EU EXAMPLES
LANDSCAPE IN LITHUANIA: WAYS TO ADDRESS TODAY’S CHALLENGES

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LITHUANIA: FACTS

LOCATION
- Geographical centre of Europe (?!)
- 65,300 sq. km area

LANDSCAPE
- 34% covered by forests
- 4% freshwater lakes and rivers
- 16% country’s landscapes are under protection

Historic landscape of Trakai, Galves lake
Rural landscape, view from Merkine mound
HISTORY

- Lithuania dates back to 1009
- Due to geopolitical situation country’s land use has always lacked stability
- Post 2nd WW occupation by Soviet Union has heavily affected landscape and land use (land nationalization, large scale industrialization to service the whole USSR)
- Re-establishment of land use, land ownership and landscape planning since 1991 till present

Changing Nemunas river landscape (Kaunas Hydro-electric power station dam since 1960)
C 1960’s – agricultural mass production to service USSR

Zervynos, South of Lithuania – has retained authentic landscape layout due to poor soils and undulation, not suitable for SSSR mass production
LANDSCAPE
- Heritage landscapes
- Protected natural landscapes
- Damaged landscapes

PEOPLE
- 2.7 million people (shrinking)
- Lack of LA professionals (i.e. 2 LA in Municipality of Vilnius)
- Public awareness and public landscapes
FAST DEVELOPMENT

- Development of outskirts of major cities
- Infrastructure development
- Fast development of offices, retail and residential real estate in major cities

Masterplan of 534ha of Kaunas free economic zone

Development of Vilnius ring road (west part)

5 ha residential development in Paupys, central Vilnius (over 2000 apartments)
SHORTFALLS

Obstructed public rights of way by landowners in rural landscapes

No LCA and LVIA procedures for major developments in outskirts of cities

Frequent floods in cities expose need for SUDS in fast growing major cities. Flood in Vilnius, 2018 Summer

Development can get away with little or no landscape improvement. Plaza business centre, Kaunas
SUCCESS

EU funds allow to restore important historic parks amongst other numerous public landscape projects.

Missionary gardens restoration project in Vilnius. Tender stage.
SUCCESS
Understood importance of quality landscapes by real estate developers

Quadrum Business City public space in Vilnius. Completed in 2016

Žalgiris promenade in Vilnius. Under construction
SUCCESS
Increased awareness for public consultation and public participation in landscape design process - a new beginning, but has begun already

Public consultation, restoration of historic Reformates park in central Vilnius

14th Council of Europe's special mention for Utena town landscape planning and implemented projects

Lithuanian team won landscape inspired bridge design and build competition in Seoul, 2018
SUMMARY

Vilnius areal, Terra Firma LT projects since 2014