



# Lithuania

## 1 Which bioeconomy-related policy strategies exist?

In Lithuania, the government supports bioeconomy development mainly in the area of biotechnology. In 2006, the government approved the “**National Industrial Biotechnology Development Programme**” (2007–2010). Even though the program was not pursued any further due to the financial crisis, it was relaunched for the period from 2011 to 2013.

Biotechnology is also considered a key area in Lithuania’s “**Programme on the Implementation of the Priority Areas of Research and (Socio-Cultural) Development and Innovation (Smart Specialization) and their Priorities**” (2014) which is linked to the country’s “**Innovation Development Programme**” (2014–2020).

## 2 Is the term “bioeconomy” or “biobased economy” used in the strategy documents?

Yes No

X

## 3 Who is the author of the strategies?

The “**National Industrial Biotechnology Development Programme**” was approved by the Ministry of Economy in 2006. The government Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology (MITA) is responsible for implementing the program.

The smart specialization program (2014) was developed under the guidance of the Ministry of Education and Science and is implemented by the Research and Higher Education Monitoring and Analysis Center (MOSTA).

## 4 What are the key goals of the strategies?

While the national biotechnology program (2011–2013) mainly seeks to strengthen Lithuania's high-tech industry, it also aims to reduce the country's dependence on imported, fossil fuels. Furthermore, it aims to increase added value for agricultural and forestry products.

The smart specialization program (2014) promotes economic growth and the contribution of “high added-value, knowledge-intensive and highly-qualified-labor-intensive economic activities”<sup>20</sup> to the GDP.

<sup>20</sup> Lithuania. Ministry of Education and Science, 2014.

## 5 What are the priority areas of the strategies?

The biotechnology program (2011–2013) mainly focuses on technology development in order to process local biomass resources. It stresses the importance of biotechnology for producing bioplastics, second-generation biofuels, biopharmaceuticals and animal drugs, in addition to biobased materials. Further priority is put on environmental biotechnology, on initiating pilot and demonstration projects, and on promoting infrastructure investment and the commercial use of side products and waste products.

Biotechnology received attention in the smart specialization program (2014) under the priority area of “agro-innovation and food technologies”.

The program contains an action plan which emphasizes the sustainable use of agro-biological resources and the need for safe food. Functional food is considered important for improving public health and well-being. In this respect, the action plan highlights the promotion of technology development and R&D investment, the creation of knowledge-intensive businesses and clusters, and the commercialization of R&D results by promoting cooperation between research and business. The action plan further encourages the development of biorefinery plants.

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