Beyond Resilience: Universities as Active Value-Driven Agents in a Changing World
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LITHUANIA'S

INNOVATION LANDSCAPE

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EIMIN
MINISTRY OF THE ECONOMY
AND INNOVATION



Lithuania keeps climbing in global innovation

Global Innovation Index 2026

32nd | **OF 139 ECONOMIES**

▲ Up from 33rd in 2025

Source: WIPO, Global Innovation Index 2026

Business and startups



1st globally
for unicorn valuation as a share of GDP



6th globally
for entrepreneurship policies and culture

People and technology



1st globally
for women employed with advanced degrees



4th globally
for ICT use

Government support and financial incentives: opportunities for all



Patent Box
A reduced corporate tax rate of 5% for profits from patented software and inventions.

Invest LT+ financial incentive
For investments into long-term assets and workplace creation.

Free Economic Zones
Businesses in FEZ enjoy 0% corporate tax for the first 10 years and no more than 7.5% for the following six years, along with exemptions from tax on dividends and real estate tax.

Tax Benefits & Streamlined Processes
Companies can benefit from R&D grants, tax exemptions, streamlined regulatory processes, and state funding negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

LT100 Green Investment Support
Through the LT100 scheme, Lithuania has allocated over €696 million to expand renewable energy and green technology development.

Lithuania’s 3i plan: high-value jobs for 1 in 2 workers by 2030

Three pillars driving Lithuania’s transformation to 2030: **Innovation · Investment · Institutions**

INNOVATION

R&D spending: 1.1% → 2.2% of GDP by 2030

- Labour productivity rises from 70% to 90% of the EU average.
- Twice as many startups by 2030, with deeper science-business ties.

INVESTMENT

30% of new investment reaches the regions by 2028

- Regional gap narrows as high value-added exports grow.
- Focus on high-value FDI and green industry growth.

INSTITUTIONS

Admin burden −35%, services 2× faster by 2028

- AI-driven, proactive public administration.
- Clear ownership so investor questions are resolved quickly.



▲ **~40% of investment** already reached the regions in 2026*

Source: Ministry of the Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania, 3i Strategic Balanced Economy Plan — proposals for the Government Programme, 2026
*Ministry of the Economy and Innovation, 2026 data

Lithuania’s science base powers industries

Life sciences

3.7% of GDP

Target: 5% by 2030

- ~90% of output exported to 100+ countries[1]
- 1,600+ companies and 26,000+ employees

Lasers and space

90%+

of laser output exported to 80+ countries[2]

- Used by NASA and 90+ of the world’s top 100 universities[3]
- 2025: an Integrated Optics laser went into orbit

Defence and security

€960M

sector turnover in 2024[4]

- ~100 companies, supported by ~10 research institutions
- Rheinmetall and EPSO-G: ammunition plant, up to €300M

Source 1: Lithuania.lt, 2022 Source 2: Innovation Agency Lithuania, 2026 Source 3: Lithuanian Laser Association, 2019
Source 4: Innovation Agency Lithuania, Lithuanian Defence Ecosystem Overview 2026

Advanced Digital Infrastructure

Lithuania’s digital infrastructure, with over 90% 5G coverage and some of the fastest EU broadband speeds, fuels growth across industries like fintech and logistics

1st globally

for the availability of digital skills[1]

6th globally

for communication technology in business[2]

Lithuania's digital public services are among the most advanced in the European Union (EU)[3]

- **84/100** for digital public services to citizens (EU average 77)
- **94/100** for digital business services (EU average 84)
- **92/100** for e-health (EU average 72)

Source 1: IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook, 2024
Source 2: IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook, 2024
Source 3:Lithuanian Digital Decade Report, 2023

Scaling national AI capabilities

Lithuania was among the first EU member states to **adopt a national AI strategy** back in **2019** - the 2nd such document in the European Union.

2019

Early AI leadership

2020

Ecosystem growth

From **2020**, Lithuania saw rapid growth in AI **startups**, **GovTech** adoption, **university** engagement, and **digital** infrastructure. At the same time, the country strengthened its **open data** and **digital government** solutions.

In 2021, Lithuania allocated over **€42 million** for the development of **Lithuanian-language AI resources** and technologies for businesses and public sector use.

2021

AI capability expansion

2022-2023

EU AI act readiness

As the **EU AI Act** negotiations advanced in 2023, Lithuania began positioning itself as an **innovation-friendly location** for AI companies operating under the EU AI Act.

In 2024-2025, Lithuania launched new AI initiatives focused on **R&D** and **industry collaboration**, alongside **LitAI** - the national **AI factory** aimed at strengthening the country's AI infrastructure and computing capacity.

2024-2025

AI infrastructure expansion

2026

National AI direction

In **2026**, Lithuania reaffirmed AI as a strategic national priority through updated **national AI guidelines.**

Startup ecosystem is one of the fastest-growing in the Baltics and CEE

4th

(out of 49 countries) in the National Entrepreneurial Context Index[7]

6

Unicorns (Oxylabs, Cast AI, Vinted, Nord Security, BCG, Flo Health)

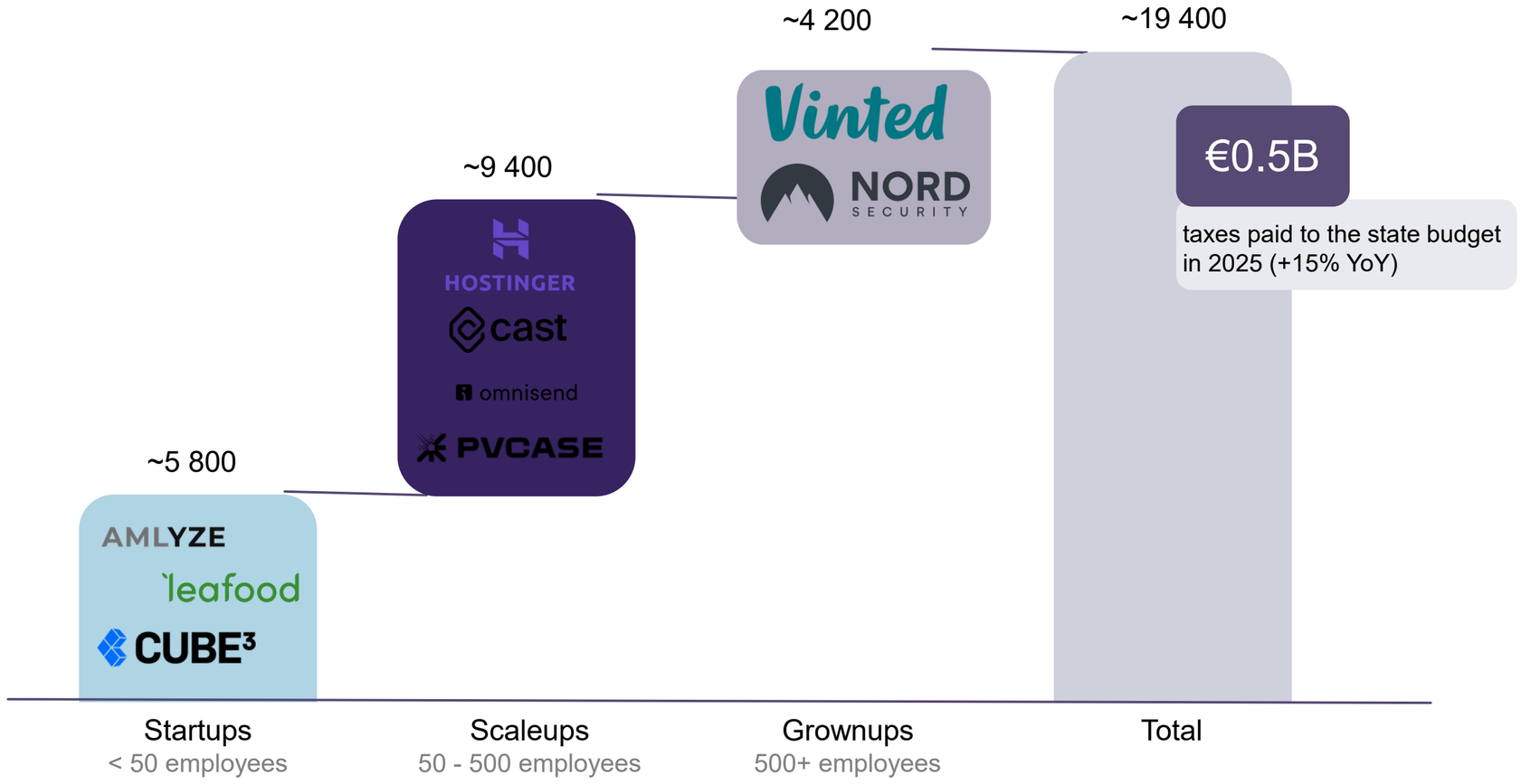
5.9x growth in 5 years

between 2020 and 2025, the ecosystem grew at twice the regional average and is currently valued at $16.4 billion.

€220M

in raised venture capital in 2025.

Employment in Lithuanian innovative digital business, approximate no. of employees



Source: Unicorns.lt, 2026.

Booming digital ecosystem fueled by talent

Global Business Services with IT function

61% of multifunctional Business Services centers are running IT functions

Swedbank

CITCO

FESTO SEB dexcom

Fintech

Fintech booms from **44** fintech companies in **2014** to **248 in 2025**

checkout.com Revolut

Google Pay Robinhood DriveWealth



Cybersecurity

NordVPN Proton Cognizant

Public sector

International ICT companies

Palantir

Nasdaq accenture Flo

epam cast.ai

Local technology companies

Vinted HOSTINGER TELTONIKA

Trafi deeper

boredpanda

Source: Eurostat, 2025

Unlocking Lithuania‘s Talent Potential

Lithuania is investing €80M to reskill 20,000[1] specialists in IT, engineering, and life sciences, boosting innovation and addressing the demand for talent in critical sectors like digitalization and automation.



4th in the EU

for tertiary education attainment (25-34 age group)[2]

85%

of young professionals are fluent in English[3]

47%

speak at least two foreign languages (2nd in the EU)[4]

Source 1: Employment Service programme for acquiring high added value qualifications and competencies under the recovery and resilience “Next Generation Lithuania” plan. This programme is financed by the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

Source 2: Eurostat, 2022
Source 3: Invest Lithuania estimations based on Population Census 2011, 2023
Source 4: Eurostat, 2022

Renewable energy increases resilience

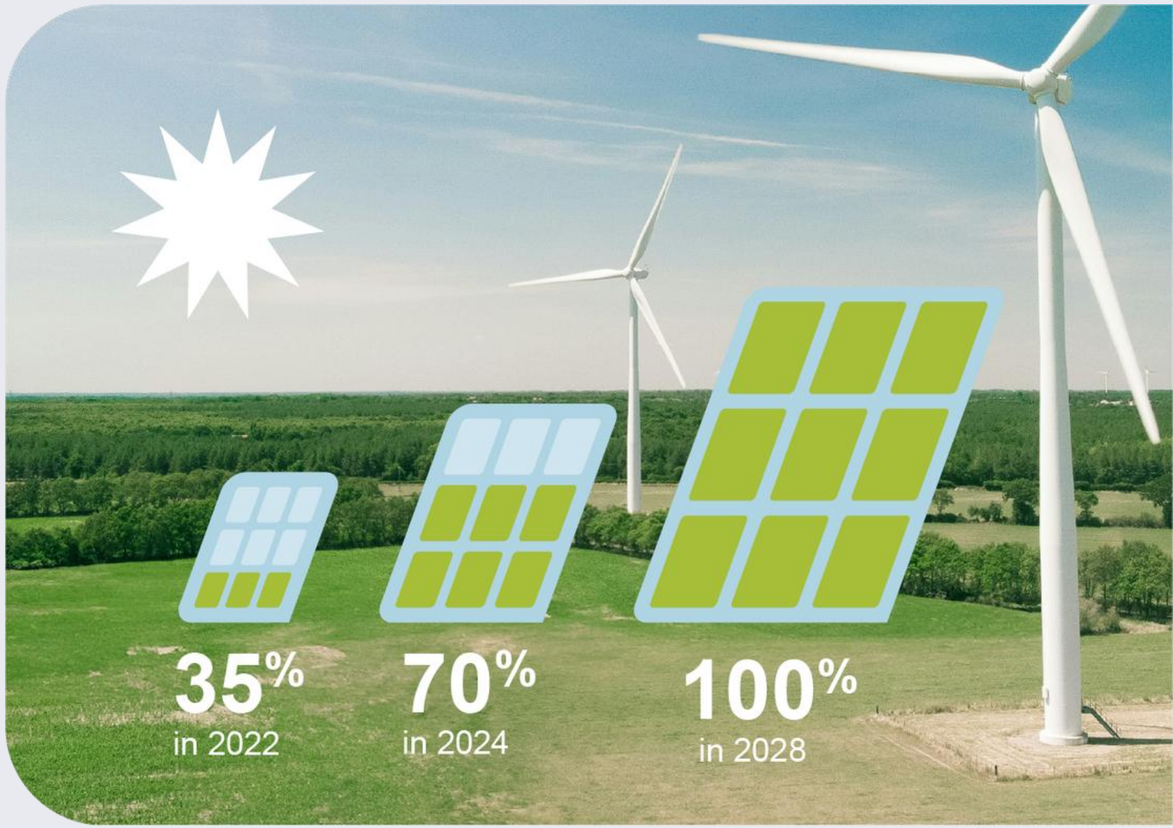
Lithuania’s goal is to have **100% of renewable energy** in final electricity consumption by 2030. This **is one of the highest ambitions** for the development of RES at the EU level [1]

Over the last ten years, **Lithuania's energy sector has undergone a major restructuring** in 2025 Lithuania fully connected to Continental Europe Synchronous Area (CESA)

Lithuania has set a target to become fully carbon neutral by 2050 [3]

Member of:

Expected share of renewable energy in the final balance of electricity consumption in Lithuania[1]



Source 1: Ministry of Energy, 2023
Source 2: Ministry of Finance, 2024
Source 3: OECD, 2024

“Thank you to the Magna Charta Observatory and Mykolas Romeris University for bringing the international academic community together in Vilnius. Strong partnerships between universities, business and government help turn **knowledge into innovation**, create **opportunities for talent** and build a **more competitive economy**.”

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