

On May 1, 2004 Lithuania became the member of EU. The country is located in the crossroad between the East and the West. This makes our country outstanding for logistics system, both land and sea.

Kaunas district is a geographical centre of Lithuania. It comprises an area of 149,500 hectares around Kaunas. Kaunas is the second largest city of Lithuania. It has emerged as a cultural and business centre, with ongoing regeneration in both industry and culture attracting investment from home and abroad. The population of Kaunas district is around 85400. There are 23 subdistricts: Akademija, Alšėnai, Babtai, Čekiškė, Domeikava, Ežerėlis, Kačerginė, Karmėlava, Kulautuva, Lapės, Neveronys, Raudondvaris, Ringaudai, Rokai, Taurakiemis, Samylai, Užliedžiai, Vandžiogala, Zapyškis, Vilkija, Vilkija Rural Subdistrict, Garliava Rural Subdistrict, Garliava Town Subdistrict. Each subdistrict is unique and offers special attractions and opportunities for everyone who seeks for new experiences, sensations and magic memories. Kaunas district is famed for its 3 biggest Lithuanian rivers – the Nemunas, the Neris, the Nevėžis – the meanders and valleys of which are the breathtaking sceneries. The Kaunas Sea regional park and the wild beauty of reservations offer a wealth of opportunities for outdoors enthusiasts.

Transport infrastructure

Expanding infrastructure makes the district easily accessible and creates good conditions for tourism and business development. The district is at the intersection of the East-West European transport corridor (No.1), the Via Baltica motorway and the branches of IX B transport corridor (Kiev–Minsk–Vilnius–Klaipėda) and IX D (Kaunas–Kaliningrad). A railway of the European standard gauge is going to be extended here. The district contains Kaunas airport, the biggest in the Baltic states, which specializes in cargo transportation and is able to accept airliners of all types. In 2005 a contract was made with low fare route aviacompany „Ryanair“. Thus Kaunas airport is becoming a centre of cheap flights. Direct cheap flights started to Warsaw with connections to Paris, Liverpool, Dortmund, Malmö/Copenhagen, London/Luton, Stockholm and to Frankfurt Hahn with connections to Grenada, Cracow, Marrakesh, Fez, Mursia, Trieste, Verona and Wrocław. Swedish airline Stockholmsplanet signed an agreement with Kaunas Airport. Since January of 2007 the flights started from Kaunas to Växjö in Southern Sweden. The new route will be especially important for developing political, social and business ties as well as tourism.

Education

Kaunas district is also famous as an education centre. The Agricultural University of Lithuania, the Horticulture and Gardening Institute of Lithuania, the training farm of the Veterinary Academy of Lithuania, the Institute of Forestry, the Center of Forest Selection and Seed-Growing, the Institute of Agricultural Engineering, experimental facility of agricultural machines, and other agricultural education institutions are located in Kaunas district to meet the demands of the population.

Sports

Sport is very popular in Kaunas district. The first golf course in Lithuania was established in Didžiosios Lapės village. There are lots of various sports clubs: Golf Club „Elnias“ and „Stirna“, Karmėlava football club „Neris“ as well as judo, horse riding, auto clubs and the others. There is a sports school and the only judo and equestrian school in Lithuania. The Pagonija Rock is a popular leisure time attraction as it is the only place in the Baltic States for climbing in the open air. Those who want to test their stamina, courage and agility can try climbing 13 m high rock by 12 different climbing paths.

Business activities

There are around 2600 enterprises the main activities of which are as follows: agriculture and forestry, plant-growing, greenhouse industry, processing of agricultural products, bread baking, cattle-breeding, livestock slaughtering, peat industry, meat and milk processing, furniture production, manufacture of wood products, production of wooden packing articles, wood processing, tombstone and monument manufacture, production of construction materials, construction works, production of reinforced concrete articles, repair and production of agriculture and forestry machinery, trading, manufacture and maintenance of agricultural machinery, production of mixed ploughshare, car service, repair of motor vehicles, fur farming, sewing, knitting, public service, health resort activities, rural crafts.

Opportunities

The strategic location of Kaunas free economic zone (FEZ): the Kaunas Terminal, the International Karmėlava Airport (which is expected to become the key Lithuanian airport) are located at a distance of 4 km from FEZ. The crossroad of the two major motorways – Via Baltica and the Vilnius–Klaipėda highway, the expected implementation of the European Railway Project Rail Baltica linking Warsaw, Kaunas, Riga and Tallinn, and the exceptional regional development opportunities as well as the above mentioned factors of infrastructure, education and business facilitate the creation of FEZ and attraction of investment. Kaunas FEZ is a strategic object offering vast opportunities, and having influence not only for Kaunas region, but also for Lithuania's economy. Kaunas FEZ will become one of the largest free economic zones in the Baltic region. Modern local and foreign enterprises that apply advanced production and scientific technologies are being established. Thus Kaunas FEZ has a potential for becoming a bridge between The East and the West.

The city of Kaunas is growing rapidly. The inhabitants of the satellite towns are being gradually integrated into one common urban unit with the hope to benefit from the situation. Kaunas district has a great potential for entertainment and tourism development, primarily in recreation zones of the Kaunas Sea and the Nemunas river including Kačerginė, Kulautuva, Zapyškis, Raudondvaris and Vilkija. There are 462 objects of cultural heritage. 24 countryside farmsteads, bed and breakfast inns, guesthouses, motels and hotels are always ready to offer their services.

At present several projects for the development of tourism infrastructure are being run by the municipality of Kaunas district together with its partners. These projects are as follows:

- "Pilot Project for the development of tourism infrastructure of the Nemunas River". Two jetties will be arranged and the infrastructure developed (including camps, routes, etc.)
- "The construction of mobile jetties for developing the Nemunas tourism route".

New projects concerning the development of tourism infrastructure in Kaunas district are expected to be implemented in the nearest future. The projects will involve the creation of jetties by the Nemunas river and the development of infrastructure, cycle route development along the Nemunas and the Nevėžis river watersides.

Other projects involve the development of general map of Kaunas district; the renovation of ditches and hydro technical constructions; the renovation of the heating household of institutions of culture and education; updating of knowledge and skills of the employees of Kaunas district municipality, the foundation of Kaunas district female crisis centre. The aim of the project is to improve and extend social services to the most sensitive social groups i.e. to children bereft of temporary patronage or to women who experienced violence as well as to juvenile mothers.

Investment climate:

Kaunas district offers:

- Perfect geographical location
- Highly developed infrastructure
- Qualified but low cost labour force
- Longlasting traditions of the city.

Kaunas district is open to international co-operation. It maintains close relationships with other regions, districts and cities abroad. Any proposal for co-operation as well as mutual projects will be welcome.

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