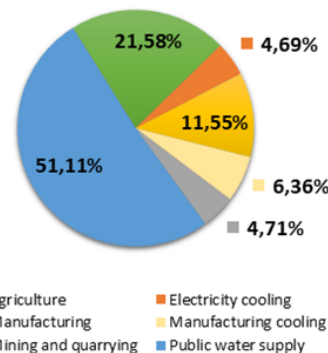
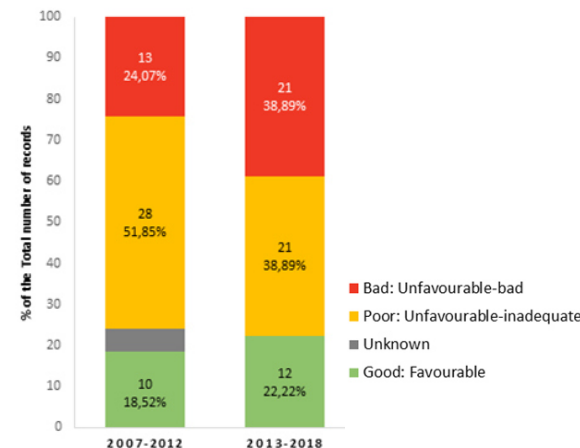


# of inhabitants **2.8 million**  
Surface area **62 643 km<sup>2</sup>**  
GDP per capita **90 pps [1]**  
Significant bodies of water (RBDs) **Nemunas**  
Polity **parliamentary democracy and decentralised unitary state**  
Layers of government **central government; 60 municipalities**  
Legislative powers at the sub-national level **No**  
Decentralisation index **1.5 (17 out of 27) [2]**  
Water Exploitation Index plus (WEI+) **0.38% (2019) [3]**



Water abstraction per sector in Lithuania - Source: EEA (2022)



Conservation status for habitats in 2007-2012 and 2013-2018 in Lithuania - Source: EEA (2021)



Water bodies with less than good ecological status in Lithuania - Source: EEA (2021)

### Main actors responsible for WEFE nexus relevant governance

#### NEXUS PILLARS

#### POLICY MAKING

#### POLICY EXECUTION

**Water**

Ministry of Environment

Environmental Protection Agency

**Energy**

Ministry of Energy,  
Ministry of Environment

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**Food**

Ministry of Agriculture

--

**Ecosystems**

Ministry of Environment

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More information on  
WEFE nexus  
governance in the EU

[1] EU purchasing power standard

[2] <https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Decentralization-Index.aspx>

[3] The threshold for water scarcity is set at > 20%

[4] <https://naturalit.lt/en/home/>

### WEFE NEXUS PERSPECTIVE

#### CHALLENGES

- Restore river hydromorphology
- Assess the necessity of new modifications to water bodies
- Improve coordination of water and nature policy frameworks
- Support the full implementation of wastewater treatment facilities
- Address surface water eutrophication from agriculture

#### OPPORTUNITIES

- **EU LIFE project NATURALIT (2018-2027)[4]:**
  - strengthen country's Natura 2000 network
  - promote environment-friendly farming and sustainable use of forests
  - raise public awareness of ecological issue
- Major reductions in water use following the **shut down of the nuclear energy facility**
- Lithuania's **Recovery and Resilience Plan** aims to invest in on & offshore renewable energy plants (solar and wind)
- Well-developed **network of water quality monitoring stations**
- Significant **reductions in releases of heavy metals** (e.g. cadmium, mercury, nickel and lead) and **organic carbon**

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