

POLITICAL NEWS



Campaign “Flag of Unity”, on 13th of January, organized by the Embassy of Lithuania in Georgia to commemorate the Freedom Defenders’ Day. Alongside with 200 meters length Lithuanian flag, 100 Georgian flags were hoisted to recall the thorny path made by Lithuania and Georgia to their freedom.

TWEETS & QUOTES



Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA · Jan 15

Today we mourn with the people of #Ukraine and remember those killed by terrorist hands. #UnitedForUkraine



Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL · Jan 12

24 years ago courageous, unarmed people of #Lithuania defeated soviet tanks and defended freedom of their country.



Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL · Jan 11

#CharlieHebdo unity march of million in #Paris- our firm response to coward killers

#Snowmeeting #VilniusForum

“Russian aggression against Ukraine has fundamentally changed European security situation. This raises concerns, especially to the neighbors who wish to see a democratic, peaceful and prosperous Russia. European values and an opportunity to live in a democratic society, beyond any doubt, are also very important for the people of Russia. Therefore, the dialogue with Russian society is especially important and should be developed”, said Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linus Linkevicius during the opening of the Vilnius Intellectuals Forum on 15 January. The Forum is organized alongside with the traditional informal Snow Meeting. The participants discuss how to protect Western society and values from Russia’s aggressive efforts to redraw the map of Europe, how to set up the relationship between the West and Russia, how to help Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia and other countries to overcome Russia’s pressure and to continue pursuing Euro-Atlantic integration. Snow Meeting was attended by Mikhail Khodorkovsky, who delivered the inaugural address, as well as intellectuals, politicians and foreign policy experts from around the world.

D. Tusk: Euro Brings Investments, Growth, Stability

“[This is a historic moment for your country and this moment is important for the eurozone](#). This demonstrates once again the credibility and attractiveness of the eurozone. Joining will bring investment, growth, security and stability”, stressed European Council President in a press conference held in Vilnius, 14 January.

Lithuania’s Freedom Prize for Adam Michnik

[Adam Michnik, Polish public figure, former dissident, one of the leaders of Solidarity movement, journalist, political analyst and editor-in-chief of the daily newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza, was awarded the Freedom Prize 2014 on 13 January in the Seimas](#). *The Freedom Prize*, established in 2011, honours individuals and organisations for their achievements in and contribution to the defense of human rights, development of democracy, and promotion of international cooperation for the cause of self-determination and sovereignty of the nations in Eastern and Central Europe.

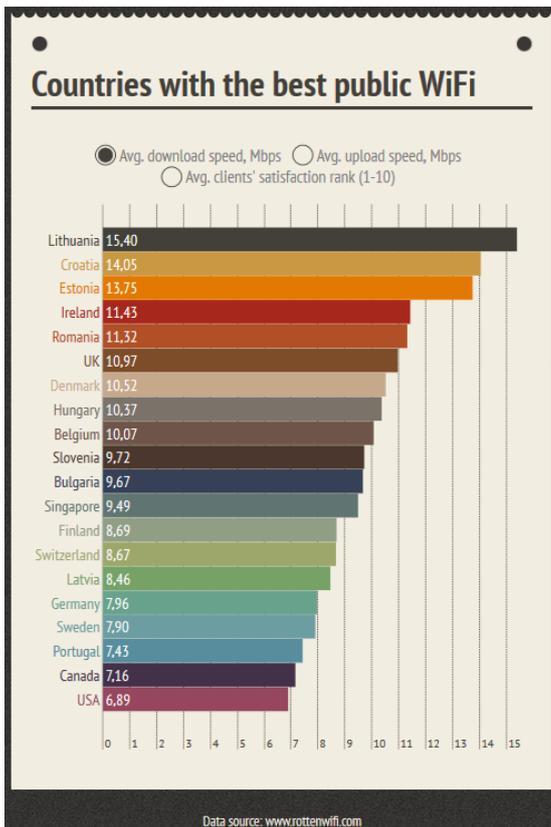
President Grybauskaitė - Ukraine’s Person of the Year

[President Dalia Grybauskaitė has been named Person of the Year by the Higher Academic Council of Ukraine for her strong and unwavering support to Ukraine’s independence at public and political level](#). “President Dalia Grybauskaitė is consistently and resolutely defending Ukraine’s interests and supporting its democratic aspirations at the highest international level. Her voice is heard from most influential international rostrums, affirming our nation’s right to be equal among European countries”, the official letter of the Higher Academic Council reads.

US Military in Lithuania

[A new rotation of the US soldiers, deployed in Lithuania with heavy combat equipment, has arrived](#) and will take on their shift next week. Alongside the military personnel of the Lithuanian Land Force, they will be attending combined training events and improving interoperability.

ECONOMY NEWS



Danske Bank to Establish IT Service Centre in Vilnius

[Danske Bank](#), the largest financial services group in Denmark and the second largest in terms of assets owned in Northern Europe, is establishing an IT service centre for its group of companies, [Danske Group IT Lietuva \(DGITL\)](#), in Vilnius. "We will create not separate jobs, but functions, responsible for IT services. When there is a critical mass of IT staff, we will look for managers, fully responsible for the implementation and development of specific IT services in all *Danske Bank Group*", said Giedrius Dzekunskas, Manager of DGITL.

Trust in E-Government Services Growing

A study commissioned by the Information Society Development Committee under the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Lithuania on Lithuanian e-government services revealed that [electronic declarations and electronic applications were the most popular form of electronic communication between Lithuanian government agencies and citizens in 2014](#), the ministry said. Up to 82 percent of the e-government gateway users evaluated the services positively.

CULTURE

13 January Commemoration - The Invisible Front Movie in Washington

[On 13 January, the Lithuanian community and a large number of American guests commemorated in Washington's University Club the day in 1991 when the Soviet army attempted to overthrow Lithuania's legitimate government in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union.](#) *The Invisible Front*, a movie about Lithuanian freedom fighters or partisans that operated in the post-World War II period, was shown for the first time in the US capital in presence of the two of filmmakers, Jonas Ohman and Vincas Sruoginis.

UPCOMING EVENTS & VISITS

23-25 Jan.	International Tourism and Active Leisure Exhibition Adventur 2015 , Vilnius.	30 Jan.	Conference for IT Specialists High Load Strategy , Vilnius.
23-25 Jan.	The Biggest Game Jam in the Baltics LT Game Jam 2015 , Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipeda.	30-31 Jan.	Halls Winter Rally 2015 , Utena.

Disclaimer: Information based on BBC, BNS, Invest Lithuania, Lithuanian National Radio and Television, The Lithuania Tribune, Global Post.

WE SUGGEST

THE DAY OF THE DEFENDERS OF FREEDOM

Each year on 13th January, we remember all those who stood against soviet violence and oppression to fight for the freedom of Lithuania. On January 13th, 1991, Lithuanian people went to the streets to oppose soviet tanks. Unarmed, holding hands and singing, young and old, they stood together throughout the night. During this act of courage, unity and freedom of spirit 14 people died, many more were wounded. [Read more about this day on BBC: 1991: Bloodshed at Lithuanian TV station.](#)



Interest in Lithuanian Shale Gas

[A possibility to explore and extract shale gas interests several energy companies from the United States](#), said Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevicius. "This week I received information that after our visit to the US, there is interest again in the soon to be held tender in Lithuania as well as some other matters", the prime minister told the national radio on Tuesday.

