

Dear Media Representatives,

We are looking forward to welcoming you at the Three Seas Initiative (3SI) Summit and Business Forum in Vilnius on April 11, 2024.

We have prepared a Media Guide that includes logistical and practical information about the Summit, the venue, and the logistics, as well as information about Vilnius and Lithuania that may be useful during your stay.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Three Seas Initiative Summit and Business Forum will be held in Vilnius, Lithuania, on Thursday, April 11, 2024. The Summit meeting will be chaired by the President of Lithuania, H.E. Gitanas Nausėda.

The Summit will take place at the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania, Katedros aikštė 4, 01143 Vilnius. The Media Center will be located at the same venue. The Business Forum will take place at Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva, Konstitucijos prospektas 20, 09308 Vilnius.

GETTING YOUR ACCREDITATION BADGE

The Media Center, located at the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania, will be open on April 11 from 08:00 to 20:00. Please see the maps section at the end of this handbook for directions. Media passes must be collected in person at the Media Accreditation Center, upon presenting an ID card or passport and accreditation confirmation. The media pass allows access to the Summit's media events. Please note that public media representatives without a media pass will be denied access to the venue.

For access to the Business Forum, you can collect your accreditation on April 11 from 08:00 to 18:00 at Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva (Konstitucijos prospektas 20), upon presenting an ID card or passport and accreditation confirmation.

ACCESS TO THE MEDIA CENTER

Access to the Media Center will be granted exclusively to media accredited to the event and only via the Media Accreditation Center. Media must make their own arrangements to reach the Accreditation Center.

To cover all the planned Summit events at the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania, public media representatives are advised to plan their arrival no later than 12:30. The media programme at the Summit will start at approximately 13:30. A detailed programme will be disclosed closer to the event.

MEDIA CENTER AND FACILITIES AT THE SUMMIT

The Media Center on-site will include:

- General working area for media with access to Wi-Fi, Internet cable, and electricity
- Information desk
- One stand-up position with a background
- Catering facilities

Wi-Fi, wired internet, and standard European power outlets will be available at the Media Center.

There are no interview rooms available for press statements.

MEDIA PROGRAMME

The Summit media programme includes:

- Doorstep media statements by Heads of Delegation
- Official welcome by the President of Lithuania
- Family photo of HoDs
- Presidential 3SI Summit Discussion
- Press conference
- Individual stand-up interviews

Please note that due to the tight time schedule, public media representatives **will have to choose between 3 media pools:**

- Doorstep
- Official welcome by the President of Lithuania and family photo. Available only for photographers
- Presidential 3SI Summit Discussion opening remarks

Registration to the pools will take place at the info desk in the Media Center. Workspaces are limited, so floaters to the pools will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

A list of national delegations' press/protocol officers will be available at the Information Desk in the Media Center.

BROADCAST

Dimedia will operate as Host Broadcaster.

Here you can find international video distribution information:

Video standard: 1080i50

Audio setup: 4CH audio

PART 1 (13:30-15:30): arrival, doorstep, handshake, family photo, and opening remarks:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ■ Outside arrivals of leaders | intersound |
| ■ Leaders' doorsteps | original language (no interpretation) |
| ■ Leaders' handshake with the host | intersound |
| ■ Leaders' family photo | intersound |
| ■ Leaders' entrance to the main hall | intersound |
| ■ Opening remarks by the host | original language (no interpretation) |
| ■ Opening remarks by guests | original language (no interpretation) |

PART 2 (17:00-17:30): Press Conference

Press conference (number of speakers will be announced with the full programme closer to the event).

Four channels of audio will be provided in the following order:

1ch - Original sound + questions

2ch - English interpretation + questions

3ch - Lithuanian interpretation + questions

4ch - N/A

Both parts will be available via:

- RTMP delivery
- 3SI Youtube (<https://www.youtube.com/@3seaseu33/videos>)
- 3SI X (<https://twitter.com/3seaseu>)
- WeTransfer portal (approx. 30 min. after) in the following way:
 - PGM of Arrival + Doorstep + Handshake of every participant
 - PGM of family photo
 - PGM of opening remarks
 - PGM of press conference with interpretation

Details of RTMP delivery and access to the WeTransfer portal will be available upon registration here: <https://forms.gle/ZxxJ9LcumnY962G7A>

Available via pre-booking until April 9, 2024:

- SRT delivery
- Local distribution via SDI or optical fiber
- Satellite distribution

Additional rates apply for SRT, local, and satellite distributions.

For bookings please contact: office@dimedia.lt

DOORSTEP

Doorstep comments will take place upon the leaders' arrival at the ground floor of the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania. There will be one main camera broadcasting leaders' comments live. One leader at a time can be in the doorstep area.

STAND-UP POSITIONS

There will be one stand-up position with 15-minute slots available at the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania, also available for individual interviews with delegates. Interview requests should be coordinated with each delegation's press or protocol officer.

MEDIA POOLS

Please note that movement around the Summit venue will be limited to media pools with strict security escort. There will be no free movement of public media representatives at the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania.

OFFICIAL PHOTOS

Official photos from 3SI events will be posted here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/193341046@N03/albums/>

LOGISTICS

Media representatives are responsible for arranging their own accommodation. Each delegation should arrange transportation for their national media groups.

CATERING

Beverages and snacks will be provided free of charge at the Media Center.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For all media accreditation related queries, please contact: sofija.amoskaite@prezidentas.lt

For all Business Forum related media queries, please contact: a.pranskeviciene@inovacijuagentura.lt

For all other media related queries, please contact: kristina.belikova@prezidentas.lt

SOCIAL MEDIA

All updates will be posted on the official Three Seas website: www.3seas.eu and X: @3seaseu

You can also follow us on the web: www.lrp.lt/en, X: @GitanasNauseda, Facebook: @nausedagitanas

Updates on the Business Forum will also be posted on the web: www.inovacijuagentura.lt

About Lithuania

Facts:

- Lithuania was the first republic to declare independence from the USSR in 1990, with Iceland being the first country to recognize it.
- In 2022, Lithuania was the first EU country to become fully independent from Russian gas.
- Lithuania currently boasts the 4th highest internet speed in Europe, and 30th highest in the world (out of 192 countries).
- Lithuania ranks 8th in the world by Economic Freedom (Frazer Institute's Annual Report for 2021).
- Lithuanian is the oldest surviving Indo-European language.
- Lithuania was the largest 15th century European country.
- Basketball is the #1 sport in Lithuania – its national teams won multiple European championships, and many players were drafted into the NBA.
- 61% of Vilnius is covered in green. Vilnius is one of the greenest capitals in Europe (Hugsi, 2023).
- Vilnius is the number one dynamically developing city in CEE region.
- Vilnius ranks second in Europe for economic potential (fDi ranking 2023)

History:

The first Indo-European Baltic settlers arrived in what is now Lithuania in 12,000-2,500 BC, and established their own state at some time before the 11th century – the name “Lithuania” first showed up in the annals of Quedlinburg Abbey (Germany) in 1009.

In the 13th century, all the Baltic tribes came together under the umbrella of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (GDL), which became Europe's largest country in the 15th century. After officially converting to Christianity in 1387 – the last to do so in Europe – and defeating the Teutonic Order in the Battle of Žalgiris (Grunwald) in 1410, it became a highly diverse, multi-ethnic and multi-confessional state. Thanks to this diversity, Vilnius came to be known as both the Athens and the Jerusalem of the North.

The idiosyncratic political system of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, established in 1569 and succeeding the GDL, was a precursor to the modern concepts of democracy in Europe. Its 1791 constitution was the first one in Europe (preceding the French Constitution) and the second in the world.

After the 3rd Partition of the Commonwealth in 1795, it ceased to exist, being divided among Prussia, Austria, and Russia. What is now Lithuania fell under Tsarist control. After the Russian Empire tried to ban the use of Lithuanian language in print in the 19th century, the phenomenon of book smuggling emerged. Conducted by peasants and intellectuals, it became the cornerstone of the Lithuanian national movement that paved the way to restored independence in 1918.

The interwar period was one of prosperity – further European integration, economic growth, and cultural expansion. During this time, Kaunas – the capital of that time – became widely known for its Modernist architecture, and the pilots Steponas Darius and Stasys Girėnas became among the first to fly over the Atlantic in 1933.

Lithuania was one of the many countries affected by the turmoil of the Second World War. In 1940, it was occupied by the Soviets, in 1941 – by Nazi Germany and then, in 1945, by the Soviets again. With a strong national spirit and desire for independence, however, Lithuanians withstood both occupations. Resistance took place at the cultural, religious, civic, and military levels, with the period of guerrilla war being among the most tragic and dramatic in the country's history.

The Lithuanian Reform Movement (Sąjudis) was instrumental to the fall of the Soviet Union. Started in the 1980s, it united the country in a series of peaceful protests. One of the most notable ones was the Baltic Chain of 1989, which had people join hands to form a human chain stretching 650 km across Vilnius, Riga, and Tallinn. In 1990, Lithuania declared independence and a year after that – in final bout to regain power – Soviet authorities sent military paratroopers to Vilnius, but peaceful resistance prevailed.

In 2004, Lithuania joined the EU and NATO, finally reuniting with its European family.

Culture:

The *Chronicles of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania* (first edition 1420s) marks the beginning of national literature in Lithuania, with religious texts being the most prominent during the Middle Ages overall. The *Catechism* (1547) by Martynas Mažvydas is the most representative example, and the first printed Lithuanian book.

Literature increased in popularity between the 16th and 18th centuries, becoming increasingly secular over time. The outstanding achievement of this period is *The Seasons* by Kristijonas Donelaitis, written around 1765-1775 – the first classic Lithuanian poem dealing with the everyday trials and tribulation of peasants.

In the 20th century, Lithuanian art, especially prose and poetry, was characterised by symbolism, romanticism, existentialism, and the struggle for national independence. During WWII and the dual occupation by Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia, many artists emigrated and became successful abroad.

Examples of 20th century Lithuanian art include the tragicomic concentration camp memoir *Forest of the Gods* (1945) by Balys Sruoga; the existentialist novel *White Shroud* (1958) by Antanas Škėma; the works of Jurgis Mačiūnas, co-founder of the now-global art movement Fluxus; and the films of Jonas Mekas, sometimes called “the godfather of American avant-garde cinema”, and the internationally acclaimed film director Šarūnas Bartas.

Today, Lithuania has a vibrant cultural scene across the artistic spectrum. Lithuanian theatre directors, such as Oskaras Koršunovas and Eimuntas Nekrošius, and their theatre productions are known around the globe, and the country has 13 state theatres and countless local and private ones. There’s also 100+ museums on every possible subject, including such off-kilter projects as the Museum of Ethnocosmology.

For visual art connoisseurs, Lithuania offers a large number of galleries and contemporary art spaces like the Contemporary Art Centre and MO museum. On display are works by both foreign and local artists, from Lithuanian classics like Jacques Lipchitz and M.K. Čiurlionis to modern creators like Evaldas Jansas. Street art is also prominent in the country, as even a quick Google search will turn up countless pictures of entire walls and building façades covered in the most imaginative and colourful artworks.

Having started to use bricks for building already in the 13th century, Lithuania is littered with examples of both very old and modern architecture. From Renaissance and Baroque structures in the Vilnius Old Town to the Modernist architecture of Kaunas, and Gothic and Classicist manors, castles, and churches across the country.

Lithuania is also the host of many international film festivals: Kino Pavasaris (Cinema Spring), the Kaunas International Film Festival, and Scanorama. In recent years, the country also became a go-to filming location for Netflix and HBO series like *Chernobyl* (2009) and *Stranger Things* (2016–present).

Business environment:

- 6th globally in the National Cyber Security Index.
- 1st in EU for GDP per capita growth (2000–2020).
- 12th freest economy in the world.
- 58% of 25–34-yearolds have tertiary education (7th in the OECD).
- It takes 1–3 days to launch a business in Lithuania online.
- 1 in 7 students in Lithuania choose engineering.

- Lithuania has the highest share (52%) of women scientists and engineers in the EU.
- 85% of young professionals are proficient in English.
- 96% of Lithuanians are fluent in at least one foreign language.
- With two unicorns and more than 760 active startups, Lithuania is a hotbed for developing, testing and scaling cutting-edge innovation.
- Lithuania is a top-ranking Fintech location with the highest number of licenced Fintech companies in the EU. Lithuania is home to Revolut, Curve and other innovators.

Governance:

- 90% of public sector services are digitized.
- 97% of businesses use digital public services.
- The Open Data in Lithuania portal publishes all open data in one place and collects requests for data to be opened. Open data sets are available in traffic, public transport, satellite imagery, public procurement, legal cases and other areas. All public bodies have an Open Data Coordinator
- Since 2022, the Lithuanian-Polish gas pipeline GIPL has been connecting Lithuania and the Klaipėda LNG terminal to the EU's single gas network. 100% of Lithuania's gas demand can be satisfied via the Liquefied Natural Gas terminal in Klaipėda.
- In 2022, Lithuania was the first EU country to become fully independent from Russian gas.

Picture & video friendly spots:

Bell Tower of Vilnius Cathedral (54°40'35.8"N 25°17'18.3"E)

Vilnius Street (54°41'08.7"N 25°16'46.6"E)

Basanavičius Square (54°40'35.8"N 25°17'18.3"E)

Town Hall (Rotušės) Square (54°40'43.7"N 25°17'14.7"E)

Mount Gediminas (54°41'13.1"N 25°17'28.6"E)

Subačius Lookout (54°40'39.5"N 25°18'01.8"E)

Photos of Vilnius: <https://www.govilnius.lt/photos-of-vilnius>

Photos of Lithuania: <https://saugykla.keliau.klietuvoje.lt/shared/Byqqlyg37y72Txt5>



Entrance