

POLITICAL NEWS



NATO Secretary General Mr. Jens Stoltenberg on 20-21 November visits Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania. During the tour in the Baltic States Mr. Stoltenberg stresses Alliance solidarity. Photo: NATO

TWEETS & QUOTES



Oana Lungescu @NATOpress · Nov 20

#NATO SG @jensstoltenberg on #Russian activity: Baltic air police conducted over 100 intercepts this year - 3 times more than last year.



ISAF @ISAFmedia · Nov 20

Today #ISAF recognized #Lithuania, 1 of 50+ nations that provided support to ISAF in #Afghanistan.



Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL · Nov 17

Called #EU 2strengthen sanctions against Russia - situation in E. #Ukraine h sharply deteriorated, Ru fomenting new reality. #EUCouncil #FAC

Visit by NATO General Secretary

During his first official visit to Lithuania 21 November NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg met with President Dalia Grybauskaitė to discuss regional security and defence issues, the situation in Ukraine, the implementation of the collective defence measures endorsed at the NATO Summit in Wales, as well as NATO's combat preparedness action plan. Secretary General later on Friday will visit the Air Space Control Centre in Karmėlava where the joint Baltic Command and Reporting Centre is stationed. Its main function is to carry out air defense operations, including command and control over the fighter jets participating in the Baltic air policing mission.

Defence Spending to Meet NATO Standards

As defence funding grows, the proportion of expenditure on appropriations for sustaining the armed forces and military purchases will meet NATO standards in 2015. Juozas Olekas, Minister of National Defence, says this will allow Lithuania to retain its capabilities and augment the reserve. "We have also foreseen the improvement of military training conditions for our soldiers and allies. We plan to expand training areas, build urban warfare installations in Pabradė training area. Necessary infrastructure should be developed in the Šiauliai Air Base", said the Defence Minister.

CSDP Fund for Eastern Partners

Lithuania, Latvia, the United Kingdom and Hungary are setting up a fund to finance the participation of EU Eastern Partnership countries in international military missions, exercises and other training events. The fund will provide financial assistance to Eastern Partnership countries for their participation in the EU's Common Security and Defense Policy.

Freedom Prize

Editor-in-chief of Polish newspaper *Gazeta Wyborcza*, dissident [Adam Michnik has been awarded the 2014 Freedom Prize](#). The Prize was established in 2011 by Lithuanian Parliament (Seimas). "In 1991, Michnik and other Polish politicians demonstrated unconditional support for Lithuania's freedom by supporting the struggle of Lithuanian citizens against the Soviet Union's aggression. Michnik called on the Polish government to recognize Lithuania as soon as possible and helped Lithuania to receive diplomatic recognition on the global arena", Seimas Vice-Speaker Irena Degutienė told the parliament, presenting the Freedom Prize Commission' proposal. The prize is presented during a solemn Seimas meeting on 13 January, the Day of Freedom Defenders.

ECONOMY NEWS

#LithuaniaLovesGameDev

For highly skilled talent, creative and inspired people and a sense of community with a positive vibe - there's no better place to be right now than Lithuania.

"You want to work with inspired people, with 'the best and the fastest', with people who have bright eyes. In this, Vilnius right now ranks at the top!"

Sergij Kilinc, Founder & Managing Director at Chario Oscar



AVAILABLE TALENT

11,200 developers in Lithuania

6,300 developers in Vilnius alone

~600 software systems and programming graduates enter the market every year

RELATED INCENTIVES

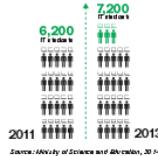
300% R&D costs gain triple value at the end of the year, lowering your income tax

RAPIDLY GROWING TALENT POOL

2013 The number of design students able to work with IT design rose by 20% between 2011 and 2013

Source: Ministry of Science and Education, 2014

GROWTH OF IT STUDENTS



Source: Ministry of Science and Education, 2014

COST COMPETITIVENESS

750 EUR Average gross salary of IT graduate

Source: Statistikai.lt, Lietuvos Respublikos, 2014

RELATED INCENTIVES

23% cashback for a first-time employee for 12 months

Source: Lithuanian Labour Exchange

WE SUGGEST

Lithuania's long term commitment to evaluate the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania

<http://komisija.lt/en/>



The International Commission for the Evaluation of the **Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes** in Lithuania

Rise in Investors' Confidence

Investors' confidence in [Lithuania's business climate](#) has been growing throughout the year, as an Investor Confidence Index for Lithuania by Investors' Forum has showed. Investors say that their confidence was reinforced by a stable political situation in Lithuania, the upcoming introduction of the euro and positive expectations regarding the growth of demand, new jobs and projected capital investment.

New Lithuanian-Danish Textile Factory

Lithuanian-Danish textile firm *Baltic Textile* has opened a new facility for production and administrative functions in Vilkaviškis. *Baltic Textile* is a well-known upholstery fabrics producer which exports more than 90% of its output to Nordic markets. The company, which is also a sales representative of Gabriel A / S office furniture fabrics in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, has been operating in Marijampolė up to now. "This relocation of production to better premises and the planned upgrade of *Baltic Textile's* production equipment shows that the regions of Lithuania are not only able to attract foreign investment, but also that [the competencies available in the regions can allow international companies to maintain competitiveness in the global market and to grow successfully](#)", stated Minister of Economy Evaldas Gustas.

CULTURE, SCIENCE

Forever Stylish

In *Advanced Style*, the documentary by Lithuanian filmmaker Lina Pliplytė, based on US photographer Ari Seth Cohen's blog of the same name, a clutch of [New York women ranging in age from 62 to 95](#) are celebrated for their unique style: furs, rhinestones, paisleys, florals, feathers, caftans, and hats, always hats. The documentary challenging accepted notions of beauty and fashion is coming to cinemas in Lithuania this December.

Templeton Freedom Award

Lithuania-based Lithuanian Free Market Institute (LFMI) was awarded Atlas Network's prestigious *Templeton Freedom Award* for its [Municipal Performance Index for Freedom and Free Enterprise](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

	2 nd International CREAN Conference: Children's Rights to Non-Discrimination , Vilnius.		Exhibition Medieval and Renaissance Tapestry in Europe. History Woven in Threads at the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania .
	First International Craft Fair in the Baltic States Craftvilnius , Litexpo, Vilnius.		Convene A Live Meetings Industry Market Place for the Countries of the Baltic Sea Region , Vilnius.

Disclaimer: Information based on BNS, Lithuanian National Radio and Television, Invest Lithuania, The Lithuania Tribune, Delfi, The Baltic Course.

