



Let's talk Lithuania: safe and professional

Proposal to host the European Cybersecurity
Industrial, Technology and Research
Competence Centre



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Lithuania is ready to host the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre (ECCC) in Vilnius. Lithuania can offer international cybersecurity and ICT environment at the heart of Europe and an exceptional location - Vilnius TV tower (8th highest building in the EU), which would make ECCC the "highest, most strategic and secure" EU institution. Vilnius is also one of the safest places to work and travel post-COVID.



1. Leadership in cyber security

According to the ITU Global Cybersecurity Index published in 2018, Lithuania is **ranked 4th globally and 2nd in the EU**, scoring highest ratings in legal, technical, organizational and cooperation domains.

4th | 2nd

ranked 4th globally and 2nd in the EU in the ITU Global Cybersecurity Index



National cybersecurity model

Lithuania has an **efficient national cybersecurity model consolidated under the Ministry of National Defence**, that provides a one-stop shop for all entities seeking support to respond to cyber incidents (individuals, businesses, operators of critical infrastructure, government, or military), concentrates human expertise and technical capacities, and enables faster decision-making and shorter response time.



International initiatives

International cooperation is the cornerstone of Lithuania's cybersecurity policy. Two Lithuanian-led multinational flagship projects are underway – the **Cyber Rapid Response Teams**, developed under the PESCO framework in cooperation with Estonia, Croatia, the Netherlands, Poland, and Romania, and the **Regional Cyber Defence Centre** in Kaunas developed in close cooperation with the US, Georgia and Ukraine.



Cybersecurity ecosystem

Lithuania has a **well-developed public-private cooperation** network. The cooperation culture is fostered through the Cyber Security Council, a permanent consultative body, comprised of state institutions, stakeholders from public and private sectors, as well as of business, industry and academia, working in the area of cybersecurity. One of the most innovative public-private initiatives is the cooperation between the Ministry of National Defence and Lithuania's largest news web portals on raising cyber awareness, involvement in national cyber exercises, and protection of media infrastructure against cyber-attacks.



Industry of cybersecurity

Lithuania has a **growing industrial potential in cybersecurity** field. Firstly, Lithuania comes 2nd in the EU for bachelor graduates in science, math, computing, engineering, manufacturing, and construction¹, it also has more than 10,000 IT students and 5 cybersecurity programs. Secondly, Lithuania hosts a number of innovative national and international companies working in cybersecurity field, such as Oracle, Arc4dia, Cujo AI, Arxan, and NRD CS. Moreover, the Lithuanian government is actively working with national and international industry and academia on concrete projects, its flagship initiative is the development of an international consortium to build a new generation deployable cyber toolkit for cyber rapid response teams.



Investing into cybersecurity R&D

The National Cyber Security Centre is one of the few national centres across Europe with a developed **in-house R&D capability**. Areas of key interest: AI-based cyber-attack prevention solutions, real-time network stack encryption and distribution solutions, security-orientated embedded systems development, cross-platform software and hardware analysis, SCADA systems security development, software-defined radio (SDR) solutions development, and one of the flagship projects – development of a new generation AI-based intrusion prevention sensors.

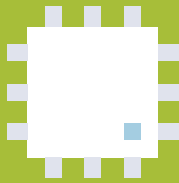


Security of 5G

Lithuania will **fully implement EU and NATO recommendations** on ensuring security of 5G infrastructure. In June 2020, the Lithuanian Government approved the 5G Development Guidelines for 2020-2025 that underlines the importance of implementing high security standards and coordinated approach with the EU and NATO to 5G security.

2. World-class digital infrastructure and eco-system

1st



globally in terms of digital and technological skills²

Fastest



public WiFi in the world³

2nd



for fiber optic (FTTP/FTTB) coverage in the EU⁴

ICT Skills Requalification

State-funded ICT skillset requalification mechanism will support individuals aiming to enter ICT field or ICT specialists willing to acquire additional tech knowledge in the areas such as cybersecurity, software development, and AI.



Women go Tech

The first mentorship and counselling programme in Lithuania for women seeking careers in the technology sector.

womengotech.lt



Code Week

In 2019, the Code Week attracted 18,533 participants. Most participation took place in schools where 45% of participants were female.



Source 2: IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook, 2019

Source 3: <https://www.redwaynetworks.com/countries-with-the-fastest-public-wifi/>

Source 4: FTTH Council Europe - Panorama, 2019

6th



in the EU for digital public services⁵

4^G



One of the best in 4G Internet coverage in the EU and worldwide⁶



Leads in the EU for fixed broadband price⁷

AI in Lithuania

In 2019 Lithuania launched the National AI strategy and in 2020 opened the AI BOOST platform in order to consolidate and strengthen the Lithuanian AI ecosystem, as well as to provide a one-stop AI info point and a bridge between developers, stakeholders, society and the government.



Blockchain in Lithuania

Blockchain Centre (BC) Vilnius is the first blockchain technology centre in the region, connecting key stakeholders in Asia, Australia, and Europe and aiming to incubate and accelerate blockchain start-ups.



CERN Business Incubation Centre

One of a kind in Central and Eastern Europe, the Centre aims to assist small start-ups and small and medium enterprises to implement innovative technologies and expertise developed at CERN into disruptive products or services.

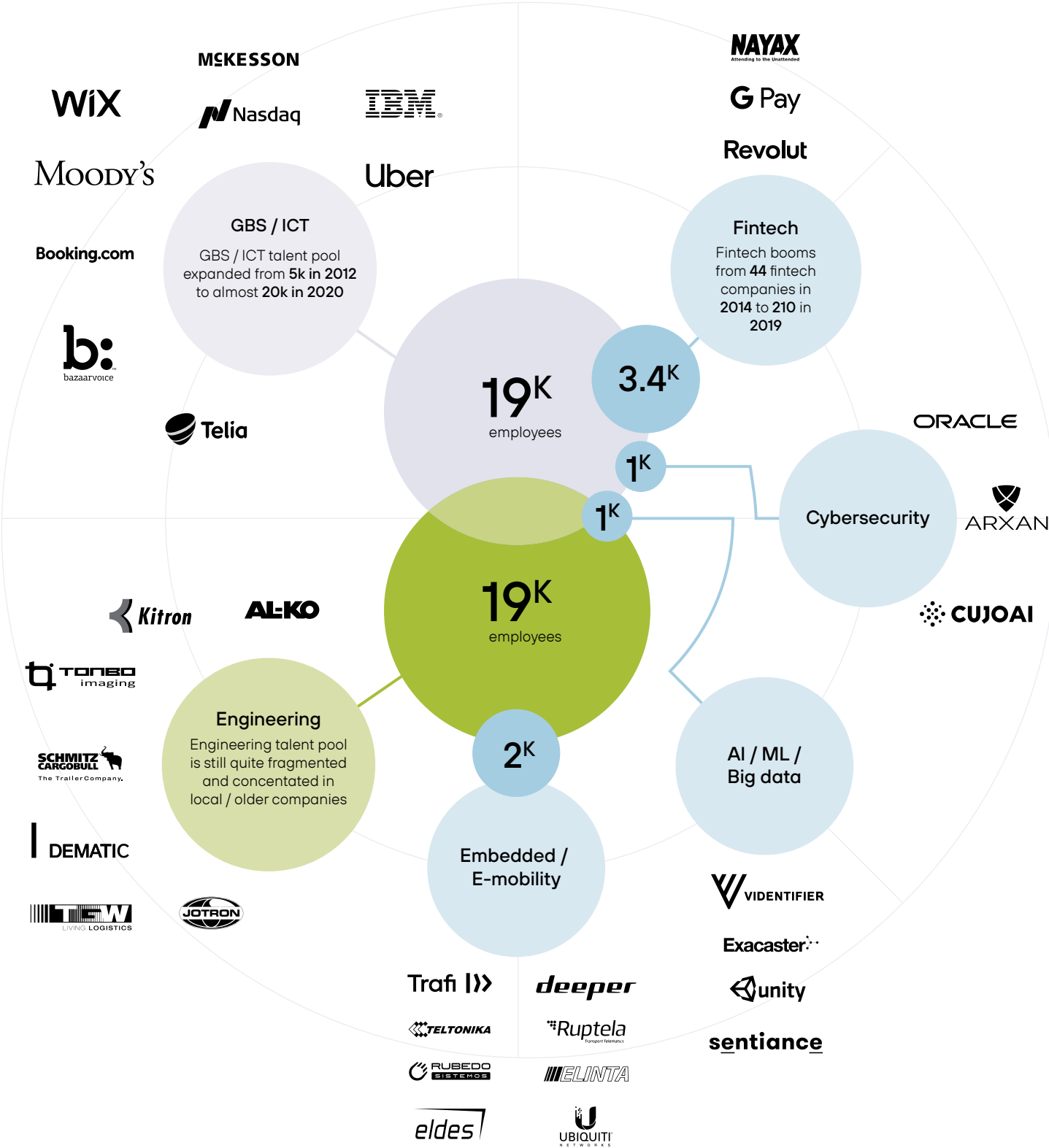


Source 5: Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) 2020, European Commission

Source 6: DESI report, 2020

Source 7: Fixed Broadband Prices in Europe 2018, European Commission

Booming Lithuanian digital ecosystem at the forefront of emerging tech innovation:



3. Lithuania - an EU success story



Lithuania is a strong supporter of the European project.

In 2019 Pew Research Centre ranked Lithuania 2nd as the country having the most positive attitudes towards the EU, and in 2018 Eurobarometer listed Lithuania 3rd among the EU Member States which citizens feel that their country benefited from the EU membership.



Lithuania has successfully contributed to and led a number of EU initiatives.

Including the Eastern Partnership and the common energy policy, as well as initiatives on cybersecurity and fight against hybrid threats. Being a constant target of malicious cyber activities and disinformation, Lithuania has been very vocal on cybersecurity issues at the EU level. It should be noted that in 2013, during the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the EU, the Friends of the Presidency Group on Cyber Issues was established, which paved the way for the current institutional set-up in the cybersecurity field.



Lithuania proudly hosts European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) in Vilnius.

It helps to raise awareness and facilitate progress in the field of gender equality, both nationally and at the European level. As an encouraging proof of gender balance and positive work environment, Lithuania boasts the highest percentage of women researchers and engineers in the EU, exceeding the EU average by 18 points⁸.



Lithuania has continuously demonstrated its commitment to the principle of solidarity.

As the key aspect of the European unity. During the current COVID-19 pandemic, Lithuania provided humanitarian assistance to the most hard-hit countries in the EU – Italy and Spain. Moreover, Lithuania acted in the spirit of solidarity when taking part in the EU relocation schemes to assist Italy and Greece in dealing with the refugee crisis.

4. Vilnius – the city with a smart ambition and quality of life

Vilnius is ready to host the ECCC and to embrace it into the growing international IT and tech competence community.

Vilnius was ranked 1st in a tech start-up attraction index⁹ and 2nd as a smart European city of the future in terms of attractiveness for smart businesses¹⁰.

**1st
globally**

Vilnius ranked No 1 City in Tech startups FDI attraction index⁹

**Smart
city**

Vilnius named 2nd in the Smart cities of the Future ranking¹⁰

Vilnius is one of the most affordable and comfortable cities to live in and work for expatriates.

Vilnius is one of the four least expensive EU capitals to live in for expatriates¹¹ and provides plenty of opportunities to study and work for international staff family members. Being located in the geographical centre of Europe, Vilnius is less than a 3 hour journey away from all EU capitals. **Easily accessible Vilnius International Airport** is situated just 15 minutes from the city centre and is a hub of 15 airlines flying to over 92 destinations.

<3HRS

Less than 3 hour journey from any major European city

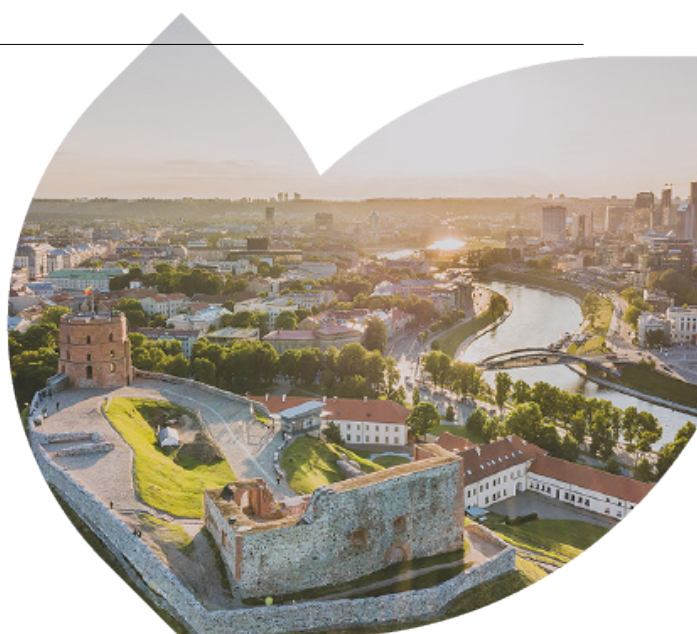
● Vilnius

Source 9: Tech Start-up FDI Attraction Index, 2019
Source 10: FDI Global City of the Future, 2018/2019
Source 11: Mercer's 2018 Cost of Living Ranking
Source 12: UK-based health consultancy treated.com analysis

Vilnius is a great mixture of green spaces and world heritage architecture.

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Vilnius ranks best in Central–Eastern Europe in terms of air quality. It also gets the maximum score in the continent for offering its residents high-quality green spaces¹². At the same time, its historical Old Town, one of the largest surviving medieval old towns in Eastern and Northern Europe, is included in UNESCO's World Heritage List.



International schools in Vilnius

A number of private international schools and kindergartens available for foreigners and locals, including **Vilnius International School**, **Lycée International Français de Vilnius**, **British School Vilnius**, **The American International School of Vilnius**. More than **1300 children** attend those schools.

One of the safest cities in Europe post-COVID

Last, but not least, Vilnius is one of the safest cities in Europe post-COVID. European Best Destinations Organization included Vilnius among the safest places for travel and tourism post-COVID. **Lithuania has one of the lowest numbers of reported cases and deaths per 100,000 population in EU/EEA area.** It is also important to note that the three Baltic countries launched the first “travel bubble” within the EU to jump-start the economic activities post-COVID lockdown.



5. Exceptional infrastructure – the highest building in Lithuania

Lithuania offers an exceptional, strategic and symbolic location for the ECCC – Vilnius TV Tower.

It is the highest building in Lithuania (326.5 m.) and the 8th highest structure in the EU. It is the main hub of a national and governmental communication network and the residence for the governmental data centre. It is also a symbol of Lithuania's freedom, and a reminder of the soviet aggression of January 1991. Lithuania could offer 1,400 square meters of office space which could be transformed according to ECCC needs.

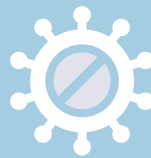


6. Takeaways

Vilnius is ready to host the ECCC and to embrace it into the growing international IT and tech competence community.



Vilnius is one of the safest places to work and travel post-COVID.



Lithuania offers an exceptional, strategic and symbolic location for the ECCC - the Vilnius TV Tower.



Lithuania's commitment and efforts in cybersecurity field are recognized internationally.



Lithuania has a world-class digital infrastructure and a booming digital ecosystem.

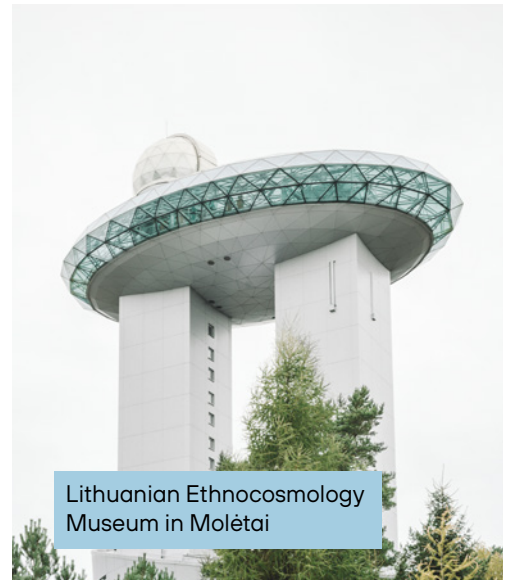


Lithuania has successfully contributed to and led a number of EU initiatives, including on cyber security.





Trakai castle



Lithuanian Ethnocosmology
Museum in Molėtai



Treetop walking path
in Anykščiai



Vilnius Old Town



The Curonian
Spit in Nida