduction of software upgrades to ensure greater stability of the system.

CISIM is planned to be operational from 1 July 2024. The system will be managed by the National Shared Functions Centre, which will have to ensure the proper functioning of CISIM, and adequate funding for the maintenance, improvement and development of hardware and software.

eInvoicing Cross-Border LT

The project eInvoicing Cross-Border LT, partially financed by the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA), was implemented in 2019, aiming to establish a national four-corner model infrastructure.

The eSaskaita eInvoicing portal is a public information system for exchanging public procurement invoices which has been mandatory in the public sector since 2017. It has been upgraded to comply with the applicable eInvoicing standard. Lithuania is avoiding the creation of national Core Invoice Usage Specifications (CIUS). According to the Directive on electronic invoicing in public procurement, public sector entities are obliged to accept eInvoices that conform to the European standard EN 16931-1:2017. This obligation applies to public entities at all levels, below and above the threshold stated in the Directive.

Finally, an eInvoicing project, partially financed by INEA with a consortium of private companies, is establishing an independent Peppol eDelivery Access Point for open access.

eHealth and Social Security

Action Plan for the Development of the Digital Health System

On 26 June 2014, the Lithuanian Parliament approved the 2014–2025 National Health Strategy. To ensure smooth development and implementation of the eHealth system, Lithuania's 2017–2025 eHealth System Development Programme, setting new measures for the implementation of the strategy, was approved by Order No. V-878 of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Lithuania on 17 July 2017 and subsequently amended in 2019. The programme aims to ensure that all healthcare institutions in Lithuania participate in the development of the eHealth system and are able to provide patients' health records to the central eHealth system (ESPBI IS) via a dedicated portal.

The 2017–2025 eHealth System Development Programme was replaced by the Action Plan for the Development of the Digital Health System 2023–2027 approved by Order No. V-795 of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Lithuania on 12 July 2023. The action plan has been prepared to balance the existing and emerging needs, taking into account the results of the maturity analysis of the information systems and registers, the ongoing projects for the development of the eHealth system, planned activities, and opportunities for the development of information resources of the eHealth system and their adaptation in the field of healthcare. The aim is to ensure a coherent development of the digital health system in Lithuania, while continuously improving quality and accessibility of healthcare services. To that end, the action plan aims to define goals, objectives, evaluation criteria and implementation measures for the development of the digital health system, to create and develop the widest possible scope of advanced integral digital health services to meet the needs of the population, patients, healthcare institutions and professionals, and other actors in the health system.

Electronic Health Services and Cooperation Infrastructure Information System

The Electronic Health Services and Cooperation Infrastructure Information System (ESPBI IS) is a national system of organisational, technical and software measures developing a centralised database of health data. It enables the exchange of such data among patients, healthcare professionals and institutions. The ESPBI IS strives to ensure a higher level of patient awareness about health and a more effective use of available resources for the provision of healthcare services, and seeks to base those services on modern technologies.

The ESPBI IS has been created as a single data centre which stores the medical records of each resident (patient) and also allows to integrate data from all internal information systems of healthcare institutions into a unified system. For the smaller healthcare institutions that do not own internal information systems, a special eHealth portal has been developed. This means that patient data can be transferred to the ESPBI IS either directly via a special eHealth portal or by integrating the internal information systems of larger healthcare institutions. Authorised healthcare professionals can now provide the required patient data to the central electronic health

records (EHRs) database or other ESPBI IS databases through their computers. In addition, all pharmacies are connected to the ESPBI IS and can dispense medicines based on ePrescriptions. Data stored in the ESPBI IS is also accessible to patients via a special national internet portal.

The structure of the ESPBI IS is based on a repository database, which consists of separate databases of patients' EHRs, medical devices, classifiers, medical images, ePrescriptions, as well as reports and statistical information. The Lithuanian National eHealth Contact Point (NCPeH) and cross-border services have been established to manage the cross-border service, which is intended to exchange information about ePrescription and/or eDispensation through the National eHealth Contact Point.

The ESPBI IS serves 100% of insured patients who are registered with a primary healthcare institution that has a contract with the Health Insurance Fund. 99.9% of all reimbursed drugs are prescribed electronically, and 100% of referrals, in-patient recuperations, out-patient descriptions, child's birth certificates, medical death certificates and driver's medical certificates are provided to the ESPBI IS.

Online Sale of Prescription Medicines in Lithuania

In Lithuania, prescription medicines have been available to be purchased remotely since 12 July 2022. Based on the model of remote marketing of prescription medicines chosen, all information on the offer of pharmacies selling prescription medicines and medical devices remotely is available to the patient on a single portal. There, patients can see the prices and availability of prescribed medicines from different pharmacies. This allows the patient to choose medicines prescribed electronically according to the most favourable price, delivery conditions or suggested pick-up locations, or other criteria. Given that only patients see the prices applied by pharmacies offering the medicines they were prescribed, there is no risk for price collusion. The implemented model ensures transparent and equal competition between pharmacies in the online marketing market.

The system for the online sale of prescription medicines based on ePrescriptions ensures the security of personal data. It also ensures that the selected pharmacy and the ordering pharmacist receive only the data needed to provide a quality online pharmacy service.

The model of online marketing of prescription medicines also ensures that the buyer is not misled in any way when purchasing prescription medicines remotely on www.eveikata.lt, as only pharmacies that are legally and technically entitled to sell prescription medicines are allowed to offer prescription medicines for sale. As a result, the consumer is always assured of the fact that he/she is only purchasing his/her prescription medicines from a legitimate chain supplier.

Information System of Patient Appointment Management

The Information System of Patient Appointment Management (IPR IS) is intended for handling patient appointments at the national level. The nationally deployed solution, which is part of the eHealth platform, allows for the automation of the processes to make an appointment with a doctor for both patients and specialists, as well as their transparent implementation with proper identification of the patient. The IPR IS provides for the management of appointment information, the monitoring and management of service deadlines as well as the monitoring and management of patient no-shows. The IPR IS also allows for the management of queues for patients waiting to receive healthcare services to ensure optimal use of appointment time. Finally, the analytical tools which have been developed also allow employees of healthcare institutions and specialists of institutions supervising the healthcare sector to monitor and evaluate the situation related to the provision of healthcare services.

Social Support and Family Information System

The Social Support and Family Information System (SPIS) is an information system operating under cooperation agreements between the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, and all the country's municipalities. The purpose of SPIS is to uniformly record and accumulate information on social assistance provided in the municipalities (social benefits and compensations, social support for children, social services, activities carried out in the field of children rights protection, etc.), analyse the data by municipalities, types of support and beneficiaries, as well as prevent several municipalities from providing the same benefits at the same time.

Other Key Initiatives

Electronic Enforcement File Portal

The Electronic Enforcement File Portal enables citizens and businesses to (i) participate in the enforcement process; (ii) consult the information in the enforcement file, either personal or of an authorised person, as well as general and financial information; (iii) view actions performed by the judicial officer in the enforcement process and the documents in the file in real time; and (iv) form and submit enforcement document applications for the recovery of the amounts due as well as other free applications to bailiffs by electronic means, which the system then automatically distributes to the bailiffs according to the established distribution procedure.

eJudicial Auction System

Electronic auctions in Lithuania are organised via the National Portal. The electronic forced sales auctions (judicial auctions) service allows bailiffs and bankruptcy administrators to announce forced sale auctions of property by electronic means. The service is also used for the electronic sale (auctions) of State-owned and municipal property organised by the State enterprise Turto Bankas, municipalities and other State sectors.

This solution ensures higher transparency of public sector decisions and procedures, as well as openness and accountability vis-à-vis society, thereby decreasing the risk of corruption. It also allows to save money, as persons are able to actively participate in judicial auctions and electronic auctions at the lowest cost. Through the National Portal, residents and businesses can participate in electronic auctions regarding the sale of real property (buildings and/or land), stocks, vehicles and other equipment (i.e. manufacturing machines). The person wishing to participate in a specific auction must pay the participant's registration fee (if applicable) or the participant's guarantee deposit, whose amounts are specified in the auction announcement.

i.APS

The main purpose of the eAccounting system i.APS is to provide all natural persons (self-employed according to a business certificate or self-employed according to a certificate of self-employment) with the opportunity to manage and use more simplified accounting services for their data. That way, the system contributes to reducing the administrative burden, and ensuring more effective control on tax compliance and income accounting.

The main features of the system are the following: (i) no obligation to start using any subsystem (e.g. eInvoicing subsystem); (ii) automatic calculation of various types of taxes (income, social security, etc.); (iii) availability of an invoicing/storage subsystem for natural persons; (iv) elaboration of analytic reports for users of the subsystem; and (v) automatic notification about the obligation to be registered as a VAT payer.

The essential changes introduced thanks to the system can be summarised as follows:

- Tax returns are prefilled based on preliminary information to save taxpayers' time;
- The accounting/storage subsystem for natural persons is accessible via internet; and
- Information about income and expenses incurred can be entered electronically into a register in the income and expenses accounting subsystem.

Cash Restrictions Information System

The Cash Restrictions Information System is an automatically operating information system which enables any institution holding the right to forced recovery to place orders with credit institutions to write off cash and impose restrictions in a uniform approach. The system ensures the sequence of write-offs in accordance with the priority to satisfy the claims and distributes the debtor's funds proportionally to the institutions holding the right to forced recovery. It also determines an uncollectible amount for natural persons. The system allows to control the processes related to debtor cash restrictions and/or write-offs, and ensures effective data exchange among those participating in the cash restrictions process.

Information System on Participants of Legal Entities

The Information System on Participants of Legal Entities (JADIS) was developed to collect and store data about participants of legal entities by using IT tools, and to provide the data to the natural and legal entities having the right to receive it. JADIS collects and stores data about shareholders of private limited-liability companies, members of small partnerships, part-owners of public institutions, members of cooperative companies (cooperatives), members and

shareholders of farming enterprises, general members of general partnerships, general and limited members of limited partnerships, and part-owners of charity and sponsorship funds, which are NGOs.

JANGIS is a newly created subsystem of JADIS, in operation since the beginning of 2022, which collects data about beneficial owners. The Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing mandates all legal entities based in Lithuania (except for legal entities whose sole member is the State or a municipality), including collective investment undertakings, to obtain, update and store accurate information on their beneficial owners. Currently, all legal entities of all legal forms can submit data on the beneficial owners to the Centre of Registers. Investment companies and investment funds have been able to provide data since August 2022. Data on beneficial owners of legal entities is provided to JANGIS electronically, through the self-service of the Centre of Registers. Data on beneficial owners is then provided to all natural and legal persons who have a legitimate interest in receiving it. The data is provided under a contract, or subject to the request submitted through the self-service of the Centre of Registers or in person at the Customer Service Units, specifying the purpose and legal basis of data acquisition. The availability of such data aims at greater transparency and public confidence. It will also help to combat the misuse of legal persons for money laundering or terrorist financing, ensure the transparency of the structures of beneficial owners and legal entities, and combat the circumstances enabling the emergence of a shadow economy in the country.

Digital Public Services for Businesses

Services by the Register of Legal Entities

In Lithuania, the Register of Legal Entities offers businesses the following eServices:
- Registration of the legal entity (private limited-liability company, small partnership, association, individual enterprise, public institution, charity and sponsorship fund, branch of a private limited-liability company and branch of a foreign legal entity);
- Recording of a temporary name in the Register of Legal Entities;
- Submission of data and information about the legal entity (e.g. manager, registered office, contacts, legal status, change of incorporation documents, etc.);
- Submission of financial statement documents;
- Granting of the status of sponsorship recipient to a legal entity;
- Removal of the legal entity from the Register of Legal Entities;
- Issuance of a joint certificate on a supplier participating in a public procurement procedure;
- Provision of a note stating that the legal entity is an NGO;
- Publication of public notices in the electronic publication; and
- Ordering of extracts and documents of the Register of Legal Entities.

Public Procurement

Law on Public Procurement

Public procurement procedures in Lithuania are regulated by the Law on Public Procurement. The most recent version of the law came into force on 1 July 2017.

As to eProcurement, the aforementioned law contains provisions on the obligation to use the Central Public Procurement Information System (CPP IS) for communication and information exchange between public buyers and economic operators, as well as on the electronic publication of tender notices and submission of tenders. It also regulates the use of eAuctions and dynamic purchasing systems.

Central Public Procurement Portal

The Central Public Procurement Information System (CPP IS) is the official procurement portal of Lithuania, acting as a one-stop-shop portal for public procurement. Its use is mandatory for all public buyers. The CPP IS (i) covers the entire procurement cycle, from tender notices to publication of awarded contracts; (ii) allows electronic communication between buyers and economic operators, and the publication of procurement plans and a market consultation notice; and (iii) is a source of statistical information. The CPP IS has been available since September 2008, gradually expanding its functionalities. It is managed by the Public Procurement Office.

Digital Inclusion and Digital Skills

GovTech Lab

The GovTech Lab operates within the Innovation Agency and promotes the innovativeness of public sector organisations by providing the necessary knowledge, resources and developing skills to solve existing challenges and prepare for future ones with the help of digital technology. In 2023, for the first time the GovTech Lab organised a training programme on the creation, implementation and management of innovations for employees of the Lithuanian public sector. As stated in the publication of the GovTech Innovation Academy, the training programme was organised in light of the growing interest in innovations, as well as of the insufficient attention to public sector innovations and the lack of consistent learning content on how to create and develop innovations in the Lithuanian public sector. About 200 public sector employees applied for the 4-day training, of which 75 were selected and divided into three groups. Overall, representatives of 48 different organisations participated in the GovTech Innovation Academy. The Academy's programme was structured in a consistent manner, with the aim of discussing the assumptions, principles and implementation strategies of innovation development, as well as delving into specific methods and tools for innovation development and implementation. The training was based on practical workshops, supplemented by theoretical interventions analysing specific cases. The Academy will be organised again in 2024.

Individual Learning Accounts

Following the entry into force of amendments to the Law on Non-formal Adult Education and Continuing Learning of the Republic of Lithuania, the one-stop-shop model of individual learning accounts consolidates the fragmented adult skills development system. It defines clear roles and responsibilities for all actors, and provides for mechanisms for funding. This one-stop-shop system of individual learning accounts (KURSUOK), launched at the end of 2023, offers accessible competence development and recognition of qualifications to people aged between 18 and 65.

5. Trust and Cybersecurity

eID and Trust Services

eIDAS

In 2020, Lithuania successfully completed the procedures set out in the Regulation on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market (eIDAS Regulation) for the notification of a Lithuanian eID scheme that would be recognised at cross-border level in the EU internal market. The procedure confirmed that the eID scheme according to which the identity cards of the Republic of Lithuania are issued complies with a high level of security and reliability.

In accordance with the requirements of the eIDAS Regulation, Lithuania has also implemented and operates the National Electronic Identification Information System (eIDAS node). The manager of this information system is the Information Technology and Communications Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania. This institution has implemented and maintains the centralised technical solutions set out in the eIDAS Regulation that ensure secure and reliable cross-border authentication when the identity cards of the Republic of Lithuania are used as an eID means for obtaining online services in another State of the EU or of the European Economic Area.

Law on Electronic Identification and Trust Services for Electronic Transactions

Adopted on 26 April 2018, the Law on Electronic Identification and Trust Services for Electronic Transactions ensures the compliance of the Lithuanian legal framework with the eIDAS Regulation. The main purpose of the law is to create a legal basis for the effective operation of eID and the market of trust services in the Republic of Lithuania to ensure the best possible protection of service users and their interests. This law regulates (i) the legal effect of eSignatures, electronic seals and time stamps, and trust services; (ii) the obligations of trust service providers and users; (iii) the terms of and the procedure for the suspension and revocation of qualified certificates for eSignatures and electronic seals or certificates for website authentication; and (iv) the supervision of trust service providers.

In May 2023, the Law on Electronic Identification and Trust Services for Electronic Transactions was modified. The most recent version came into force on 2 January 2024. The new law provides that (i) the Ministry of Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania is responsible for the areas of eID and trust services for electronic transactions; (ii) the Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania is the supervisory body for trust services and qualified eID services providers; and (iii) the Information Society Development Committee is responsible for the supervision of the eID node. In December 2023, the Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania adopted the legal acts that are necessary for the supervision of qualified eID service providers.

Procedure for the Verification of Personal Identity and Additional Specific Attributes when Issuing Qualified Certificates for Electronic Signatures, Electronic Seals and Website Authentication

The Description of the Procedure for the Verification of Personal Identity and Additional Specific Attributes when Issuing Qualified Certificates for Electronic Signatures, Electronic Seals and Website Authentication lays down the specifications for the verification of personal identity and additional specific attributes when issuing qualified certificates for eSignatures, eSeals and website authentication. The specifications were approved by Resolution No. TN-659 of the Council of the Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania of 7 December 2023.

Order on the Specifications for the Verification of Personal Identity and Additional Specific Attributes

The Order on the Specifications for the Verification of Personal Identity and Additional Specific Attributes when Issuing Qualified Certificates for Electronic Signatures, Electronic Seals and Website Authentication lays down the specifications for the verification of personal identity and

additional specific attributes when issuing qualified certificates for eSignatures, eSeals and website authentication. The specifications were approved by Order No. 1V-1055 of the Director of the Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania on 26 October 2018.

ePassports

Pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) No. 2252/2004 on standards for security features and biometrics in passports and travel documents issued by the Member States, on 8 August 2008 Lithuania started issuing passports containing biometric data (facial image), secured by basic access control. The body in charge of personalising and organising the printing of such travel documents is the Identity Documents Personalisation Centre under the Ministry of the Interior.

Trust Services

Seven qualified trust service providers are established and supervised in Lithuania: (i) the Identity Documents Personalisation Centre under the Ministry of the Interior (issuance of qualified eSignature certificates); (ii) the Centre of Registers (issuance of qualified eSignature certificates and qualified eSeal certificates, and creation of qualified electronic time stamps); (iii) JSC BalTstamp (creation of qualified electronic time stamps); and (iv) JSC Dokobit, JSC Nevda, JSC MIT-SOFT and JSC iSense Technologies (qualified validation services for qualified electronic signatures and seals).

In addition, the Estonian qualified trust service provider SK ID Solutions (issuing qualified eSignature certificates) is also active on the Lithuanian market, and issues qualified eSignature certificates with mobile SIM cards and a Smart-ID app. In 2023, SK ID Solutions provided more than 2 655 000 qualified eSignature certificates for Lithuanian citizens.

As of December 2023, more than 3 016 600 valid qualified eSignature certificates had been issued to Lithuanian citizens (more than 361 500 of them by Lithuanian qualified trust service providers). Interestingly, according to the latest market overview, prepared by the Communications Regulatory Authority, usage of the eSignature is growing steadily (6% of citizens used the eSignature in 2014, 14% in 2017, 18% in 2018, 23% in 2019, 25% in 2020, 29% in 2021, 32% in 2022 and 35% in 2023).

Secure Network

The Secure Network is an electronic communications network run by the State (more specifically, by the Core Centre of State Telecommunications or CERT) that meets special organisational and technical requirements, and is independent from public electronic communications networks. The Secure Network connects only the most important Lithuanian institutions which are assigned functions during emergencies, natural disasters, mobilisation and other crises. The government-approved secure list of network users contains approximately 500 institutions, including public authorities and their subordinates, hospitals, municipal administrations and others. The key objectives of the Secure Network are:
- Data transfer at the set speed to users of the Secure Network and their structural units;
- Access to public communication networks at the set speed;
- Collective protection of Secure Network users by means of cybersecurity;
- Interaction with the information resources managed by the institutions of the EU and its Member States; and
- Connection of the parts of State-run electronic communication networks that are used in the implementation of State mobilisation tasks.

CERT informs and advises its clients about information security incidents, various software and technical system vulnerabilities, and information security trends.

Cybersecurity

National Cybersecurity Development Programme

The first National Cybersecurity Strategy was adopted on 13 August 2018 via Resolution No. 818 of the government of the Republic of Lithuania. On the 20 September 2023, the Lithuanian government also approved the 2023–2030 National Cybersecurity Development Programme. As a continuation of the strategy, it aims to ensure the cyberresilience of the State and the development of cyberdefence capabilities. The programme is accompanied by the Action Plan of the National Cybersecurity Development Programme, approved by Order No. V-98 of the Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Lithuania on the 5 February 2024.

The following actions are planned for the next two years:
- To establish and implement a new national cybersecurity model by involving more institutions in the management and enforcement of cybersecurity;
- To establish a cybersecurity monitoring system, improving tools for cybersecurity entities to declare their compliance with organisational and technical requirements, and for monitoring these processes;
- To establish information exchange systems between users (cybersecurity entities) and the National Cybersecurity Centre under the Ministry of National Defence;
- To establish security management centres, creating a unified standardised platform to provide Security Operations Centre services to cybersecurity actors, including analysis, selection of tools and development of integrations;
- To strengthen the competences of cyberprofessionals by providing cybersecurity training to staff working in cybersecurity and to educate the public with regard to cyberhygiene; and
- To strengthen the capacity to investigate cybercrimes, including investments in solutions for the processing and analytics of big data and in a test laboratory on conducting cybercrime investigations.

Cyber Rapid Response Teams and Mutual Assistance in Cybersecurity

In addition to carrying out national initiatives, Lithuania is a lead nation in the EU's Security and Defence Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) project called Cyber Rapid Response Teams and Mutual Assistance in Cybersecurity (CRRT). Together with eight other EU Member States, Lithuania is leading and further strengthening a common capability to respond to cyberattacks, i.e. a multinational team that is able to support EU Member States, EU institutions, bodies and agencies as well as EU partner nations in times of need. Moreover, the CRRT can also be used for preventive activities, thus building up the cyberresilience of the abovementioned entities. Having reached its full operational capability in 2021 and established its standard operating procedures, the CRRT has already proven its added value when deployed in support of partner nations and testing the cyberresilience of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions.

Regional Cyberdefence Centre

The Regional Cyberdefence Centre (RCDC) was established in 2021 as part of the National Cybersecurity Centre under the Ministry of National Defence of the Republic of Lithuania. It has become a well-structured platform for cooperation with international partners, such as the US, Poland, Georgia and Ukraine. In addition, it has also established cooperation channels with the countries of the Indo-Pacific region.

The RCDC's Cyberthreat Analysis Cell (CTAC) focuses on strengthening cyberthreat evaluation capabilities (Cyberthreat Intelligence, CTI) as well as on building up the resilience of the critical infrastructure sector by cooperating and sharing information between countries of the region. To that end, it has built up a toolset and a personnel skillset to respond to and help with specific requests for support to assess any given cyberthreat against an RCDC partner nation.

The RCDC has already prepared a 'Report on the Russian Use of Offensive Cyber Capabilities in the Course of the Military Aggression in Ukraine'. It has also conducted a comprehensive study on 'How to recognise China cyberthreats' together with partners in the Indo-Pacific region, and is currently developing the new study on the threat landscape for the critical infrastructure in the Baltic Sea Region.

Law on Cybersecurity

The Law on Cybersecurity (last amended on 21 December 2023) establishes (i) the principles of cybersecurity; (ii) the institutions responsible for the formulation and implementation of cybersecurity policy, as well as the powers of these institutions in the field of cybersecurity; (iii) the duties of cybersecurity actors; (iv) the interinstitutional cooperation in the field; (v) the basics of the search for and reporting of breaches in communication and information systems, and cyberincidents; (vi) the roles and powers of the national certification body for cybersecurity; and (vii) the requirements for the protection of the State's information assets. Article by article, the law defines the cybersecurity system in Lithuania (Article 4), and the detailed powers of the government (Article 5), the Ministry of National Defence (Article 6), the National Cybersecurity Centre (Article 8), the State Data Protection Inspectorate (Article 9), the Police (Article 10) and the Cybersecurity Council (Article 7).

Cybersecurity Council

The Cybersecurity Council is a permanent collegial independent advisory body analysing the state of cybersecurity in the Republic of Lithuania, and providing cybersecurity policy-making and implementation institutions, cybersecurity entities, research and study institutions, and business entities active in the field of IT (i.e. cybersecurity actors) with proposals for the improvement of the state of cybersecurity in Lithuania. More in detail, it (i) provides cybersecurity actors with proposals on cybersecurity priorities, development directions, deliverables and options for their implementation; (ii) provides cybersecurity actors with proposals on opportunities for cooperation between the public sector, businesses and the academia in the field of cybersecurity; (iii) analyses trends in the development of cybersecurity, and provides cybersecurity actors with conclusions and proposals on cyberincident management; and (iv) makes recommendations to cybersecurity actors on how to strengthen cybersecurity.

The Cybersecurity Council is chaired by a representative of the Ministry of National Defence. The membership of the Cybersecurity Council was approved by Order No. V-535 of the Minister of National Defence on 26 May 2015.

National Cyber Security Incident Response Team

National or governmental Cyber Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs) serves as a trusted and central coordination point of contact for cybersecurity, aimed at identifying, combating, responding to and managing cyberthreats. The service includes guidance through its documentation process, as well as help with selecting the right services, building the proper organisational structures, defining the appropriate roles and responsibilities, selecting the right people, IT and equipment, defining the network design, providing the necessary training, defining the operational procedures and establishing partnerships with other cybersecurity players.

Cybersecurity Information Network

The Cybersecurity Information Network is a secure closed platform for cybersecurity actors providing tools to monitor cybersecurity threats and exchange information. The platform is managed by the National Cybersecurity Centre under the Ministry of National Defence. The purpose of the network is:

- To enable cybersecurity actors to share information with the National Cybersecurity Centre and/or other members on potential and/or actual cyberincidents in a timelier manner;
- To provide cybersecurity actors with access to various cybersecurity tools;
- To share recommendations and other tools to enhance cybersecurity;
- To ensure secure cooperation between members of the Network; and
- To provide information to cybersecurity actors on the data collected by the technical cybersecurity tools available to the National Cybersecurity Centre to prevent and manage cyberincidents.

6. Innovative Technologies

Artificial Intelligence

Lithuanian Artificial Intelligence Strategy

In the first quarter of 2019, the Lithuanian Ministry of Economy and Innovation adopted Lithuania's first Artificial Intelligence Strategy. The strategy, which describes the vision for the development of AI in Lithuania, contains policy recommendations for Lithuanian public administration bodies and researchers alike. The strategy is divided into five key priority areas:

- Legal and ethical perspective;
- AI ecosystem and Lithuania;
- AI in the Lithuanian economy;
- Skills and competences; and
- Research and development.

Declaration on AI in the Nordic-Baltic Region

In May 2018, the Ministers responsible for digital development from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and the Åland Islands released a Declaration on AI in the Nordic-Baltic Region. The declaration aims to create synergies among the Nordic-Baltic countries on:

- Improving opportunities for skills development with the goal of enabling more authorities, companies and organisations to use AI;
- Enhancing access to data for AI to be used for better service to citizens and businesses in the region;
- Developing ethical and transparent guidelines, standards, principles and values to guide on when and how AI applications should be used;
- Ensuring that infrastructure, hardware, software and data, all of which are central to the use of AI, are based on standards, enabling interoperability, privacy, security, trust, good usability and portability;
- Ensuring that AI gets a prominent place in the European discussion and implementation of initiatives within the framework of the Digital Single Market;
- Avoiding unnecessary regulation in the area, which is under rapid development; and
- Utilising the structure of the Nordic Council of Ministers to facilitate collaboration in relevant policy areas.

National Digitalisation Programme for the Upcoming Decade

Under the National Digitalisation Programme for the Upcoming Decade, a new kind of technological solutions should be developed to create innovative and secure services. Specifically in the AI field, many significant developments have taken place recently:

- The Action Plan for the Development of Lithuanian AI Technologies for the years 2023–2026 is being developed. The goal is to create the necessary prerequisites for a breakthrough in the use and development of AI in Lithuania by improving the conditions for the development of the ecosystem, and applying targeted measures to promote the implementation of AI and innovation in the field. The action plan includes three main areas (and eleven associated targeted measures): (i) AI ecosystem (data, computing resources, talents, financial means and coordination); (ii) implementation of AI (private sector, public sector and AI components); and (iii) AI innovations (collaboration, interdisciplinarity and removing obstacles). In more concrete terms, the action plan consists of 26 activities, of which five are the most important: (i) ensuring the availability of computing resources; (ii) ensuring funding for pilot projects; (iii) carrying out consultations on the AI cluster; (iv) establishing the AI Development Council; and (v) developing an AI-readiness assessment tool;
- The Ministry of Economy and Innovation has launched a call worth EUR 15 million to fund start-ups operating in the Vilnius region, and developing solutions and products in the fields of AI, blockchain and robotics process automation. Start-ups are encouraged to

develop new ideas and create world-class innovations in the delivery of both public and private services;

- In addition to a range of financial incentives aimed at developing the AI ecosystem, the GovTech Lab is another important initiative helping to bring innovative solutions into the public sector. As part of the Innovation Agency, the GovTech Lab helps the public sector identify challenges that can be solved by emerging technologies, and engages start-ups and SMEs to co-create solutions. It focuses on three key activity areas: (i) helping solve GovTech challenges; (ii) building a GovTech community; and (iii) improving innovation skills in the public sector. The GovTech Lab was launched in 2019. Since then, it has worked on more then 70 public sector challenges, solved by more than 60 innovative companies. Challenges are solved via a process called GovTech Challenge Series, i.e. a structured process connecting public sector challenges and teams with ideas or solutions. The GovTech Challenge Series is designed to solve complex public sector challenges that do not have a clear answer, but do have a potential to foster the creation of innovative digital solutions.

Distributed Ledger Technologies

Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing

In July 2022, the Lithuanian government decided to revise the Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing with the objective of ensuring increased transparency, while fostering the further development of the national cryptocurrency sector. The amendments prepared by the Lithuanian government and the national Central Bank aimed to regulate virtual currency exchanges and depositories made by operators within Lithuania. The amendments came into force on 1 November 2022.

More in detail, the law allows operators to obtain a cryptocurrency license. A legal entity that has started or terminated to carry out the activities of a virtual currency exchange operator or a depository virtual currency wallet operator must inform the data processor of the Register of Legal Entities about performance of these activities no later than five working days from the start or the end of their performance. By submitting this information, stakeholders confirm that the operator itself or the members of its management/supervisory bodies, and the beneficial owners are familiar with the legal acts governing the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing and meet their requirements. The data processor of the Register of Legal Entities also checks whether a legal entity established in the Republic of Lithuania, whose legal form is a public or private limited liability company, intending to carry out the activities of a virtual currency exchange operator and/or a depository virtual currency wallet operator has registered the authorised capital, amounting to at least EUR 125 000.

Big Data

No particular initiatives in this field have been reported to date.

Cloud & Edge Computing

Governmental Resolutions on Cloud Computing

The use of cloud computing is regulated by the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 2015 on the Approval of the Consolidation of the State IT Infrastructure and the Optimisation of IT Management. To achieve all set goals, Lithuania provided for the consolidation of the State information resources infrastructure and the use of cloud services. The resolution was amended in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. The amendments set out a list of State institutions which must start using the services offered by the cloud computing service provider.

Cloud Computing Government Data Centres

In Lithuania, two government data centres are currently equipped with well-developed cloud computing. The national cloud computing infrastructure was developed based on the most recent technology. It enables smooth integration with international cloud computing solutions and the operative development of the platform in the future. Furthermore, the needs of different

organisations and bodies, data sensitivity, reliability and data quantities were take into account in the architecture design phase.

The cloud services provided are as follows: (i) Software as a Service (SaaS); (ii) Platform as a Service (PaaS); (iii) Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS); (iv) Data Centre as a Service (DCaaS); (v) Local Support as a Service (LSaaS); and (vi) Competence as a Service (CaaS). The national cloud computing platform is to be used for storing petabytes (PB) of data; the flows of data backup copies will amount to hundreds of terabytes (TB) an hour.

After the consolidation of institutions, 325 central government institutions are planned to use cloud computing services. The principles of expedient operation used by private business, as well as the competences and extensive experience available, will enable the State to cut its IT sector management costs.

Internet-of-Things

Amendment to the Law on Electronic Communications

To foster the IoT, an amendment to the Law on Electronic Communications was introduced. It protects the right of users to benefit from public electronic communications services with devices with eSIM, while ensuring their right to change the provider of a publicly available electronic communications service. Furthermore, the Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania adopted an act detailing the rules and procedures for the remote activation or the change of mobile communications services with devices with eSIM.

At the end of 2023 more than 851 000 IoT devices with eSIM (compared with 216 000 at the end of 2022) and 73 000 end user pieces of equipment with eSIM (compared with 57 000 at the end of 2022) were used in Lithuania.

Quantum Computing

No particular initiatives in this field have been reported to date.

Gigabit and Wireless High-speed Networks

Guidelines for the Development of Fifth Generation Mobile Communications (5G) of Lithuania (2020–2025)

The Guidelines for the Development of Fifth Generation Mobile Communications (5G) of Lithuania (2020–2025), approved by Government Resolution No. 577 on 3 June 2020, provide that 5G should be developed (with commercial 5G services to be launched):

- Until 2022, in at least one of the five largest cities of the Republic of Lithuania by population - Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda, Šiauliai or Panevėžys;
- Until 2023, in the five largest cities of the Republic of Lithuania by population; and
- Until 2025, in urban areas, on international land transport corridors (Via Baltica, Rail Baltica) and other main motorways and arterial railway lines of State importance, as well as in airports and seaports.

The Memorandum for the Deployment of 5G in Lithuania was signed on 12 October 2021. Mobile operators and other stakeholders are committed to ensuring the efficient and coordinated development of 5G, including uninterrupted 5G on the international transport corridors Via Baltica and Rail Baltica, as well as the availability of electronic communications networks and services with connectivity of at least 100 Mbps to at least 95% of Lithuanian households.

The auctions to grant the right to use 5G radio frequencies from the 3400-3800 MHz and 694-790 MHz spectrum bands, organised by the Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania, were completed in the autumn of 2022.

National Broadband Plan

The renewed National Broadband Plan was approved by Order No. 3-477 of the Minister of Transport and Communication on 4 October 2021. The plan determines the measures that the State institutions of the Republic of Lithuania should implement from 2021 to 2027, i.e. during the financing period of the EU funds, in order to achieve the targets of developing a broadband with a speed of at least 100 Mbps and ensuring that all Lithuanian households can have access to

the internet at a speed of at least 100 Mbps, which can be increased to gigabit. According to this plan, the following projects are envisaged:

- Implementation of a broadband communication infrastructure with a speed of at least 100 Mbps in the 'white' rural areas of the country by building communication towers and laying fibre-optic cable lines; and
- Development of a gigabit broadband infrastructure for digitally sensitive entities (private companies, non-governmental and governmental organisations, municipalities and municipal companies).

RAIN3 Project

The RAIN3 Project aims to develop a new generation internet access infrastructure to make a new generation internet connection available in the whole territory of the country, ensuring a data transmission speed of 30 Mbps and higher. As a result, a new generation internet access infrastructure is currently being developed in white areas, where the market cannot ensure the development of this infrastructure. The project has a total value of EUR 49.5 million, financed by EU funds and the State budget. It was initiated in 2018 and is currently in the implementation phase.

GovTech

Report on Digital Innovation in the Public Sector

In 2023, the GovTech Lab implemented the sixth cycle of the GovTech Challenge Series. As presented in GovTech Lab press release, this structured experimentation programme helps public sector organisations to develop or test an innovative product aimed to solve a complex public problem. During the GovTech Challenge Series, public sector organisations develop the digital solution in cooperation with start-ups and innovative companies. In 2023 twelve trial versions of GovTech solutions, i.e. prototypes of innovative solutions, were developed. The devised solutions will help to develop the infrastructure of cities and the State, as well as to improve cultural, educational and health services. In addition, 13 GovTech solutions already existing on the market were tested. These solutions are aimed to increase the involvement of the public, facilitate the service of citizens and make management processes more efficient. GovTech solutions are tested by national and regional institutions, municipalities, and educational and health institutions. A training programme was also offered in the context of the GovTech Challenge Series. Professional mentors and technology experts participated to develop the knowledge of public sector organisations in the areas of design thinking, innovative public procurement, innovation management and communication.

At the end of 2022, GovTech Lab published a report entitled 'Analysis of the GovTech Challenge Series. The Experience of 50+ Organisations while Developing Digital Innovation'. The report highlights the experience of organisations that participated in the first five cycles of the GovTech Challenge Series, describing the results achieved, the main challenges encountered as well as the preconditions for successful implementation. The analysis also shows that the programme has created added value for participants, such as new skills and mindsets that have enabled them to initiate other innovation projects, and the setup of a network with other public servants as well as with members of academia and start-ups. The report also presents the experience and challenges in carrying out innovative public procurement processes (i.e. design contest), as well as reflections on the results of this process.

7. Digital Public Administration Governance

For more details on Lithuania's responsible bodies for digital policy and interoperability, its main actors, as well as relevant digital initiatives, please visit the NIFO collection on Joinup.

National

Ministry of Economy and Innovation

The Lithuanian Ministry of Economy and Innovation is the main actor responsible for the setting up of policies in the domain of digital government. More specifically, it works on the definition of policies to harness emerging new technologies, better service delivery to citizens and businesses, open data and data management

Information Society Development Committee

The Information Society Development Committee is a body under the Ministry of Economy and Innovation which coordinates processes related to information society development in the country. The Committee is also responsible for defining the methodology of and monitoring the life cycle of State information resources, and for managing the central eGovernment Gateway, the reuse of documents and the provision of IT services.

State Data Agency

The State Data Agency (or Statistics Lithuania) is the main body responsible for public sector data reuse for analytical purposes, health data reuse and centralised public sector data opening. It is also the competent body and central information point according to the European Data Governance Act.

Communications Regulatory Authority

The Communications Regulatory Authority is the national supervisory body for trust services (as stated in Article 17(1) of Regulation (EU) No. 910/2014) and the body responsible for establishing, maintaining and publishing the Lithuanian trusted list referred to in Article 22(1) of Regulation (EU) No. 910/2014. The Communications Regulatory Authority makes the Lithuanian trusted list available to the interested public in machine-readable form, specifically in XML format based on ETSI TS 119 612. The Lithuanian trusted list is updated after any modification and at least once every six months. Since January 2024, the Communications Regulatory Authority has also become the national supervisory body for qualified eID service providers (as stated in Article 3(3) of the Law on Electronic Identification and Trust Services for Electronic Transactions).

Core Centre of State Telecommunications

The Core Centre of State Telecommunications provides electronic communications and cybersecurity facilities for the performance of vital functions and mobilisation tasks of State institutions and establishments by offering a secure State data transmission network. The Secure Network is independent of public communications networks and connects only the most important Lithuanian institutions which are assigned functions during emergencies, natural disasters, mobilisation and other crises. The government-approved secure list of network users contains approximately 500 institutions, including public authorities and their subordinates, hospitals, municipal administrations and others.

Ministry of Justice

The Ministry of Justice systematically manages the 13 registers and six State information systems of the Republic of Lithuania, i.e. the Population Register, the Address Register, the Real Property Register, the Register of Legal Entities, the Register of Property Seizure Acts, the Register of Contracts and Restrictions on Rights, the Register of Marriage Contracts, the Register of Wills, the Register of Legally Incapable Persons and Persons with Limited Legal Capacity, the Register of

Powers of Attorney, the Trademark Register, the Patent Register and the Design Register, as well as the Information System for Matriculation and Declaration of the Place of Residence, the Legal Aid Information System, the Information System on Participants of Legal Entities, the Cash Restrictions Information System, the Information System of Bailiffs and the Information System on the Lists of Members of Political Parties.

The Ministry of Justice coordinates the work of the aforementioned registers and State information systems, monitors the compliance with safety requirements for register or State information system data, and controls the execution of the registrars and State information systems' annual and prospective budgets. It ensures that all registers and State information systems are managed in accordance with the law and register or State information system regulations, and also performs other functions established in the Law on the Management of State Information Resources and other pieces of legislation.

State Data Protection Inspectorate

The State Data Protection Inspectorate is one of the personal data protection supervisory authorities in Lithuania. The mission of the Inspectorate is to safeguard the human right to personal data protection. Its tasks include: (i) the supervision of the activities of data controllers and processors during data processing; (ii) the control of personal data processing compliance with the law; and (iii) the prevention of personal data protection violations as well as the protection of the rights of data subjects. The Inspectorate also provides advice to data subjects, controllers and processors, and develops and publishes methodological guidance on the protection of personal data and privacy. The Inspectorate is one of the authorities responsible for supervision under the Law on Electronic Communications.

Ministry of National Defence

The Lithuanian government decided to consolidate all cyberresponsibilities under the Ministry of National Defence to create a single window for everyone, ensure the sharing of Lithuania's cyberexperience with others and strive for the best solution regarding civil-military synergies in cybersecurity.

To finally consolidate the management of cybersecurity and electronic security, amendments to the Law on Cybersecurity and the Law on the Management of State Information Resources were made and adopted on 21 November 2017. The Ministry of National Defence has taken on the leadership role for Lithuania's overall cyber and electronic security since the beginning of 2018. Furthermore, a unified National Cybersecurity Centre has become the cyber security incident response team (CSIRT), dealing with cybersecurity compliance and competence-building activities by creating partnerships among the Lithuanian public, private, governmental, academic and military sectors. In 2019, the Ministry of National Defence established a governmental network, detached from the public internet and encompassing State institutions having functions related to mobilisation. This will ensure that even in the event of a conflict, fundamental State institutions will remain protected and able to exchange information.

In addition to carrying out national initiatives, Lithuania, represented by the Ministry of National Defence, is a lead nation of the EU's Security and Defence PESCO project called CRRT. Together with eight other EU Member States, Lithuania is creating a common capability to respond to cyberattacks, i.e. a multinational team with a well-developed cybertoolkit which will be able to support Member States in times of need.

Digital Agenda Council

In Lithuania, the field of digitalisation is coordinated by the Digital Agenda Council. It is composed of high-level representatives of the government of the Republic of Lithuania, the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania, Ministries and social partners. The Council aims to:

- Prepare strategic planning documents in the field of digitalisation in Lithuania;
- Make proposals on digitalisation priorities, and evaluate the goals and objectives of the implementation of digitalisation priorities;
- Monitor how the digitalisation initiatives contribute to the implementation and achievement of the goals, and consider the results, so as to provide conclusions and proposals on the further development of Lithuanian digitalisation; and
- Coordinate digitalisation initiatives and draw conclusions on the appropriateness of the project proposals submitted by the institutions that contribute to the implementation of digitalisation priorities.

The Council is chaired by the Vice-Minister of Economy and Innovation.

Subnational (Federal, Regional and Local)

Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania

The Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania (ALAL) is a non-profit organisation in the form of a legal entity which represents the common interests of its members - i.e. local authorities – before all State authorities, and foreign and international organisations of local authorities. ALAL has limited power to coordinate eGovernment initiatives in all municipalities.

Network of Public Libraries

The Lithuanian Network of Public Libraries plays an important role for Lithuanian communities by providing free access to ICTs, reducing the digital divide between the Lithuanian residents, developing eServices skills and raising awareness. This network assists in the effective delivery of access to digital government.

GovTech Lab under the Innovation Agency

Set up back in 2019 and operating in the Innovation Agency since August 2022, the GovTech Lab continued to make an impact in 2023 as well. The GovTech Lab helps public sector institutions and start-ups work together to prototype innovative digital solutions. To that end, it runs a structured programme, called GovTech Challenge Series, designed to solve public sector challenges that do not have a clear answer but do have a potential to foster innovative digital solutions, co-created with start-ups and SMEs. The GovTech Lab also works on spreading the knowledge about GovTech and building networks of innovators both within and outside the public sector. The team of GovTech Lab organise community events for both the public and private sectors, from local meetups and training sessions to structured training programmes for public sector officials, as the GovTech Innovation Academy, and international conferences. To build a local GovTech community that could have a global impact, the GovTech Lab has also co-founded and runs an international network of similar organisations that connects the global GovTech community – CivTech Alliance.

8. Cross border Digital Public Administration Services for Citizens and Businesses

Further to the information on national digital public services provided in the previous chapters, this final chapter presents an overview of the basic cross-border public services provided to citizens and businesses in other European countries. Your Europe is taken as reference, as it is the EU one-stop shop which aims to simplify the life of both citizens and businesses by avoiding unnecessary inconvenience and red tape in regard to 'life and travel', as well as 'doing business' abroad. In order to do so, Your Europe offers information on basic rights under EU law, but also on how these rights are implemented in each individual country (where information has been provided by the national authorities). Free email or telephone contact with EU assistance services, to get more personalised or detailed help and advice is also available.

Please note that, in most cases, the EU rights described in Your Europe apply to all EU member countries plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, and sometimes to Switzerland. Information on Your Europe is provided by the relevant departments of the European Commission and complemented by content provided by the authorities of every country it covers. As the website consists of two sections - one for citizens and one for businesses, both managed by DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW) - below the main groups of services for each section are listed.

Life and Travel

For citizens, the following groups of services can be found on the website:
- Travel (e.g. Documents needed for travelling in Europe);
- Work and retirement (e.g. Unemployment and Benefits);
- Vehicles (e.g. Registration);
- Residence formalities (e.g. Elections abroad);
- Education and youth (e.g. Researchers);
- Health (e.g. Medical Treatment abroad);
- Family (e.g. Couples);
- Consumers (e.g. Shopping).

Doing Business

Regarding businesses, the groups of services on the website concern:
- Running a business (e.g. Developing a business);
- Taxation (e.g. Business tax);
- Selling in the EU (e.g. Public contracts);
- Human Resources (e.g. Employment contracts);
- Product requirements (e.g. Standards);
- Financing and Funding (e.g. Accounting);
- Dealing with Customers (e.g. Data protection).

The Digital Public Administration Factsheets

The factsheets present an overview of the state and progress of Digital Public Administration and Interoperability within European countries.

The factsheets are published on the Joinup platform, which is a joint initiative by the Directorate General for Digital Services (DG DIGIT) and the Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content & Technology (DG CONNECT).

The Digital Public Administration Factsheets are prepared for the European Commission by Wavestone.

An action supported by Interoperable Europe

The ISA² Programme has evolved into Interoperable Europe - the initiative of the European Commission for a reinforced interoperability policy.

The work of the European Commission and its partners in public administrations across Europe to enhance interoperability continues at full speed despite the end of the ISA² programme. Indeed, enhanced interoperability will be necessary to unlock the potential of data use and reuse for improved public services, to enable cross-border collaboration, and to support the sector-specific policy goals set by the Commission for the future.

Interoperable Europe will lead the process of achieving these goals and creating a reinforced interoperability policy that will work for everyone. The initiative is supported by the *Digital Europe Programme*.

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