

RIS3 Fact sheet

Region: LITHUANIA



Surface area (sq. kilometers) 65 286 km^2
Population (n. inhabitants) 2 904 910
GDP (Euros) 41 190 000 000
Export (Euros) 22 903 900 000
R&D expenditure (% of GDP) 1,04 %
Activity rate 53,8 %
Unemployment rate (%) 8,7 %

Population density 44,5 inhabitants/ km^2
GDP per inhabitant (Euros) 12 851
Export (% of GDP) 56 %
Total n. of firms 79840
N. of SMEs 79472
N. of large enterprises 368
N. of manufacturing companies 7161

Lithuania's smart specialisation strategy evolved through joint efforts of a number of institutions, the main actors being the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Economy and the Research and Higher Education Monitoring and Analysis Centre (MOSTA) authorised thereby. By engaging international independent experts, MOSTA carried out a detailed analysis of the country's research, higher education, business potential and possibilities of cooperation in relevant areas, major national and global challenges, future trends, new knowledge, technology and products with the potential to have the most significant impact on the growth of domestic and global economy. In order to ensure that the smart specialisation strategy was based on common accord, the process involved all stakeholders, including scientists, entrepreneurs and representatives of the public sector, who made their inputs into wide-scale surveys and some 50 expert discussions. This process:

- identified general priority areas in terms of R&D and innovation development and their specific priorities;

- proposed measures required for their implementation and timing of the measures, specific technologies and products to be developed in implementing individual priorities;
- proposed mechanisms for implementation, monitoring and impact assessment of the smart specialisation process.

As a result of MOSTA analyses, expert discussions and surveys, also joint work of research, business and government representatives, the following legislation was prepared as part of the **smart specialisation strategy**:

1. Priority R&D&I development areas approved by the resolution of the Government:

1.1 *Energy and sustainable environment;*

1.2 *Inclusive and creative society;*

1.3 *Agro-innovation and food technologies;*

1.4 *New production processes, materials and technologies;*

1.5 *Health technologies and biotechnologies;*

1.6 *Transport, logistics and information and communication technologies (ICT).*

The priority R&D and innovation area represents the area of economy, where the country has sufficient science and business potential to respond to global or national challenges encountered in this area and to take advantage of opportunities that could bring about significant positive change.

2. Programme for the implementation of smart specialisation priority areas and their priorities approved by the resolution of the Government, which lays down the key implementation principles of the smart specialisation process and distinguishes the following R&D and innovation priorities under each area.

R&D and innovation priority means a technology, product, process, method or their group, which is feasible to be developed and suited to public needs (including market uptake) by making use of the R&D&I, business and other potential existing in the country.

3. Twenty action plans for the implementation of R&D innovation priorities approved by orders of the Minister of Education and Science and Minister of Economy of the Republic of Lithuania, which provide for measures necessary for the implementation of the priorities, their timing, particular technologies and products to be developed in implementing individual priorities.

Coordination

1. At the strategic level, the R&D and innovation policy is coordinated by the Strategic Council for R&D and Innovation, which is formed by the Government, presided over by the Prime Minister and consisting of ministries interested in the R&D&I development, institutions implementing R&D&I

measures, research and higher education institutions, business and representatives of other social partners. The Council functions as a government commission and regularly convenes to deal with strategic R&D&I issues. The Council represents a top-level platform for discussions covering matters concerning R&D&I development, such as smart specialisation, prospects of integrated research, higher education and business centres (valleys), creation of innovation-friendly environment, etc.

2. The Group for the Coordination of Implementation of the Research and Development and Innovation Priorities, which is formed by the order of the Minister of Education and Science and Minister of Economy, chaired in turn by the Vice-Minister of Science and Education and the Vice-Minister of Economy and consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Finance, institutions implementing R&D&I measures, expert bodies, monitoring authorities, research and higher education institutions and business, deals with working issues in connection with the implementation of smart specialisation processes in Lithuania.

3. The Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Economy play the key role as institutions responsible for the smart specialisation process, and the measures administered by them will serve as a basis for the implementation of the R&D&I priorities.

4. In this process MOSTA is responsible for continuous analysis, monitoring, interim and final impact assessment of the implementation of smart specialisation. Based on the results of MOSTA activities, discussions will be held with regard to solutions proposed for the revision, abandoning of certain measures, formulation of new measures, abandoning of R&D&I priorities or steering their implementation in a different direction, setting up of new priorities, etc.

5. The role of the Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology (MITA) in the smart specialisation process is connected with the search of common interests of science and business, so-called facilitation, encompassing intensive cooperation with representatives of science and business in the context of specific R&D&I priority axes or priorities and assistance to both parties in finding project partners, partners for other joint activities, etc.

In May 2015 Lithuania's Smart Specialisation Strategy was officially approved by the European Commission.

Current stage: *Interim evaluation of Smart Specialisation Strategy is planned in the second half of 2018. It will be carried out by MOSTA and will be based on the monitoring results and expert evaluation. It will show the results so far and will enable to make required interventions.*