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VYTAUTAS
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MCMXXII



EURO ENGAGEMENT

WP5 - RUR EU VIEWS SYMPOSIUM

MEETING IN
VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY,
KAUNAS, LITHUANIA

15TH - 18TH OF SEPTEMBER 2025

INFO PACK

VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY

Discover a place of life-shaping experiences in a unique liberal atmosphere, a vibrant creative working environment and a diverse community of inspiring students and scholars.

What distinguishes Vytautas Magnus University (VMU) is our visionary approach towards organising studies, scientific research and academic community life. Scholars from Lithuania and abroad who participated in the reestablishment of VMU in 1989 have also defined our principles, which we have been following ever since: a commitment to foster a liberal and democratic learning environment, emphasising the importance of aesthetics, honesty, tolerance and independent thought. We promote these ideals while nurturing creativity, academic progress and cultural identity within our community.

VMU is a comprehensive university devoted to excellence in teaching, learning, research, arts and innovation, and fostering critical thinking, imaginative response as well as the desire and capacity for lifelong learning of our students who will have an impact on the world, locally and globally.



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ABOUT THE EVENT

WP5 - RurEU views Symposium

The objectives of this work package are:

To facilitate a symposium that brings together policymakers, experts, and representatives from rural communities to discuss and address the specific challenges faced by rural areas within the EU.

- To promote collaborative and participatory policymaking processes that take into account the unique needs and aspirations of rural communities.
- To create a platform for knowledge exchange and mutual learning between policymakers, experts, and rural residents, fostering a deeper understanding of each other's perspectives.
- To identify practical policy recommendations and initiatives that support rural development and enhance the quality of life in rural areas.
- To strengthen the engagement and active involvement of rural communities in shaping EU policies that directly impact their lives.

The event agenda includes:

- Keynote Speeches;
- Panel Discussions;
- Breakout Workshops;
- Policy Pitch Competition;
- Rural Policy Declaration



KAUNAS, LITHUANIA



Kaunas is the second-largest city in Lithuania after Vilnius, the fourth largest city in the Baltic States and an important centre of Lithuanian economic, academic, and cultural life.

Kaunas, balancing a contemporary European point of view and authentic Baltic values, is strategically the most convenient meeting point in Lithuania. It's also an important crossroad between the Baltic countries, Scandinavia, Central and Eastern Europe for both travelling by land and air. The network of hotels and public spaces in Kaunas is more than ready to satisfy diverse needs starting from tête-à-tête negotiations and small seminars all the way to major conferences and city-wide events.

Have you ever heard about quality, relaxed life in the city? Yes, we live it, here in Kaunas. We're sure you're aware, but we'd like to remind you that we were the European Capital of Culture in 2022 (and yes, we're immensely proud of it). If you check the Kaunastic dictionary, you will find the following explanation for the word "modernism": modernism (noun) - the architecture of Kaunas, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the way people feel and live here. Don't believe it? See for yourself!

Are you a fan of modernist architecture? Nature lover? Run a street art-focused Instagram account? We can ensure that there are not dozens, but hundreds, maybe even thousands of places, objects, things, and phenomena worth discovering in Kaunas. In the warm season and early autumn, the city is dancing, singing, swimming, playing sports, and watching cinema - all in the open air. In autumn and winter, we invite you to go beyond photo walks through the historic streets of Kaunas and plan cosy afternoons in the modernist buildings, cafes, restaurants, museums, concerts, galleries... We're sure you don't want to miss it!



Santaka Hotel

The 4-star Best Western Santakos Hotel is located at the juncture of Kaunas city centre and the Old Town, on the quiet J. Gruodžio Street, in a 100-year-old building.

Hotel is in Kaunas, ideally located near unique museums, churches and historical heritage sites. The Žalgiris Arena, a major sports venue, is nearby.

They offer all the amenities you need for a business or leisure trip in the modest, austere and cosy building from red bricks with decorative interior at Santakos hotel.

The attentive and dedicated Best Western Santaka Hotel staff is always ready to assist guests.

Best Western Santakos Hotel has rooms perfectly suited for work and relaxation, with elegant décor and a homely atmosphere.

Free parking for guests is available on site.

Santaka Hotel address:

J. Gruodžio str. 21, LT-44293, Kaunas | Lithuania



HOW TO REACH KAUNAS?

<https://goo.gl/maps/YiUkWy41CaV7Uvaf6>



Direct Ryanair and Wizz Air flights to Kaunas are available from 17 European airports – you can check schedules and changes www.kaunas-airport.lt. **Bus No. 29 connects Kaunas International Airport with the city center.** The journey takes about 45 minutes with the bus timetable being coordinated with flight schedules. A taxi service is available for those who need a speedier transfer. There are also buses from Kaunas International Airport to Vilnius, Klaipėda, Riga.

1. PUBLIC TRANSPORT

a) BUSES, TROLLEYBUSES AND MINIBUSES. There are two types of tickets: A single use paper ticket and E-ticket (periodic for 3, 7, 30 or 92 days). Trolleybuses and buses run from 4.30 a.m. until 10.30 p.m. Payments for Kaunas city public transport are made with the help of non-contact electronic ticket (CARD) system.

You may transfer different sums of money from your e-purse onto the CARD and/or pay for certain kinds of e-ticket (of 3, 7, 30 and 92 days) periodically. You may buy the CARD at the newspaper stands or in the places marked by the special sign “Kauno Viešasis Transportas” (KVT) (Kaunas Public Transport). You must always have your card when getting on the means of transport.

Useful information: if you do not have an e-card with payment for e-ticket, you may buy a single-use ticket from the driver. Please buy the single-use ticket from the driver immediately after getting on the means of transport. Please note that drivers do not have cash due to safety issues; thus, be prepared to pay the exact sum of money for the ticket (1 EUR). The tickets purchased from the driver do not have to be validated by a ticket puncher. Passengers must get on the bus through the front door and validate e-tickets or buy a single-use ticket from the driver. If there is a possibility, you should get off the bus through the back/middle door. You may check Kaunas public transport routes and schedules on the website: <https://www.stops.lt/kaunas/#kaunas/en>

b. TAXIS can be hailed on the streets, called by phone or using mobile App. The average price for one kilometer by taxi is 0,70 EUR. Check the taxi companies operating in Kaunas here: <https://www.taxi.lt/language/en/>

c. BOLT (TAXIFY) KAUNAS Bolt (Taxify) – connecting riders with the best local drivers at the best prices. When you ride with Bolt (Taxify), company doing their best to make the ride as seamless and comfortable as possible. Bolt is the smart way to move around Kaunas city. Get the app for iPhone and Android.

Reliable Rides: You'll see your driver's contact details and can rate them at the end of the trip. Your feedback helps us keep the best drivers.

No Cash, No Hassle: Pay in cash or add your credit card to the app and we'll automatically charge it when you arrive.

Convenient Business Trips: You can use Bolt for your personal or business trips. Switch the payment method at the tap of a button.

Use KAUNASIN promo code for your first trip and get – 7 Eur. discount!

CAR RENTAL AND PARKING

All the information about companies, providing car renting services you can find [here](#). Paid parking zones in Kaunas include the entire central area and the Old Town from 08.00 AM to 06.00 PM on business days and the Town Hall Square from 08.00 AM to 12.00 PM all week. These zones are divided into areas of different hourly rates ranging from 0,30 EUR to 1,20 EUR. There are parking meters which take payment with special parking cards or coins, you can pay by sending SMS to 1332 or by an app "uniPark". The locations where parking is paid are clearly marked with appropriate road signs. Free parking is allowed at weekends and during public holidays.

IMPORTANT. Parking zones, prices and rules may change. Please check the traffic signs on the streets or here: <https://parkavimaskaune.lt/en/paid-parking-areas/>

MORE IMPORTANT INFORMATION

SAFETY

Kaunas is a hospitable city much liked by foreigners. Please, however, keep to the same safety rules as you do at home and leave no valuable possessions without supervision. If you have an emergency and need to call the police, the ambulance, or firefighters, please call the emergency phone number 112.

KAUNAS CITY PLICE HEADQUARTERS

Vytauto pr. 91, Tel. +370 37 223 726

INTERNET

A FREE WIRELESS INTERNET is available in Laisvės al. and in Town Hall square.

CURRENCY EXCAHNGE

You can exchange currency in all banks on business days and in the Akropolis Shopping and Entertainment Centre every weekday. If you have arrived at the airport, you can use the currency exchange services at the Medicinos Bankas currency exchange office located in the airport.

24/7 PHARMACIES

EGLIKĖ Savanorių pr. 206 Tel. +370 37 333 014

BENU Savanorių pr. 66/ Žemaičių g. 31 Tel. +370 37 205 796



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