

# INTEGRATED MUNICIPAL ENERGY PLAN IN ONE SELECTED CITY WITH SOFTWARE TOOL

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# 1 Purposes and questionnaire of the Survey

Main aim of surveying of municipalities was to identify awareness of energy expenditures, interest and willingness of municipal officials to launch energy planning activities. Other aim was to collect information on data availability for computer-aided planning approach. The letter and questionnaire was sent out to all municipalities (see attachment).

## 2 Municipal energy situation: results of survey.

### 2.1 General data of responded municipalities

From 60 municipalities in Lithuania 15 (or 25%) responded to the questionnaire and expressed their interest to participate in project for development of IRP approach for local energy planning. The respondents are from almost all types of municipalities – small ones, as of resort town- Birštonas, regional towns and big city (Kaunas). General data of these municipalities are presented in the table 1. Location of municipalities is shown on the map.

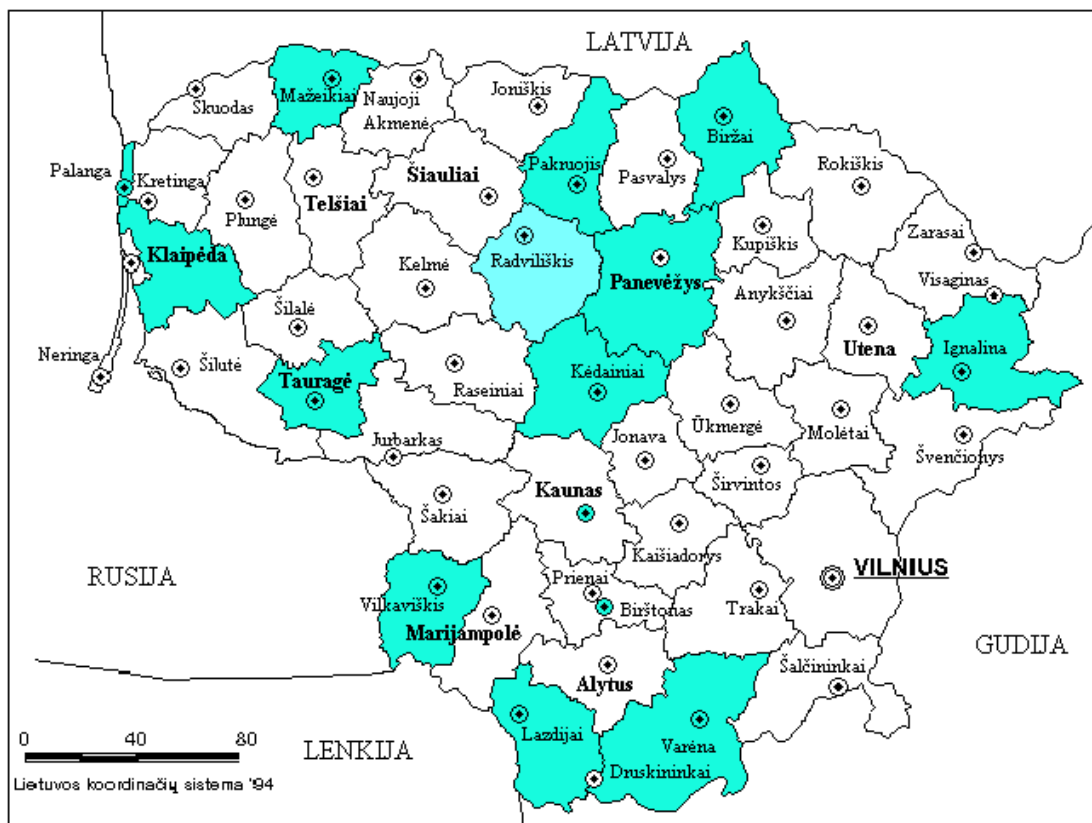


Figure 1. Municipalities which expressed their willingness to participate in the project

**Table 1. General data of municipalities (part one)**

No.	Municipality				Responsible for energy issues					
	Name	Address	Telephone	Fax	Department	Name of the manager	Tel	Fax	Number of employees	Working with computers
1	Birstonas	Jaunimo g.2 LT-4490	8-210-65553	8-210 65555	Local economy dep.	Verseckas			3	2
2	Birzai	Vytauto g. 38, LT-5280 Birzai	8-450-31233	8-450-32485	Local economy dep.	Petras Januskevicius	8-450-31442, 8-450-31392	8-450-31442, 8-450-32485	8	6
3	Ignalina	Laisves a. 70	8-229-52442	8-229-53148	Construction and domestic economy dep.	Mykolas Viskelis	8-229-53045	8-229-53148	4	4
4	Kaunas	Laisves al. 96, LT-3000 Kaunas	8-37 423617	8-37 423985	Energy dep.	Algis Majauskas	423617	423985	10	9
5	Kedainiai	J.Basanaviciaus g. 36	8-257-69500	8-257-61125	Energy and domestic economy service	Vytautas Ilciukas	8-257-69520	8-257-69523	3	1
6	Klaipeda	Klaipedos g. 2, Gargzdai, 5840	8-26-472025	8-26-472005	Local economy dep	Aldona Balcikoniene	8-26-472021	8-26-472005	5	5
7	Lazdijai	Vilniaus g. 1	8-318-51223	8-318-51351	Department of local economy and architecture	Alvidas Gabrys	8-315-51460	8-318-51351	8	6
8	Mazeikiai	Laisves 8/1	8-293 98200	8-293-25844	District development	Juozas Sperauskas	8-293 98233	8-293 25844	13	13
9	Pakruojis	Kestucio 4, 5220 Pakruojis	8-291-61233	8-291-61684	Economy dep.	Danute Pilipaviciene	8-291-61675	8-291-61684	4	3
10	Palanga	Vytauto g. 73	8-236 48705	8-236 48371	Domestic economy dep.	Romas Vecerskis	8-236 48714	8-236 48715	5	2
11	Panevezys	Vasario 16-osios g. 27	8-45 582943	8-45 582975	Property management dep.	Albertas Cinikas	582964	582975	6	3
12	Radviliskis	Ausros a. 10	8-292 69002	8-292 69000	Local economy development dep.	Stanislovas Martynovas	69016	69000	4	3
13	Taurage	Respublikos g. 2	8-246 72463	8-246 70801	Economy dep.	H. Jamevicius	61891	70801	2	2
14	Varena	Vytauto g. Nr. 12, LT-4640	8-260-32005	8-260-51200	Local economy and property management dep.	Jonas Stasys	8-260-32013	8-260-51200	7	6
15	Vilkaviskis	S.Neries 1, 4270 Vilkaviskis	8-242 60062	8-242-20742	-	-	-	-	0	0

**Table 1. General data of municipalities (part two)**

Municipality	Municipal energy objects								Databases		Contact information				
	Number of objects	Heated area	Total residential area	Area heated by DH	Education	Health care	Administrative	Others	Existing consumer DB	Existing DH network DB	Contact person	Position	Telephone	Fax	E-mail
Birstonas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	TRUE	TRUE					
Birzai	107	85000	947000	162000	69400	11200	3100	12600	TRUE	FALSE	Zita Marcinkeviciute	Head of dep	8-450-31392	8-450-32485	birzai@sav.lt
Ignalina	95	77188	675954	162378	60812	40	4003	13194	TRUE	FALSE	Valentina Milkuviene	Chief officer of dep	8-229-52105	8-229-53148	ukis@ignalina.lt
Kaunas	200	632177	3448875	2000397	563200	68977	34488	3241942	TRUE	TRUE	Algis Majauskas	Head of dep	424435, 423617	423985	energetika@kaunas.sav
Kedainiai	101	131682	1590300	660960	110422	5468	10289	10971	TRUE	TRUE	Vytautas Ilciukas	Head of service	8-257-69520	8-257-69523	
Klaipeda	41	91359	937000	174993	77170	13313	5451	8738	TRUE	TRUE	Vladislovas Bernotas	Chief officer	8-26-472021	8-26-472005	gargzdu.sav@takas.lt
Lazdijai	105	61146		66108	50482	0	2959	7705	TRUE	FALSE	Romas Apanavicius	Mayor advisor	8-318-51090	8-318-51351	lazdijai@sav.lt
Mazeikiai	0	0	0	721922	90706	27348	20000	0	FALSE	FALSE	Juozas Sperauskas	Head of dep.	98233	95844	sperauskas@mazeikiai.lt
Pakruojis	95	943023	11762	704	14444	10062	10246	7428	TRUE	TRUE	Danute Polipaviciene	Head of dep	8-291-61675	8-291-61684	danute.p@siauliai.aps.lt
Palanga	18	41490	280900	279400	37100	0	2962	1428	TRUE	TRUE					
Panevezys	145	78130	114900	66504	72373	9467	3327	2430	TRUE	TRUE	Albertas Cinikas	Head of dep.	582964	582975	albertas@panrs.lt
Radviliskis	137	142600	384000	304300	116000	400	26200	0	TRUE	TRUE	Stanislovas Martynovas	Head of dep.	69016	69000	
Taurage	0	0	0	0	92078	2400	5682	1543	TRUE	FALSE	Genovaite Pukelyte	Senior officer	6-20-37		ekosk@taurage.lt
Varena	35	91627	204200	193000	68177	13988	3711	5751	TRUE	FALSE	Jonas Stasys	Head of dep.	8-260-32013	8-260-51200	varena@lsa.lt
Vilkaviskis	28	21866	5010	0	85400	0	0	0	TRUE	TRUE	Valdimaras Bakutis	Senior officer	8-242 60074		

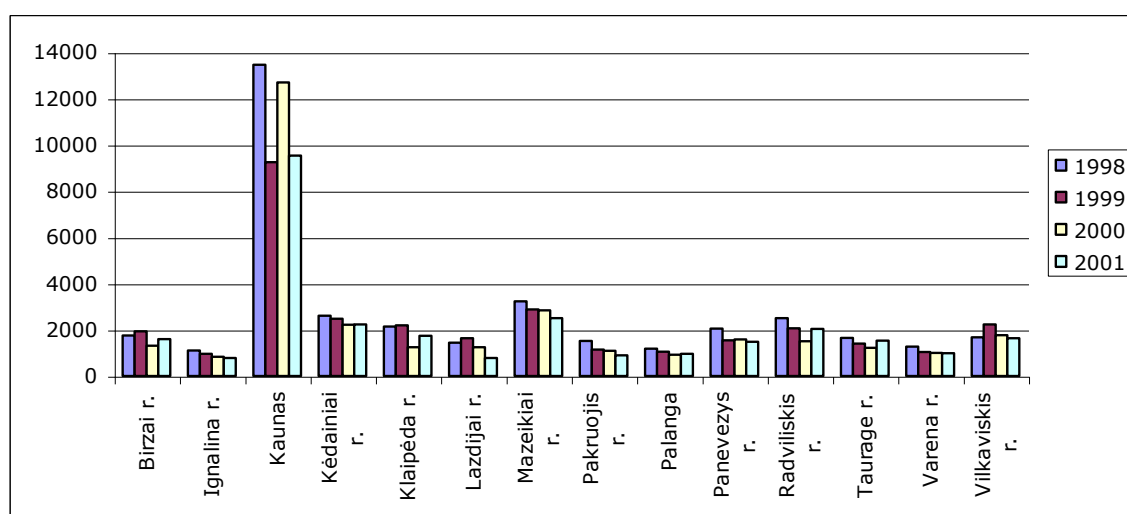
## 2.2 General structure of energy costs

Country data on expenditures of municipal budgets were available after the municipalities have reported their incomes and expenditures. Direct costs for heat, electricity and water supply are included in the financial statements. For the year 2001 main indicators are presented in the table 2 below:

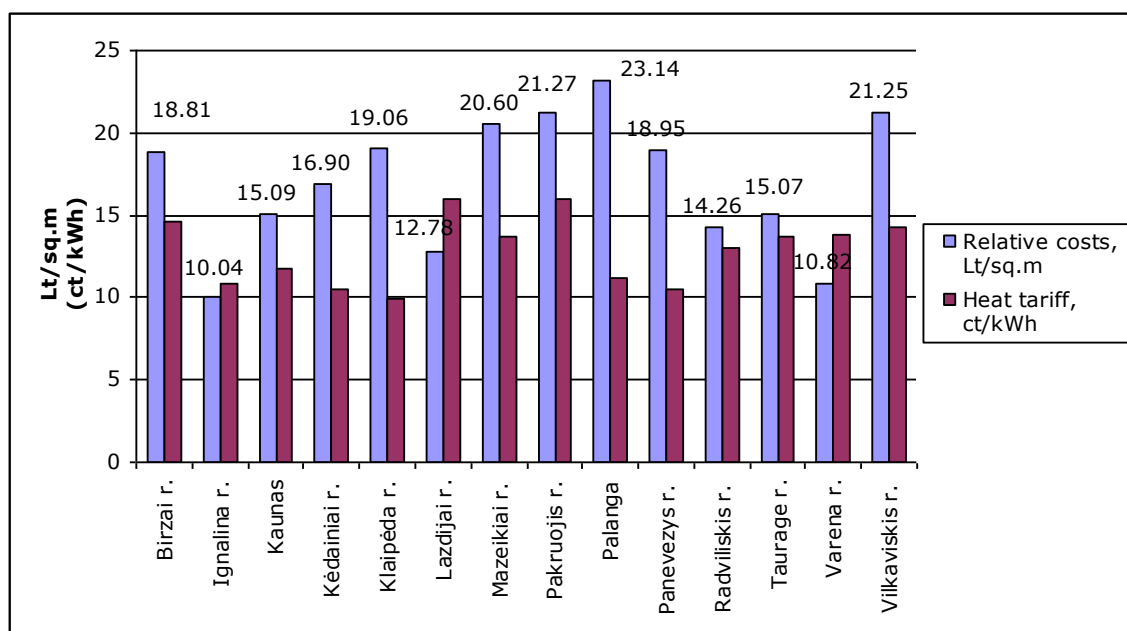
**Table 2. Energy costs in budgets of municipalities (2001)**

Municipality	Population '000	Budget, total '000 Lt	Energy costs							
			Heat		Electricity		Water supply		Energy, total	
			'000 Lt	%	'000 Lt	%	'000 Lt	%	'000 Lt	%
Birstonas	5.5	12918.4	314.1	2.43%	229.4	1.78%	39.8	0.31%	583.3	4.52%
Birzai r.	35	35465.4	1598.9	4.51%	536.3	1.51%	66.3	0.19%	2201.5	6.21%
Ignalina r.	23	28470.1	775	2.72%	364	1.28%	131.5	0.46%	1270.5	4.46%
Kaunas	381.3	315100.1	9537.1	3.03%	3823.8	1.21%	2075	0.66%	15435.9	4.90%
Kėdainiai r.	66.3	61073.2	2226	3.64%	1038	1.70%	207.5	0.34%	3471.5	5.68%
Klaipėda r.	46.5	44384	1741	3.92%	599	1.35%	140.4	0.32%	2480.4	5.59%
Lazdijai r.	27.1	27442.2	781.3	2.85%	444.8	1.62%	85.3	0.31%	1311.4	4.78%
Mazeikiai r.	67.4	71006	2844	4.01%	939.6	1.32%	405.2	0.59%	4188.8	5.90%
Pakruojis r.	29.3	32834.3	897.1	2.73%	499	1.52%	70.5	0.21%	1466.6	4.47%
Palanga	17.7	29791.2	960.2	3.22%	348.6	1.17%	120.2	0.40%	1429	4.80%
Panevezys r.	42.6	47143.1	1480.6	3.14%	368.9	0.78%	93.2	0.23%	1942.7	4.12%
Radviliskis r.	51.8	48838	2034	4.16%	717	1.47%	239.1	0.47%	2990.1	6.12%
Taurage r.	53.1	49423.9	1532.2	3.10%	538.5	1.09%	238.9	0.48%	2309.6	4.67%
Varena r.	30.9	32395.8	991.5	3.06%	753.8	2.33%	81.8	0.25%	1827.1	5.64%
Vilkaviskis r.	50	48853.4	1814.9	3.71%	665.3	1.36%	128.8	0.26%	2609	5.34%
<b>Total/average in Lithuania</b>	<b>3491.5</b>	<b>3315803</b>	<b>116135</b>	<b>3.50%</b>	<b>45011.8</b>	<b>1.36%</b>	<b>13587.8</b>	<b>0.41%</b>	<b>174735</b>	<b>5.27%</b>

Heating costs are prevailing among expenses for energy needs. Absolute figures in thousand LTL and its changes during past 4 years are shown in fig 2.



**Figure 2. Heating costs**



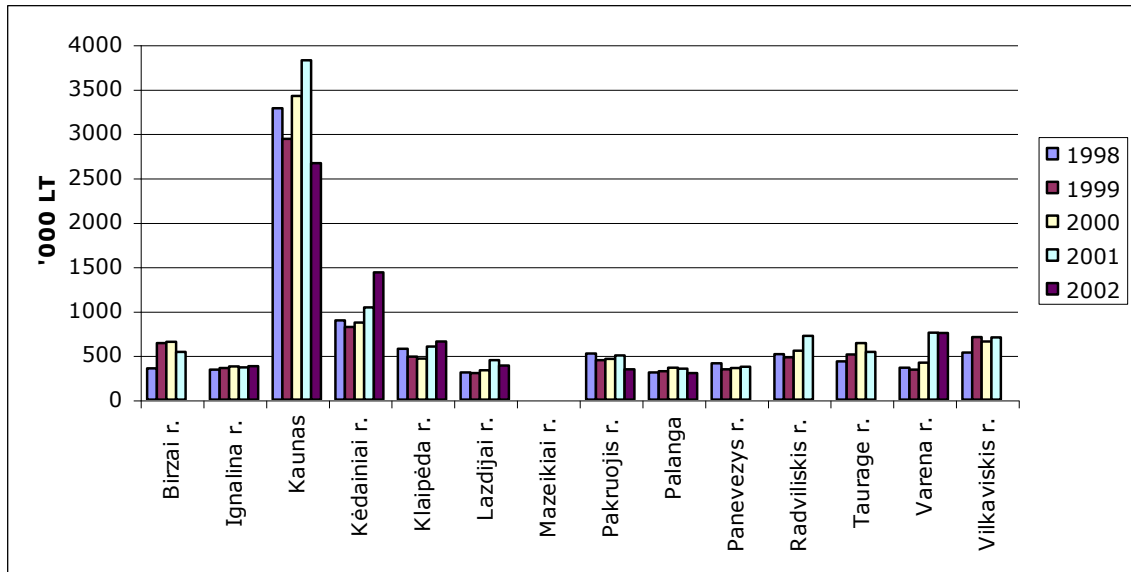
**Figure 3. Relative heating costs and DH tariffs in municipalities**

Above figures demonstrate heating cost differences between municipalities. Relative expenses vary more than two times – from 10 LTL in Ignalina to 23 LTL in Palanga. Highest heat tariff are in Lazdijai, Birstonas, Birzai and Vilkaviskis (table 3).

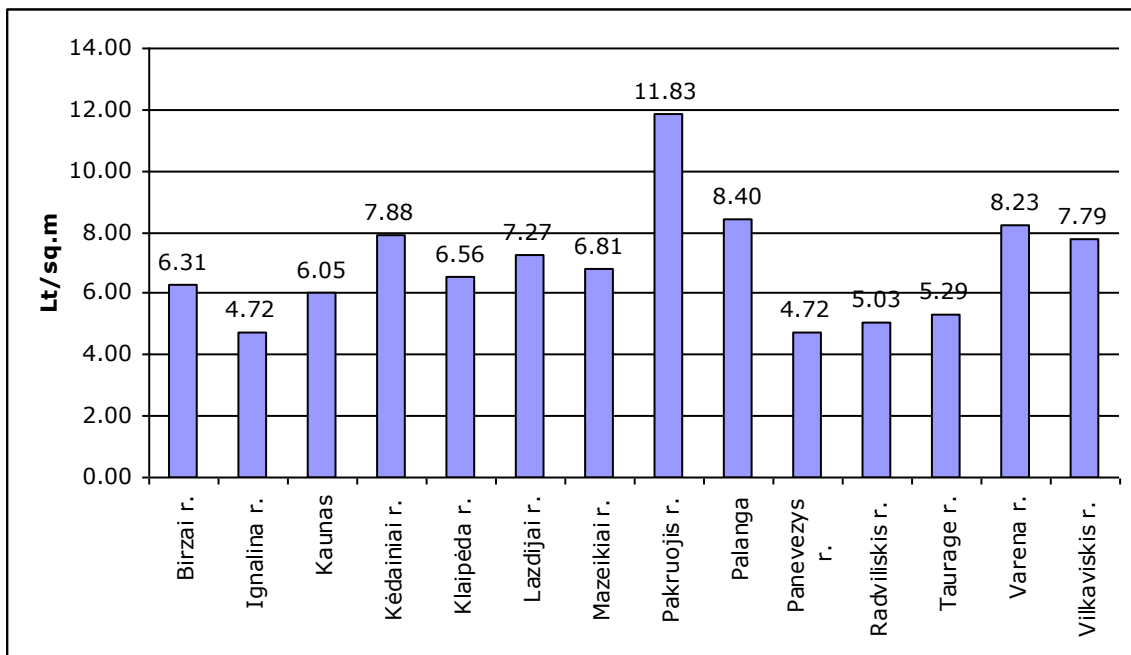
**Table 3. Heating costs and DH tariffs**

	Municipality	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Heating costs Lt/sq. m	DH tariff Lt/MWh	N/G availab
1	Birstonas							147	Y
2	Birzai r.	1751.4	1938.2	1316.5	1598.9	0	18.8106	145.7	Y
3	Ignalina r.	1097	966	834	775	820	10.0404	108.8	N
4	Kaunas	13468.9	9249.7	12707.6	9537.1	7558	15.0861	117.22	Y
5	Kėdainiai r.	2604	2478	2216	2226	2616	16.9044	105.35	Y
6	Klaipėda r.	2140.25	2192	1241	1741	1477	19.0567	99	Y
7	Lazdijai r.	1439.5	1634.2	1245.8	781.3	910.9	12.7776	159.3	N
8	Mazeikiai r.	3232	2884	2844	2500		20.6006	137.3	N
9	Pakruojis r.	1524	1148	1087	897	727	21.2684	160	Y
10	Palanga	1181.9	1053.5	917.7	960.2	907	23.1429	111.5	Y
11	Panevezys r.	2049.7	1544.8	1579	1484.7	0	18.9505	105.35	Y
12	Radviliskis r.	2507	2068	1499	2034		14.2637	130.37	Y
13	Taurage r.	1649.8	1401.9	1213.3	1532.2	1500	15.0654	137	N
14	Varena r.	1267.8	1033.6	995.4	991.5	900	10.821	138	N
15	Vilkaviskis r.	1672.5	2226.1	1760.8	1638.5	0	21.2518	143	N

Costs for electricity makes rather small part of total budget expenses –1-2%. Opposite to heating costs, they are growing in most cases (Fig. 4). Big relative electricity cost's differences can be observed in different municipalities (Fig. 5). Annual electricity costs differ almost 3 times.



**Figure 4. Budget expenses for electricity.**

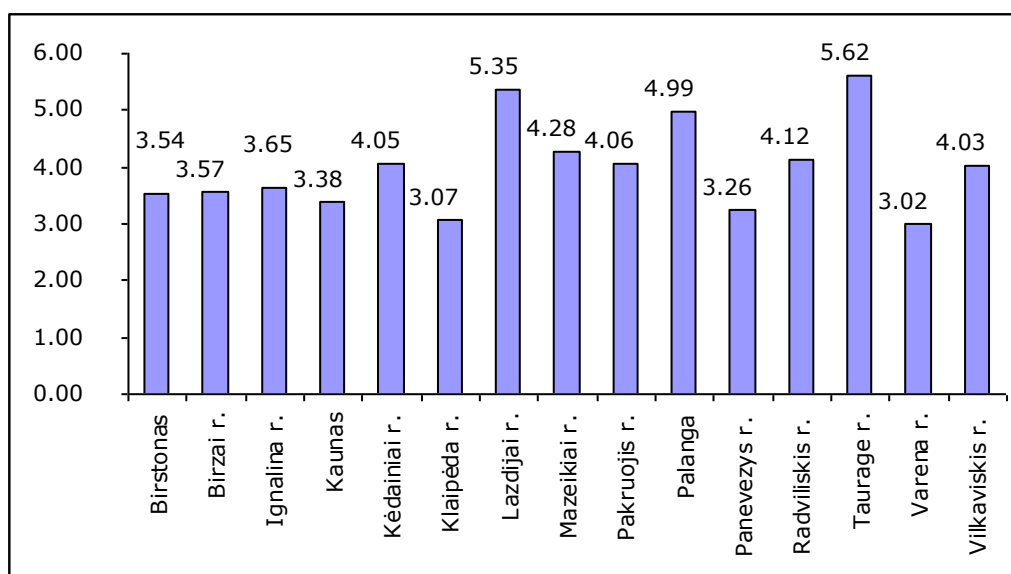


**Figure 5. Relative costs of electricity**

Least part of expenses makes water supply. In most cases it is less than 0.5% of municipal budget (Table 2). Total energy costs are in the range 4.4- 6.2% of total budget expenditures. Total (or average) figures for the whole Lithuania are presented in the last row of table 2.

### 2.3 Water tariffs

Water supply costs are rather small in budget allocations. Nevertheless, its part in household expenses can't be neglected. Water supply tariffs in municipalities are presented in figure 6 below. The fact, that water prices in different municipalities differ about two times show, that there is big room for cost efficiency improvements, including energy efficiency.



**Figure 6. Water supply tariffs**

## 2.4 Investments to the energy sector, including building renovation.

Almost all municipalities show their investments to the municipal buildings. The figures from the survey of municipalities are presented in the table below and in Figure 6. With regard to total area of municipal buildings, average relative investment per square meter of building lays in the range 20-50 LTL/sq. m. Such investment is in line with building renovation survey results, which demonstrate, that relatively lower investments usually are economically more efficient, than higher. The question that should be clarified – are these investments directly related with energy efficiency?

**Table 4. Investments to the renovation of buildings**

	Municipality	Investments by year					Total 1998-2002 '000 LTL	Relative investment LTL/sq. m
		1998 '000 LTL	1999 '000 LTL	2000 '000 LTL	2001 '000 LTL	2002 '000 LTL		
1	Birstonas	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	Birzai r.	352.8	636.9	650.4	536.3	N/A	2176.4	25.60
3	Ignalina r.	339	356	372	364	378	1809	23.44
4	Kaunas	3280.1	2936.3	3421.3	3823.8	2664.2	16125.7	25.51
5	Kėdainiai r.	891	817	866	1038	1434	5046	38.32
6	Klaipėda r.	572	485	463	599	654	2773	30.35
7	Lazdijai r.	307.1	300.3	330.1	444.8	384.3	1766.6	28.89
8	Mazeikiai r.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
9	Pakruojis r.	518	444	458	499	342	2261	53.60
10	Palanga	306.7	321.3	359.7	348.6	298	1634.3	39.39
11	Panevezys r.	408.3	341.6	355.2	368.4	N/A	1473.5	18.86
12	Radviliskis r.	512	477	551	717	N/A	2257	15.83
13	Taurage r.	431.2	506.9	634.8	538.5	N/A	2111.4	20.76
14	Varena r.	358.5	337.6	414.5	753.8	750	2614.4	28.53
15	Vilkaviskis r.	529.5	702.7	655	699.7	N/A	2586.9	30.29

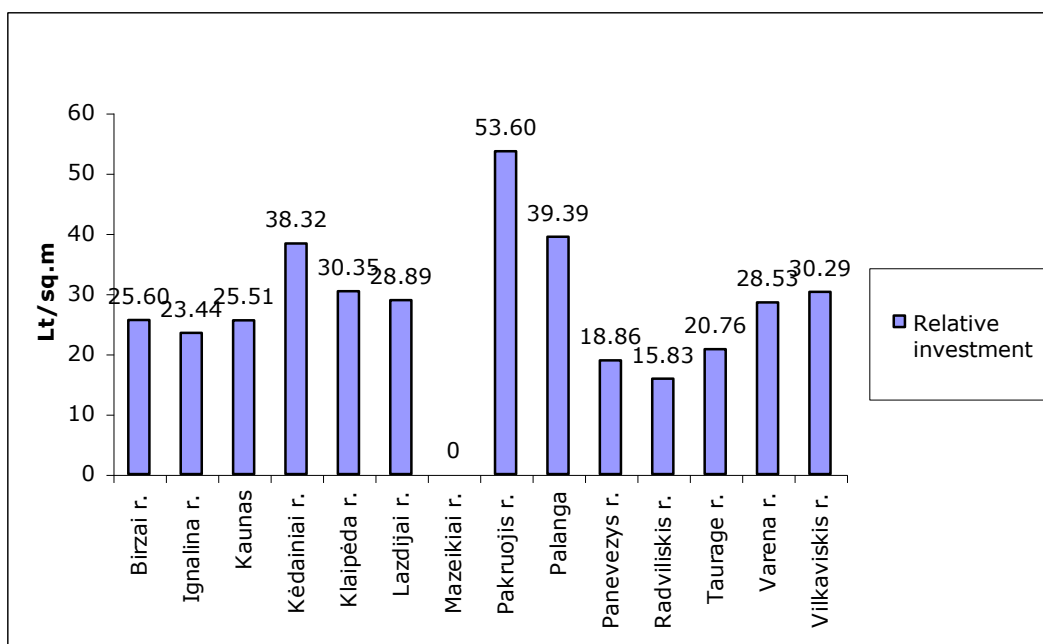


Figure 7. Relative investments into buildings.

## 2.5 Municipal debts and borrowing limits.

Data on municipal debts are extracted from annual report on state and municipal budgets (Table 5). It can be stated that no municipality exceeds allowed by laws borrowing limits. Palanga has no debts, while Varena, Ignalina, Lazdijai and Kaunas are close about exhausting their borrowing limits.

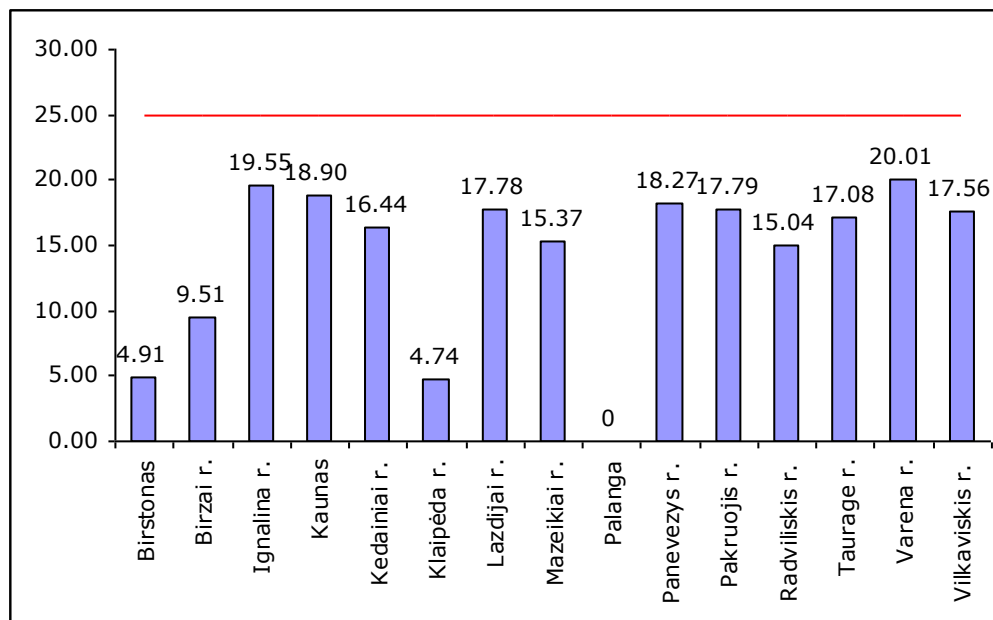
Table 5. Municipal debts and borrowing limits as of 1 January 2001

'000 LTL

MUNICIPALITY	Confirmed income for 2001	Total municip. debt	Debt versus income (%), (limit-25%)	Annual borrowing		Annual debts versus confirmed income		Current year payments: principal and interests	
				Total	Short-term	Total (limit-15%)	Short-term (limit-10%)	Sum (LTL) (limit-15%)	Percentage from income
Birstonas	12794	628	4.91	550	550	4.30	4.30	0	0.00
Birzai r.	35584.2	3384	9.51	2264.1	550	6.36	1.55	550	1.55
Ignalina r.	28117	5496	19.55	1700	0	6.05	0.00	0	0.00
Kaunas	315231	59569	18.90	11651	0	3.70	0.00	0	0.00
Kėdainiai r.	60483	9945	16.44	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Klaipėda r.	45781.5	2168	4.74	1733.5	0	3.79	0.00	0	0.00
Lazdijai r.	28127.3	5000	17.78	3991.3	0	14.19	0.00	0	0.00
Mazeikiai r.	70960	10907	15.37	10361	6893.7	14.60	9.71	0	0.00
Palanga	26480.6	0							
Panevėžys r.	44181.2	8071	18.27	5671.8	800	12.84	1.81	0	0.00
Pakruojis r.	32938	5858	17.79	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Radviliskis r.	48792	7336	15.04	0	0	0.00	0.00	127	0.26
Taurage r.	48873	8348	17.08	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Varena r.	31527	6307	20.01	900	900	2.85	2.85	381.8	1.21
Vilkaviskis r.	45238	7946	17.56	4905	4329	10.84	9.57	38	0.08

<b>Total in Lithuania</b>	<b>3261746.0</b>	<b>447348.4</b>	<b>13.71</b>	<b>126727.9</b>	<b>55650.3</b>	<b>3.89</b>	<b>1.71</b>	<b>10841.9</b>	<b>0.33</b>
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Besides Palanga, among well-standing municipalities are Birstonas, Birzai and Klaipeda, having debts lower than 10% of their budgets.



**Figure 8. Municipal debts versus borrowing limits.**

### **3 Evaluation of Survey results for selection of municipality for IRP.**

Primary evaluation of survey data was done according to the main criteria for implementation IRP approach:

1. Existence of computerized DB of DH consumers and networks: 9 municipalities have such databases – Birstonas, Kaunas, Kedainiai, Klaipeda region, Pakruojis, Palanga, Panevezys region, Radviliskis region and Vilkauskis. However not all of them have related databases for consumers and networks.
2. Scale factor: It is not realistic to prepare energy plan for Kaunas city using available resources within agreement. The same problems can arise while choosing Panevezys or Kedainiai.
3. Vilkauskis and Palanga DH networks are rented to ESCO companies, and municipalities have limited possibilities to impact DH supply.
4. Municipal debts: Birstonas and Klaipeda region are among municipalities having less debts.
5. For further discussions Birstonas, Klaipeda, Radviliskis and Kaunas can be considered as most suitable for Implementation of IRP approach.

## 4 ANNEXES

### 4.1 Letter to Municipalities

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the name of USAID, Alliance to Save Energy and their partners in the region of the countries in transition we hereby invite You to participate in the Municipal Network for Energy Efficiency (MUNEE).

The main goal of the project is to establish the network for experience exchange in more efficient municipal energy planning.

Project MUNEE covers most East and Central European countries. Poland, Romania, Hungary, Ukraine, Russia, etc. participate in it since year 1999 already.

Lithuanian has joined this project in year 2001 only with the favour of the Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania.

The main project contractor for Lithuania is the Department of Regional Energy Development of Lithuanian Energy Institute (headed by M.Tamonis). Department has gained wide experience and is well aware of the problems in Lithuania's municipalities, with which they deal in management and planning of district heating sector. The manager of mentioned project from Lithuania's side is dr. Vaclovas Kveselis, senior research associate of the department. Project coordinator from Alliance side – Ms. Angela Morin.

Here all municipalities are kindly asked to fill the enclosed questionnaire and after having received Your answers and Your readiness to participate in the project, 2-3 municipalities will be selected, to which municipal energy planning system will be developed, including software for integrated resources planning, during the project. All interested municipalities will be invited to discuss project results achieved.

Selection of the municipalities for implementation of the system of integrated resources planning and training of the staff will be performed on the basis of following criteria:

- Willingness of the municipality to participate in the project,
- The scale of district heating market,
- Number of housing associations and it's percentage in the total number of multi-block houses,
- Municipal energy sector management structure and qualification of the staff,
- Number of objects, to which supply of energy resources is financed from the municipality or state budget, as well as their debts to district heating companies.

Priorities will be given to municipalities, facing greatest problems in district heating sector.

For successful performance of the project we would wish to receive Your answers till January 20, 2002. Answers should be sent on the following addresses:

E-mail: [ykv@isag.lei.lt](mailto:ykv@isag.lei.lt)

Fax no: 370-7-401971

In case of any questions or uncertainties do not hesitate to contact us by phones: 370-7-401931 (V.Kveselis) or 370-7-401930 (M.Tamonis)

Regards,

Project manager in Lithuania

Vaclovas Kveselis

## 4.2 Questionnaire to municipalities

Your answers will be interpreted as the readiness to participate in MUNEE project.

1. Municipality: .....

  - 1.1. Address: .....
  - 1.2. Phone no: .....
  - 1.3. Fax no: .....

2. Department of the municipality, responsible for energy planning: .....

  - 2.1. Head of Department (name, family name) .....
  - 2.2. Phone ..... Fax ..... E-mail .....
  - 2.3. Staff number at the Department .....
  - 2.4. Number of staff using PC .....

3. Number of objects, to which energy supply is financed from municipal budget ..... and heated area ..... m<sup>2</sup>. Total residential stock area ..... m<sup>2</sup>, incl. residential area heated by district heating .. m<sup>2</sup>.
  - 3.1. Distribution of energy costs of municipal objects vs. years, thousand Lt.
 

Years	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 (forecast)
Sum, thous. Lt					
Heating					
Electricity					
Value of debts					
Investments for renovation of objects					
  - 3.2. Structure of these objects depending upon heated area:
    - schools, educational institutions ..... m<sup>2</sup>
    - hospitals, health protection institutions ..... m<sup>2</sup>
    - administrative buildings ..... m<sup>2</sup>
    - other ..... m<sup>2</sup>
4. To attach budget expenditure structure for 3-4 recent years according to available form sheet or give the website, where this data is published.
5. District heating company of Your municipality: (sign correct answer).
  - Have computer data basis on consumers (clients): Yes , No ,
  - Have computer data basis on district heating network: Yes , No
6. Municipality is ready to present more detailed data in the process of the project and assign a contact person for further performance of the project .....

(Name, family name, title, phone, fax, e-mail)

Positive answer to the question 6 will be considered as Your agreement to join this project.

## 4.3 SHORT KNOWLEDGE ABOUT MUNICIPALITIES

### **Birstonas.**

It is a new municipality consisting of Birstonas town and the neighborhood of its vicinity the territory of which earlier was a part of Prienai area.

The main settlement of the neighborhood is Birstonas resort situated in the center of the Nemunas bights Regional Park and in the area of the international highway Via Baltica. Historical sources first mentioned Birstonas in the 16th century and in the early 19th century people started to use the mineral water of Birstonas for treatment. In 1846 a health resort was established.

The town is free of any industry polluting environment except the mineral water bottling enterprise. The resort's economy continues to develop in two ways: tourism, entertainment, public services; health resort treatment and recreation. Country people are also cultivating agriculture.

The municipality of Birstonas keeps relations with 8 foreign municipalities.

[www.birstonas.lt](http://www.birstonas.lt)

### **Birzai**

No one is able to match the mastery of the brewers of Birzai Region. But region is famous not only for its beer. We also have the Likenai health resort with its curative mineral water, the Birzai Castle Manor where memories of an honourable past are preserved. The karstic area is also interesting, and a puzzle to scientists. The underground waters can also play unpleasant tricks, such as when a 10 meter deep pit suddenly opens up in the middle of a field.

The region has a well-planned network of roads, fertile soil, many industrial enterprises with a bright future, and various interesting places for visitors. An excellent opportunity is afforded by the nearby highway, the Via Baltica. Therefore, we are looking forward to new and mutually beneficial projects, especially in the area of tourism.

[www.lsa.lt/nariai/birzu\\_r.html](http://www.lsa.lt/nariai/birzu_r.html)

### **Ignalina**

The most impressive ancient forest in the country, the biggest variety of lakes, intricate mazes of watercourses linking the large and small lakes where you can row your boat to the waterways which lead to the Baltic Sea, the country's only bee-keeping museum, the A. Hrebnickis memorial museum in Rojus, the only hill with a view of seven lakes, wooden village architecture from centuries past, the country's most popular centre for tourism and relaxation in Paluse, and Lithuania's first national park – these are the greatest treasures of region.

The region has no large industrial enterprises and the soils are not particularly fertile, but the well-developed road network, the railway linking the region to Vilnius and Daugavpils (Latvia), the cultural, historical and archaeological monuments, remarkably scenic views and numerous forests and lakes have for many years prompted scientists and planners to look for ways of developing tourism, holidaymaking and agrotourism.

[www.is.lt/ignalina/](http://www.is.lt/ignalina/)

### **Kaunas.**

Kaunas is the second largest city of Lithuania, which has always been striving to be a leader. For years Kaunas has been a major centre of the nation's spiritual resistance and struggle for national identity. For twenty years Kaunas was a provisional capital.

Kaunas has 9 schools of higher education (together with their branches), 20 research institutes and establishments. 26 libraries, 7 professional theatres, 10 amateur theatres, 20 folk ensembles and a great variety of other art groups lead cultural life of the city. Kaunas is famous for sportsmen.

Kaunas is an important transport centre with two intersecting transport axes. One of them connects Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania with the countries lying to the south. This is Via Baltica road. The other comes from the East and goes as far as Klaipeda city. This factor facilitates creating a free economic zone (LEZ) and encouraging investment. There are plans to build a railway line of the European standard reaching Kaunas; consequently, major motorways, waterways, airways and railways would intersect in Kaunas.

[www.kaunas.lt](http://www.kaunas.lt)

### **Kedainiai**

Situated by the Nevezis river, is one of the oldest cities in Lithuania. It is first mentioned in the 1372 Livonia Chronicle of Hermannus de Wartberge. Many monuments of archaeology, history, architecture and art, together with the Old Town tell of Kedainiai glorious past.

The city is the administrative centre of the region. The geographical centre of the present Lithuanian Republic is in the nearby village of Ruosciai, in Dotnuva sub district. The Lithuanian Institute of Agriculture was established in Academia in 1956. We have good communications. The railway, major road network and the Via Baltica (Tallinn-Warsaw highway) open many opportunities for co-operation with various business sectors, both within Lithuania and abroad.

For a long time, Kedainiai has been famous for its chemical and food processing industries. Following the years of stagnation, old enterprises have come back to life, and new ones have been established. More and more people are starting up their own businesses, and agriculture is developing successfully.

[www.kedainiai.ten.lt](http://www.kedainiai.ten.lt)

### **Klaipeda**

At first we were astonished when the first torches of natural gas flared up in the fields of our region. Subsequently, we began to look more carefully into what other wealth may be hidden under the ground. We plan to use geothermal heated water for domestic heating, and have plentiful resources of inert building materials.

At some distance from the sea lie areas of intensive agriculture. Scientists develop new agricultural technology at the Vezaiciai branch of the Lithuanian Institute of Agriculture. Although our forest cover is less than the national average, our foresters work particularly well.

The good motorway and main road network, railways, the airports at Klaipeda and Palanga, and port facilities provide our businesses with excellent opportunities for expanding their markets. Tourism and agrotourism have good prospects. Klaipeda and Palanga need a well-organised entertainment industry. In some remote localities the results can already be seen in village farmsteads, approaching the Couronian Lagoon.

[www.lsa.lt/nariai/klaipedos\\_r.html](http://www.lsa.lt/nariai/klaipedos_r.html)

### **Lazdijai.**

We can say with confidence that travellers' reports about our area are few and far between. Tourists have yet to discover our places of interest. This is hardly surprising, because during the Soviet occupation anyone visiting the regions around the Soviet border was carefully monitored. Such "stewardship" meant that the border areas most suitable for recreation were little visited for a long time.

We have a good road network, which is supplemented by the Sestokai railway junction (where the Russian gauge meets the European standard gauge). We have a particularly scenic landscape, productive forests, agricultural land of average fertility, and little industry. These are the main factors that are influencing our interest in the development of tourism, recreation and agro tourism. One of the most important border crossings links us to the Polish Republic. We are seeking to improve and establish fresh infrastructure to serve visitors and the local population, and are therefore looking forward to new ideas and projects.

[www.lazdijai.lt](http://www.lazdijai.lt)

### **Mazeikiai.**

When one thinks of Mazeikiai today, one typically thinks of the joint-stock company "Mazeikiu nafta" (Mazeikiai Oil), the only oil refinery in the Baltic States. For quite a while the oil refining industry in region has been paid much attention.

However, the land is associated not only with the oil business, but has a tradition of agriculture and forestry. Crops grow well in our soils of average fertility. Our farmers are learning the intricacies of processing agricultural produce, and our foresters take good care of their woods.

We have a convenient road network, and a railway which links region to Liepaja and Ventspils (both in Latvia) and via Siauliai to the entire Lithuanian railway network. These provide good conditions for businesses associated with petroleum products. However, this is not the limit of our activity. A profitable secondary activity could be the development of an infrastructure for tourism.

[www.lsa.lt/nariai/mazeikiu\\_r.html](http://www.lsa.lt/nariai/mazeikiu_r.html)

### **Pakruojis.**

Pakruojis Region is a land of plains and of the farmers who settled there. The remains of many manors and windmills are evidence of a long-standing agricultural tradition. Pakruojis Manor is one of the most beautiful, best restored and best looked after manors in the whole country. A museum has been founded here, and the concert and exhibition halls remind visitors about the glory of the area's past, and reflect its present life.

After geologists discovered the region's upper Devonian dolomite strata, the construction material industry became the most important in the region.

There are good road links to Siauliai, Panevezys and the centres of the Pasvalys and Joniskis regions.

[www.siauliai.aps.lt/pakruojis/](http://www.siauliai.aps.lt/pakruojis/)

### **Palanga.**

This is the only place by the sea to share the fantastic pleasure and romance of the sunset from the pier standing over the waves. This is Palanga. We invite you to visit the resort of Palanga, to enjoy the warmth of the dunes and beaches of white sand. 200,000 holidaymakers visit Palanga from Lithuania and neighbouring countries on a summer's day. The hotels and rest homes, the owners of cottages and cafes, restaurants and the entertainment centre look forward to welcoming you to Palanga.

It is not only holidaymakers that are strongly attracted here. Any businessman can find a great variety of options here. Palanga is connected to other towns by good roads. Both in summer and in winter you can use the modern airport. In Kretinga, 8 km away, there is a railway station.

[www.palanga.lt](http://www.palanga.lt)

### **Panevezys.**

Panevezys Region lies in the province of Samogitia, in the northern part of the Central Lithuanian Plain. The region has a good main road network, making it very easy to reach Ukmerge, Vilnius, Kedainiai, Siauliai, Birzai, Kupiskis and Riga (Latvia). There is a railway that links Panevezys with Siauliai and Daugavpils (Latvia).

Panevezys Region is an agricultural land. The soil is suitable for agricultural development. Upyte has a flax cultivation research centre. Industry is not heavily developed, being mainly small enterprises. Tourism is growing in the region. The Krekenava regional park is particularly suited to recreation. The region has a rich cultural heritage. There are many interesting museums.

We have numerous cultural monuments, scenic rivers, large forests, fertile soils, and a large city nearby. These factors are conducive to the development of business in the fields of agriculture, forestry, hunting, tourism and agro tourism.

[www.panrs.lt](http://www.panrs.lt)

### **Radviliskis.**

Radviliskis is an important railway junction. From here one can reach Liepaja and Riga (Latvia), St. Petersburg and Moscow (Russia), Minsk (Belarus), L'viv (Ukraine), and Kaliningrad, not to mention Lithuanian cities. The region has one of the country's largest carriage and locomotive depots, as well as machinery, food, timber processing and peat extraction industries, and light industry.

Fertile soil is common throughout the region. Many interesting features of nature and culture beckon the tourist. Radviliskis is linked to Siauliai, Panevezys and Kedainiai.

[www.siauliai.aps.lt/radviliskis/](http://www.siauliai.aps.lt/radviliskis/)

### **Taurage.**

The direction of the economic development of Taurage Region has been determined by a roadway, linking the major part of Lithuania with the province of Kaliningrad that belongs to Russia, as well as a railway track going along it.

The specialists-urbanists of Lithuania have rightly assessed the geopolitical significance of the region. In the interwar period industrial enterprises were being built, which in its turn encouraged the development of the city. During the transitional period under the laws of market economy, the directions of the activities changed. At present the most important production of the region includes peat, timber, furniture, construction bricks and drainage tubes, products of meat, dairy, bread and confectionery, combined forage, flax fibre, as well as assembled reinforced-concrete constructions. During the recent years light industry underwent rapid development and many foreign joint-stock companies were launched. Meat and grain processing companies also work steadily and successfully.

[www.taurage.lt](http://www.taurage.lt)

### **Varena.**

The Yotvingian diligence, sincerity and sonority can be attributed to the encompassing forests, the wind-blown sandy soils and the effort needed to work them. From ancient times has Dzukija (Yotvingia) resonated with cheerful songs. The Yotvingians cherish their ancient customs, making verbas, weaving sashes, and carving crosses. Particularly beautiful landscapes can be found in Dzukija National Park and Cepkeliai state reservation.

The well developed road network, the railway connecting Varena with Vilnius and the Belarussian and Polish republics, the soils of medium and poor fertility, the woods and rivers, the many cultural and natural treasures, the unique Yotvingian village environment and the original Yotvingian way of life all have their influence on the future of our region. Particular attention is given to projects, which stimulate tourism and holidaymaking.

[www.lsa.lt/varena/](http://www.lsa.lt/varena/)

### **Vilkaviskis.**

Vilkaviskis Region has from ancient times been known for its abundant harvests of grain, sugar beet and potatoes. Our region has a convenient geographical location, being next to the Polish republic and Russia's Kaliningrad enclave. The region is easily accessible to foreign business partners as the important Vilnius–Marijampole–Kaliningrad motorway and the Kaliningrad-Vilkaviskis-Moscow railway cross it.

In June 1997 the “Nemunas”. This quickened negotiations concerning the opening of a new border crossing point at Varteliai. There appears to be a real opportunity for the development of tourism around Vystytis Lake. The Vilkaviskis balneological-geothermal project was prepared, which plans the use of geothermal energy for domestic heating, the founding of a health and fitness centre, and the reconstruction and expansion of the city.

[www.vilkaviskis.lt](http://www.vilkaviskis.lt)

## 4.4 MAIN FACTS ABOUT MUNICIPALITIES

### BIRŠTONAS

**Territory:** 12407 ha, of which 6945 ha are forests, 4251 ha - agricultural lands, 279 ha - water areas, 102 ha - roads, 350 ha - developed area, 478 ha - area of other designation.

**Population:** 5,5 thousand inhabitants, 45,45% men, 54,55% women (*According to the data of the population census of 2001*)

**Municipality facilities:** 2 post offices, a bus station, a ghat, a hotel, a kindergarten, primary school, joint kindergarten-school, basic school, a secondary school, a school of art, a public library and 3 branches, a cultural centre, 2 churches, a museum, a bank, a book-shop, various objects of cultural value, a sport complex, a dispensary, 2 drugstores, 2 sanatoriums, 13 shops, 8 public catering establishments.

It is a new municipality consisting of Birštonas town and the neighbourhood of its vicinity the territory of which earlier was a part of Prienai area.

The main settlement of the neighbourhood is **Birštonas resort** situated in the centre of the Nemunas bights Regional Park and in the area of the international highway Via Baltica. Historical sources first mentioned Birštonas in the 16th century and in the early 19th century people started to use the mineral water of Birštonas for treatment. In 1846 a health resort was established.

The town is free of any industry, polluting environment except the mineral water bottling enterprise. The resort's economy continues to develop in two ways: tourism, entertainment, public services, health resort treatment and recreation. Country people are also cultivating agriculture.

The municipality of Birštonas keeps relations with 8 foreign municipalities.

Birštonas is situated in the southern part of Lithuania at the one of the bends of the Nemunas River. In 1966 it gained the status of the town of republican subordination.

First time the name of Birštonas was mentioned in 1382. Vygand of Marburg Chronicle mentions "a farmstead at the salty water" (Birstain or Birstan). The wooden castle of Birštonas is also referred to in descriptions of the routes to Lithuania by Crusaders' scouts; these descriptions, surviving from the period of 1384-1402, include the above-mentioned names of Birštonas. In the early 19th century, Teodoras Narbutas, a researcher into the Lithuanian history, discovered these documents in the secret archives of Königsberg. The master of the castle, Vytautas the Great, was a keen hunter. For hunting sessions the game would have been driven into the forest surrounded by the Nemunas bend from Trakai and Aukštadvaris; that is why the forest is still called Zverincius (a place full of beasts).

In 1414 a famous Flemish traveller Gilibert de Lanua visited the region and was the first one to mention the Birštonas Castle. Sources tell that escaping from plague epidemic the Grand Duke of Lithuania Kazimieras Jogailaitis with his family spent there the winter of 1473. The hunting estate had been expanding rapidly and it became known as Birštonas town in 1518. The first church there was built in 1549 (rebuilt in 1643). The town was severely damaged during the 17th century wars against Russia.

In the 19th century the town became far-famed with its sources of mineral waters that had healing effect. The first patients were treated with mineral water already in 1846 and the year is considered to be the beginning of the town as a resort. Since then, Birštonas has been receiving patients from such cities as Warsaw and Petersburg. Until World War I, more than 2,000 people visited the resort annually.

From 1924 Birštonas was subordinate to Lithuanian Red Cross organisation. The park was cleaned out, new buildings and running water system were built, and water springs put in order. In 1924 the production of bottled mineral water from Birštonas springs Birute and Vytautas was started at the hotel Lietuva in Kaunas. Later on the production process was moved to a small plant in Birštonas. Buildings for mud treatment procedures were built in 1927, while buildings for mineral water procedures - in 1931.

In 1939 the monument to Doctor Jonas Basanavicius (sculptor A. Aleksandravicius), a leader and ideologist of Lithuanian national movement, was erected in Birštonas and stands there to this day. World War II

severely damaged the town; the fire destroyed the most beautiful building of the town, kurhauz (it was rebuilt later) as well as the pictures by famous painter Kazys Simonis that were kept in it.

Professor Balys Sruoga, a Lithuanian writer, came to Birstonas to recover and be treated at the Baltoji vila (White Villa) Sanatorium after the years in Stutthof concentration camp, in 1946. In Birstonas he wrote his best novel *Dievu miskas* (Forest of the Gods). Here the monument to Balys Sruoga (sculptor G. Plechavičius) was built.

Birstonas hydrographical network includes the Nemunas River, the Druskupis rivulet, mineral springs, and wells. When the Kaunas Hydroelectric power station was put in operation, the water level of the Nemunas by Birstonas increased. After 1959 flood, 2.2 m of length embankment was made to protect the town from floodwater.

In 1959 "Tulpe" Sanatorium, having long-term traditions of balneological treatment, was founded. In 1989 treatment of oncological diseases and rehabilitation treatment for post-operation patients was started. There functions specialised departments for patients with nervous system disorders, and joint and oncological diseases as well.

"Versme" Sanatorium, founded in 1975, provides rehabilitation and sanatorium treatment services, by using traditional methods (natural mineral water baths and unique curative mud) as well as balanced diets, medicine treatment and other methods. In 2001 a curative salts chamber was set up, as well as a cosmetologic curative chamber with a turbo-solarium.

The history of the town is introduced at the history museum that was opened in 1967. It has a conventional exposition and two exhibit halls. Museum archives contain about 6,000 pieces. The museum organises meetings, exhibitions, and lessons of history. A sacred museum commemorating Cardinal V. Sladkevičius and Archbishop J. Matulionis has been founded.

The beginning of secondary education dates back to 1796, when the first primary school was opened in Birstonas. It keeps contacts with Kolding Bakke School in Denmark, Leck School in Germany, and Bykle and Hovden Schools in Norway.

Art School has operated in Birstonas since 1978. Students can take grand piano, accordion, violin, clarinet and guitar classes. The painting section was opened in 1986; children's creative group, "Molinukas", was set up at it.

The nursery school-kindergarten Vyturėlis was opened in 1987. Nowadays education there is based on ethnic traditions.

The town is proud of its cultural life. Concerts, theatre events, conferences take place at the 500-seat Birstonas cultural centre hall (movies films are demonstrated). Meetings with interesting people, exhibits, contests and disco parties are organised at the small hall of the centre. The cultural centre also includes wood carving studio Uosiukas, photography studio Varpas, theatre studio, women, riflemen and ex-deportees choruses, and music and dancing groups. Such popular events as international jazz festival Birstonas, sports dancing contest Birstono ruduo, and International J.Valunas Cup Ballooning competition, are organised.

The town has a public library, which contain more than 70,000 publications and 3,000 videotapes, vinyl records, compact discs.

Newly established sports and tourism information centre organises sports events, and provides tourism services. An Olympic rowing centre provides perfect conditions for training and practising indoors and outdoors as well. 80-bed dormitory for sportsmen is available at the centre.

The Nemunas Bend Regional Park is an adorable place for relaxation and tourism. The length of the Nemunas in the park territory is 79 km (see p. 453). On the left bank of the Nemunas River in the Alksniakiemis pinewood, stretches a sculptural pathway to commemorate victims of Stalinism.

New architecture dominates the town, though there are some late 19th - early 20th century villas, too. Neogothic St Anthony of Padua Church, built in 1909, highlights the town.

Participants of an international folk art camp produced an ensemble of wooden sculptures near the church, on the "Hill of Songs".

On August 21, 1995 the President of the Republic of Lithuania confirmed the coat of arms of the Birštonas town. It reflects the special features of the resort: the mythological fish from whose back fountains water, symbolises the background of resort's past and present.

On July 17, 1998 in the park of Birštonas, the statue of Vytautas the Great (by G. Jakubonis) was opened.

The town popularises the art of minor plastics (23 works); sculptors' meetings take place there.

## **BIRŽAI**

**Territory:** 147,6 thousand hectares (*According to the data of the municipality*)

**Population:** 35 thousand inhabitants, 46,86% men, 53,14% women (*According to the data of the population census of 2001*)

No one is able to match the mastery of the brewers of Biržai Region. But region is famous not only for its beer. We also have the Likėnai health resort with its curative mineral water, the Biržai Castle Manor where memories of an honourable past are preserved. The karstic area is also interesting, and a puzzle to scientists. The underground waters can also play unpleasant tricks, such as when a 10 meter deep pit suddenly opens up in the middle of a field.

The region has a well-planned network of roads, fertile soil, many industrial enterprises with a bright future, and various interesting places for visitors. An excellent opportunity is afforded by the nearby highway, the Via Baltica. Therefore, we are looking forward to new and mutually beneficial projects, especially in the area of tourism.

The region of Biržai lies in the far north of Lithuania, approximately 20 kilometers from the Lithuanian - Latvian border. Two hundred and fifteen kilometers north of Vilnius and roughly 90 kilometers south of Riga, Biržai is conveniently located just 20 kilometers off the main highway linking the two nations' capitals.

Evidence shows that people lived in the area of Biržai as long as 5000 years ago, and Biržai was first mentioned as a settlement in 1455. Although Biržai was besieged several times during wars since then, the town has always rebuilt itself rapidly, a fact that not only reflects the tenacity of Biržai's citizens, but also the desirability of Biržai's beautiful countryside.

A wonderful destination for both the culture lover and the naturalist, the Biržai region is home to 110 cultural monuments, 17 lakes, 17 landscape preserves. In fact, Biržai takes its name from the Lithuanian "biržė", which means glade. To preserve the region's landscape, its natural ecosystem, and its cultural heritage, and to ensure that they are well-maintained and used sensibly, Biržai regional park was established in 1992. In addition, there is the 18070 hectare Biržai forest where rebels frequently hid themselves over the years. It's still a great place to escape to.

While you're there, have a look at the monument which marks the final resting place for some of the rebels.

At the center of the district is the city of Biržai. Home to approximately 17000 residents, the city is situated on the confluence of the Apaščia and Agluona rivers. Both rivers were dammed in the 16th century, creating the beautiful 340-hectare Širvėna Lake just next to the town center. The oldest man-made lake in Lithuania, Širvėna is spanned by the nation's longest footbridge and is frequented today by fishermen, wind surfers, rowers and anyone else looking for a place to relax in the sun.

In 1586, the construction of a castle - complete with bastions, ramparts, moat and drawbridge - began on the banks of Širvėna Lake. On the same site today is the recently reconstructed Duke Radvilas palace, one of the city's most interesting attractions. The palace houses the Biržai regional museum with its diverse exhibitions on regional art, history and nature. The palace is also the site of many concerts and other cultural events and is the home of the comfortable Biržai library. On the opposite banks of Širvėna Lake stands another residence from antiquity - the Astravas palace - which is now the administrative headquarters of Biržai's linen company.

Among Biržai's other architectural points of interest are its lovely churches. St. John the Baptist's Church, completed in 1861, is noted for the unity of its interior and exterior forms and is mentioned in B. Kviklys' *Churches of Lithuania* as one of the nation's most beautiful churches. Just around the corner is another splendid piece of architecture - the Church of the Evangelical Reformers.

Of course, Biržai's renown does not only lie in the past. Today, Biržai is home to several nationally-known businesses. Biržai's numerous breweries, each producing unique, natural beers, rightfully earn the city the reputation of Lithuania's beer capital. Of course, Biržai boasts dozens of other shops, restaurants, cafes and accommodations, which together make Biržai a delightful spot for both the resident and the tourist.

In the late 16th century, Biržai was granted a privilege forcing all merchants en route to Riga to stop first in Biržai. While the decree no longer is in effect today, tourists and passers-by are still drawn to Biržai for many other reasons. We hope you, too, will be drawn to us soon.

## **IGNALINA**

**Territory:** 150,5 thousand hectares (*According to the data of the municipality*)

**Population:** 23 thousand inhabitants, 47,39% men, 52,61% women (*According to the data of the population census of 2001*)

The most impressive ancient forest in the country, the biggest variety of lakes, intricate mazes of watercourses linking the large and small lakes where you can row your boat to the waterways which lead to the Baltic Sea, the country's only bee-keeping museum, the A. Hrebnickis memorial museum in Rojus, the only hill with a view of seven lakes, wooden village architecture from centuries past, the country's most popular centre for tourism and relaxation in Paluse, and Lithuania's first national park – these are the greatest treasures of region.

The region has no large industrial enterprises and the soils are not particularly fertile, but the well-developed road network, the railway linking the region to Vilnius and Daugavpils (Latvia), the cultural, historical and archaeological monuments, remarkably scenic views and numerous forests and lakes have for many years prompted scientists and planners to look for ways of developing tourism, holidaymaking and agrotourism.

The Ignalina region was populated during the Stone Age, with remnants from early camps discovered throughout the countryside. The current territory of the City of Ignalina includes four former settlements: Ignalina, Vasivai (Dekaniskes), Budriai and Vilkakalnis villages, of which the oldest is Budriai. The age of this village was determined by the traces of a settlement found on Ilgis Lake. Here, on the Rudakampis Peninsula, stood a wooden castle, burnt by the Crusaders in the 12th century. Close by, on Siekstis Lake near the Winter Sports Center, there are mounds (9-12th century), which according to the legends were "poured together with the caps of Napoleon's soldiers."

When Lithuania was under Russian rule in the 19th century, the Russian emperor ordered a railway line built from St. Petersburg to Warsaw via Vilnius. Ignalina became an important railway station in the 1860's, which triggered a dynamic development of the region. During World War I, Germany required that another railway line be built from Ignalina towards the front line. The greater part of the territory belonged to Poland after the war, with a small section given to Belarus. During the post-war period, the City had a population of 510.

Construction of the Catholic Church was started in 1935. Four years later, the Vilnius region was captured by Soviet troops. Following World War II, Ignalina saw a rapid growth, especially after 1950 when the town became the district centre.

In 1996, the population of the City reached 7,200 people, with 25,000 residing in the District, and has remained at that level; 82 percent are Lithunians. The construction of a new church was completed in 1999. Unfortunately, the old Jewish Synagogue and Orthodox Church, as well as a wooden railway station (built in 1886) have not survived. Therefore, the oldest building here is the stone tower of the railway station, dating back to 1872.

Ignalina and the District encompass over 200 lakes, such as Gavys, Gavaitis, Delinis, Gulbinis, Agarinis, Siekstys (with the Lithuanian Winter Sports Center beside it), Darzinele, Viksvojas, Paviksvojas, Krakinis, Ziezulinis, Ilgys, Meksrinis, Peledinis, Pplovinis, Palaukinis (nearby is an ancient Jewish cemetery). The majority of these lakes are linked with rivers.

The City is surrounded by lakes, and topped with the forested Vilkakalnis Hill (208 m), upon which are TV and fire towers. Small roads and trails connect the lakes and nearby forests. Several different environmental regions make Ignalina very interesting to people wanting to observe various fauna and flora.

Aukštaitija National Park, established in 1974 as the first in Lithuania, comprises 21,100 ha. with primarily forests and 102 lakes. The Park is a year round nature and recreational center with headquarters located just 3 km. from Ignalina.

## **KAUNAS**

Territory. The whole area of the city is 15,7 thousand ha, out of which: 6,8 thousand ha is covered by structures, 0,1 thousand ha - by roads, 1,8 thousand ha - by agricultural areas, 2,2 thousand ha - green areas, 1,2 thousand - water, 3,6 thousand ha - by arears of other purpose.

According to the population census of 2001, 381,3 thousand people reside in Kaunas, out of which men constitute 172,1 thousand, and women - 209,2 thousand. The population density per 1 sq km in 2001 was 2428.

Kaunas is the second largest city of Lithuania, which has always been striving to be a leader. For years Kaunas has been a major centre of the nation's spiritual resistance and struggle for national identity. For twenty years Kaunas was a provisional capital.

Kaunas has 9 schools of higher education (together with their branches), 20 research institutes and establishments. Cultural life of the city is led by 26 libraries, 7 professional theatres, 10 amateur theatres, 20 folk ensembles and a great variety of other art groups. Kaunas is famous for sportsmen.

Kaunas is an important transport centre with two intersecting transport axes. One of them connects Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania with the countries lying to the south. This is *Via Baltica* road. The other comes from the East and goes as far as Klaipeda city. This factor facilitates creating a free economic zone (LEZ) and encouraging investment. There are plans to build a railway line of the European standard reaching Kaunas, consequently, major motorways, waterways, airways and railways would intersect in Kaunas.

Kaunas was fated to become the capital of Lithuania in the 20th year of the last century, which can be considered the Gold Age of the city governed by its first Burgomaster Jonas Vileisis. History tells that even before this date the city, situated at the confluence of the rivers Neris and Nemunas, experienced more than one Age of Gold. Kaunas lived through prosperous times and years of devastation, but it came up again replacing ruins with new white-towered buildings, the magnificence of which became known in the most distant lands.

In 1408, Magdeburg rights were granted to the city of Kaunas by the privilege of Vytautas the Great. In accordance with the current privilege, we aim to turn our city into a modern place with the developed economy and high culture.

Kaunas with its 400 thousand inhabitants is one of the most significant cities of the country these days. It is not only the city of old traditions, but also a large centre of business and industry. Indeed, Kaunas is the city of youth with over 24 thousands students studying in five Universities of Kaunas.

Our city is open for friends and co-operation partners. We kindly give our hands to investors, who choose our city not because of the cheap labour force, but because of the high-competence specialists able to solve the most complicated tasks. The day when the first companies start functioning in the Kaunas Free Economic Zone will come soon. Their production will reach the largest markets of the world and make the name of Kaunas known there.

There are so many things that we want to show and share with our friends. Therefore, we will feel honoured seeing You in such international cultural events as "Kaunas Jazz" festival and the annual "Pazaislis Music Festival", exhibition "Kaunas 2002" and the Rockers Fiesta. Our guests will always be welcome at the newest hotels, clubs and concert halls of the city. Each of You will be given a chance to see that the city near the rivers Neris and Nemunas is occupied with studies, work and preparation for festivals, but the people here will give their hearts to make their guests feel happy.

## **KĖDAINIAI REGION**

**Territory:** 167,7 thousand hectares

**Population:** 66,3 thousand inhabitants, 46,76% men, 53,24% women (*According to the data of the population census of 2001*)

**Kedainiai**, situated by the Nevezis river, is one of the oldest cities in Lithuania. It is first mentioned in the 1372 Livonian Chronicle of Hermannum de Wartberge. Many monuments of archaeology, history, architecture and art, together with the Old Town tell of Kedainiai's glorious past.

The city is the administrative centre of the region. The geographical centre of the present Lithuanian Republic is in the nearby village of Ruosciai, in Dotnuva subdistrict. The Lithuanian Institute of Agriculture was established in Akademija in 1956. We have good communications. The railway, major road network and the Via Baltica (Tallinn-Warsaw highway) open many opportunities for co-operation with various business sectors, both within Lithuania and abroad.

For a long time, Kedainiai has been famous for its chemical and food processing industries. Following the years of stagnation, old enterprises have come back to life, and new ones have been established. More and more people are starting up their own businesses, and agriculture is developing successfully.

**Kedainiai** - situated in the middle of the Lithuanian lowland on the banks of the Nevezis River, Kedainiai is a regional industrial center. The history of the town has been calculated since 1372, when the name of the settlement was mentioned for the first time in written sources. Kedainiai was granted town rights in 1590. In 1614, Kedainiai and its surrounding areas fell to the Radvilas (Radziwills), one of the most influential families of that time. The Radvilas were supporters of the reformation, and established a Reformation center in Kedainiai. It was there that Calvinists and religious emigrants from Scotland and other European states took shelter from the Jesuits. The competition, which took place in the 16th and early 17th centuries between the Reformists and the Catholics, was quite beneficial for Lithuanian culture. Competing among themselves, they established schools and published many books. In 1651, a printing-house was built in Kedainiai, and later a paper shop began to operate. As many as six market squares formed in Kedainiai at that time - an urban phenomenon in Lithuania. There were more than ten artisan workshops operating in the town, and a Reformist church, a town hall, and many other buildings were erected. However, the period of prosperity ended in the 18 century when the town was plagued by attacks of the Swedes, disease, famine, and fire. The town only began to revive a bit in 1871, when a railway was built through the region and industry began to grow.

Upon arriving in Kedainiai, take a look around the town itself. Most of the monuments of the old town can be found in the big market square and the surrounding streets, which were formed in the 16th and early 17th centuries. Although much of the town was destroyed during various wars and fires, Kedainiai is still one of the few Lithuanian settlements, which can be proud of its old town as an urban monument.

The former Kedainiai town hall was rebuilt in 1653-1654. The two-story stone building was L-shaped and had a clock tower. On the first floor there were stores, and on the second - the court and governmental institutions. The jail and the archives were located in the basement of the building. The town hall also housed one of the first pharmacies in Lithuania (established in either 1650 or 1655). In 1960 the building was renovated, and in 1983 it was given back its original appearance.

Next to the town hall is the former Calvinist church (1631-1653) and bell tower (18th century). The Renaissance church with four Baroque towers was erected during the period of religious wars, which is perhaps the reason for its fortress-like appearance. The lifeguard angular bell tower is completely Baroque.

The 17th century Scottish merchant house is still standing. The so-called Rector House, which was built around 1660, was where the rectors of the Kedainiai School lived. Both buildings face away from the street and are connected by an arch. The form and layout are reminiscent of Lithuanian residential houses.

There are architectural monuments farther away from the central square as well. The Church of St. George looms like a fortress on the high bank of the Nevezis. The first church in that place was built in the 15th-16th centuries, and later rebuilt in the 18th-19th centuries. At first the church was purely Gothic in style, but it later acquired Baroque features as well. On the other end of the town, behind the bus station, is a 17th century Renaissance Lutheran church. There is also a monument of Lithuanian independence next to the railway station.

## KLAIPĖDA REGION

**Territory:** 133,6 thousand hectares

**Population:** 46,5 thousand inhabitants, 47,59% men, 51,61% women (*According to the data of the population census of 2001*)

At first we were astonished when the first torches of natural gas flared up in the fields of our region. Subsequently, we began to look more carefully into what other wealth may be hidden under the ground. We plan to use geothermally heated water for domestic heating, and have plentiful resources of inert building materials.

At some distance from the sea lie areas of intensive agriculture. Scientists develop new agricultural technology at the Vezaiciai branch of the Lithuanian Institute of Agriculture. Although our forest cover is less than the national average, our foresters work particularly well.

The good motorway and main road network, railways, the airports at Klaipeda and Palanga, and port facilities provide our businesses with excellent opportunities for expanding their markets. Tourism and agrotourism have good prospects. Klaipeda and Palanga need a well organised entertainment industry. In some remote localities the results can already be seen in village farmsteads, approaching the Couronian Lagoon.

## LAZDIJAI REGION

**Territory:** 128,3 thousand hectares

**Population:** 27,1 thousand inhabitants, 47,97% men, 52,03% women (*According to the data of the population census of 2001*)

We can say with confidence that travellers' reports about our area are few and far between. Tourists have yet to discover our places of interest. This is hardly surprising, because during the Soviet occupation anyone visiting the regions around the Soviet border was carefully monitored. Such "stewardship" meant that the border areas most suitable for recreation were little visited for a long time.

We have a good road network, which is supplemented by the Sestokai railway junction (where the Russian gauge meets the European standard gauge). We have a particularly scenic landscape, productive forests, agricultural land of average fertility, and little industry. These are the main factors which are influencing our interest in the development of tourism, recreation and agrotourism. One of the most important border crossings links us to the Polish Republic. We are seeking to improve and establish fresh infrastructure to serve visitors and the local population, and are therefore looking forward to new ideas and projects.

## MAŽEIKIAI REGION

**Territory:** 122 thousand hectares

**Population:** 67,4 thousand inhabitants, 47,33% men, 52,47% women (*According to the data of the population census of 2001*)

When one thinks of Mazeikiai today, one typically thinks of the joint-stock company "Mazeikiu nafta" (Mazeikiai Oil), the only oil refinery in the Baltic States. For quite a while the oil refining industry in region has been paid much attention.

However, the land is associated not only with the oil business, but has a tradition of agriculture and forestry. Crops grow well in our soils of average fertility. Our farmers are learning the intricacies of processing agricultural produce, and our foresters take good care of their woods.

We have a convenient road network, and a railway which links region to Liepaja and Ventspils (both in Latvia) and via Siauliai to the entire Lithuanian railway network. These provide good conditions for businesses associated with petroleum products. However, this is not the limit of our activity. A profitable secondary activity could be the development of an infrastructure for tourism.

## **PALANGA**

**Territory:** 7,9 thousand hectares

**Population:** 17,7 thousand inhabitants, 45,76% men, 54,24% women (*According to the data of the population census of 2001*)

This is the only place by the sea to share the fantastic pleasure and romance of the sunset from the pier standing over the waves. This is Palanga. We invite you to visit the resort of Palanga, to enjoy the warmth of the dunes and beaches of white sand. Palanga is visited by 200,000 holidaymakers from Lithuania and neighbouring countries on a summer's day. The hotels and rest homes, the owners of cottages and cafes, restaurants and the entertainment centre look forward to welcoming you to Palanga.

It is not only holidaymakers that are strongly attracted here. Any businessman can find a great variety of options here. Palanga is connected to other towns by good roads. Both in summer and in winter you can use the modern airport. In Kretinga, 8 km away, there is a railway station.

## **PANEVEŽYS REGION**

**Territory:** 217,7 thousand hectares (*According to the data of the municipality*)

**Population:** 42,6 thousand inhabitants, 48,12% men, 51,88% women (*According to the data of the population census of 2001*)

Panevezys Region lies in the province of Samogitia, in the northern part of the Central Lithuanian Plain. The region has a good main road network, making it very easy to reach Ukmerge, Vilnius, Kedainiai, Siauliai, Birzai, Kupiskis and Riga (Latvia). There is a railway which links Panevezys with Siauliai and Daugavpils (Latvia).

Panevezys Region is an agricultural land. The soil is suitable for agricultural development. Upyte has a flax cultivation research centre. Industry is not heavily developed, being mainly small enterprises. Tourism is growing in the region. The Krekenava regional park is particularly suited to recreation. The region has a rich cultural heritage. There are many interesting museums.

We have numerous cultural monuments, scenic rivers, large forests, fertile soils, and a large city nearby. These factors are conducive to the development of business in the fields of agriculture, forestry, hunting, tourism and agrotourism.

The Panevezys Region is situated in a favorable geographical position. People have been living on the land around the Nevezis and the Lėvuo rivers since the Stone Age. Later, the territory of the nowadays region was the border for the lands populated by the Baltic tribes - Ziemgaliai, Seliai, Lithuanians.

Prior to the time the Lithuanian state got established, all of the present territory of the Panevezys Region was a part of the Upyte Land, first time mentioned in 1254. During the war with Livonia Upyte was an important Lithuanian fortress: in the XIV century the Livonian knights made 11 raids to the Upyte Land. Among the settlements devastated during such raids were Molainiai, Nevezininkai, Ramygala, Svaininkai, Vaisvilaičiai, Velzys.

In 1413 the Upyte Land became the district of the Trakai Voivode County. On ending of the wars with Livonia, Upyte lost its importance as a defense point, and the castle that used to stand there is reminded only by a mound, which is now called the Cicinskas Hill. The offices of the former Upyte land administration were moved to Krekenava, and later, in 1568, to the rapidly growing Panevezys.

The XVI century was the significant period in the country's history. The land reform was followed by the development of agriculture, and felling of trees in the forests yielded larger areas of arable land. First schools appeared: in the years between 1528 to 1533 the catholic parish school was opened in Krekenava, and in 1583 the noblemen Valavicius founded a school to the Reformation church.

The centuries that followed were not favorable for development of the region due to various wars, famine, and plague. However, we have the Smilgiai Church, the pearl of architecture in the region, built in 1764 surviving from those times.

After the third partition of the Lithuanian-Polish Union in 1795, the Uplytė County as well as the biggest part of Lithuania were annexed by the Russian Empire. Our land was affected by majority of the historic events of the XIX century: the Napoleon soldiers' march through Smilgiai and Panevezys in the direction of Bauska, the uprising of 1830-1831 and to greater extent the uprising of 1863-1864. During the Lithuanian language prohibition period the remote Garsviai Village of the Naujamiestis District for a decade (1885 to 1895) became the center for one of the biggest book spreaders society, members of which were J. Bielinis, K. Udra, A. Ladukas, and others.

The XIX century was important in economic development of the region. On abolition of serfdom the landlords had to introduce changes - unproductive labor of serfs had to be replaced by work for hire. The economic development was prompted by the broad gauge railway from Radviliskis to Daugavpils built in 1873, and the narrow gauge line from Panevezys to Svencionėliai installed in 1901.

Quite a number of stone buildings was built during the XIX century: the Bistrampolis and Naudvaris manor ensembles, the Rodai, Nevezninkai, Tiltalgaliai chapels, and at the turn of the century the Krekenava and Naujamiestis churches.

The start of the XX century gave hopes that new life would start: on abolition of the Lithuanian language prohibition the Lithuanian language schools got established in Eriskiai, Silai, Berciūnai, Velzys, and Paistrys. During the Stolypin reform the villages began splitting into homesteads.

However, everything was ruined by the WW1.

In the course of restoration of the independent Lithuania, the battles between the Bolsheviks and the Lithuanian volunteers took place on the territory of the present region.

During the Independence period our region was famous for well-developed agriculture. Beside milk, livestock, grain production it was growing good quality flax and sugar beets. Much attention was devoted to building roads and bridges. Already in 1933 the first asphalt roads to Pajuostis, to Ramygala (1935 to 1936) and Pumpėnai (in 1937 to 1938) were built. New bridges were built in Krekenava and Paliūniskis, the narrow-gauge railroad Panevezys-Joniskėlis was installed. New schools were opened in Bernatoniai, Sujetai, Smilgiai, Ramygala, and etc.

Again, the first Soviet and the Nazi occupations stopped the growth of the country. During the post-war period the residents of the area actively joined the resistance movement. The first partisan units got together in 1944. The resistance movement was suppressed in 1953, however, for several more years sole partisans continued fighting against heavy odds.

The first collective farms appeared on fertile lands of the Panevėžys area during the overall collectivization. In 1947 the Ėriškiai and Smilgiai collective farms, and in 1949 the Atžalynas, Paežerys, Pergalė and Tiesa (in 1982 renamed to the SSSR 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) collective farms got established. As the region was situated around the city of Panevezys, a number of specialized state farms were founded like horticulture farm in Dembava (1948), vegetable growing in Miežiskiai (1959) and Naujarodžiai (1966). The collective farms were integrated and amalgamated many times. In 1986 the Panevezys Region had 21 collective farms, 8 state farms and 2 experimental farms. The Ėriškiai and the SSSR 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary farms were famous outside Lithuania. Many famous researchers worked in the Baltic Regional Poultry (founded in 1968) and the Uplytė Flax (founded in 1941) research stations.

On re-institution of Independence the collective farms got dissolved. In 1997 there were 5125 farmers and 167 agricultural companies. The Berciūnai, Jotainiai, Smilgiai and Zibartoniai agricultural companies are the strongest ones.

In 1979 the Krekenava Interfarm Livestock enterprise (now-Krekenava Agrofirma) was founded. Out of the industrial enterprises situated in the region the Raguva Dairy plant is famous in Lithuania for its cheese.

The Panevezys Region, as an administrative unit, was formed on June 20, 1950 and included 43 countryside districts. The borders of the region have been changing and the last review was done 1980. At present the region has 11 elderates.

### **RADVILIŠKIS REGION**

**Territory:** 163,5 thousand hectares

**Population:** 51,8 thousand inhabitants, 47,68% men, 52,32% women (*According to the data of the population census of 2001*)

Radviliskis is an important railway junction. From here one can reach Liepaja and Riga (Latvia), St. Petersburg and Moscow (Russia), Minsk (Belarus), L'viv (Ukraine), and Kaliningrad, not to mention Lithuanian cities. The region has one of the country's largest carriage and locomotive depots, as well as machinery, food, timber processing and peat extraction industries, and light industry.

Fertile soil is common throughout the region. Many interesting features of nature and culture beckon the tourist. Radviliskis is linked to Siauliai, Panevezys and Kedainiai.

### **TAURAGĖ REGION**

**Territory:** 117,9 thousand hectares (*According to the data of the municipality*)

**Population:** 53,1 thousand inhabitants, 46,70% men, 53,30% women (*According to the data of the population census of 2001*)

The direction of the economic development of Taurage Region has been determined by a road way, linking the major part of Lithuania with the province of Kaliningrad that belongs to Russia, as well as a railway track going along it.

The specialists-urbanists of Lithuania have rightly assessed the geopolitical significance of the region. In the interwar period industrial enterprises were being built, which in its turn encouraged the development of the city. During the transitional period under the laws of market economy, the directions of the activities changed. At present the most important production of the region includes peat, timber, furniture, construction bricks and drainage tubes, products of meat, dairy, bread and confectionery, combined forage, flax fibre, as well as assembled reinforced-concrete constructions. During the recent years light industry underwent rapid development and many foreign joint-stock companies were launched. Meat and grain processing companies also work steadily and successfully.

In the Southwest of Lithuania on the bank of Jūra River, at Kaliningrad ( Russia ) – Riga ( Latvia ) road there lies Taurage. The area of the Taurage district is 118 thousand hectares and the population is 56 thousand inhabitants.

The name of Taurage originates from two words : taurus meaning ( aurochs ) and ragas meaning ( horn ). It reminds us that aurochs lived in these lands and craftsmen tauragiai used to make bugles, weapons, and cups from the horn to drink midus ( mead ), an

ancient Lithuanian alcoholic beverage made of honey.

In written documents Taurage is mentioned first at the beginning of 16 th century, but establishment of the roots of the town reach earlier times ( 13 th – 14 th centuries ).

Today not only is Taurage the center of the district but also the center of the whole County, the major industrial, commercial and provision – ments town within the county.

The largest party of industry is concentrated in Taurage. After the changes in the market, the standarts for production became higher.

The major branches of local industry include the following : peat, timber, furniture, bricks and drainage pipes, meat and dairy products, bread and confectionery products, combined fodder, flax fiber, concrete, and printed circuit boards for electronic industry. During recent years, there has been development in the industry many textile enterprises with foreign partners have been established.

Small and medium enterprises are the primary chain of economic structure in Taurage.

Individual ( personal ) enterprises and closed joint – stocked companies make up the largest part of all small and medium businesses in Taurage.

The industry of agriculture is developing too. Two forms of farming are popular at this time, private farms and agricultural companies. Private formers are getting stronger every year as the number of agricultural is decreasing. At present 25 joint stock companies, 113 closed corporations, 1105 personal enterprises, 45 agricultural companies and 32 companies of other status are established in the territory of the region.

The following large companies of Taurage district were profitable : JSC “Tauragės maistas” ( meat and its products ), CC “ Švytis”, CC “ Mira Baltic” ( manufacturing of wearing apparel ), R. Petrauskas Commercial Manufacturing Personal Enterprise “Molupis” (manufacture of food products ), A. Petrikis General Partnership “Erra” ( manufacture of construction, household materials ), CC “ Tauragės grūdai” (manufacture of combined fodder ), CC “Alantas” (manufacture of furniture ), JSC “ Telga” (manufacture of printed slabs ), V. Latukas Personal Enterprise “ Taurų ūkininkas” ( transportation of cargoes by local and international roads ).

The activity of these companies already demonstrates that Taurage citizens are more disposed to manufacture rather than provide service or trade.

Foreign businessmen who are ready to permanently or temporally come to the Taurage district could implement their business plans in very short term and the municipality is ready to assist in receiving concrete advice and assistance when establishing the company. A very high percentage of foreign direct investment – 23 855 thousand Litas ( compare with 24 800 thousand Litas in the whole country ) demonstrates the fruitful work in the right direction. That is one of the highest indicators among rural regions of the whole Lithuania. Taurage offers not expensive and well – preserved and administrative premise to be purchased or rented, whereas the most important things is that Taurage citizens with good qualification and professional knowledge are always available.

Taurage is famous not only for their people who have built the town, developed industry and modern business, but also for its culture, education, sports and other spheres.

## VARĖNA REGION

**Territory:** 222,9 thousand hectares

**Population:** 30,9 thousand inhabitants, 47,90% men, 52,10% women (*According to the data of the population census of 2001*)

The Yotvingian diligence, sincerity and sonority can be attributed to the encompassing forests, the wind-blown sandy soils and the effort needed to work them. From ancient times has Dzukija (Yotvingia) resonated with cheerful songs. The Yotvingians cherish their ancient customs, making verbas, weaving sashes, and carving crosses. Particularly beautiful landscapes can be found in Dzukija National Park and Cepkeliai state reservation.

The well developed road network, the railway connecting Varena with Vilnius and the Belarussian and Polish republics, the soils of medium and poor fertility, the woods and rivers, the many cultural and natural treasures, the unique Yotvingian village environment and the original Yotvingian way of life all have their influence on the future of our region. Particular attention is given to projects which stimulate tourism and holidaymaking.