



17–19 September 2026

VILNIUS, LITHUANIA

DEVELOPMENT OF RESILIENT CITIES AND REGIONS

THE 5th LITHUANIAN GEOGRAPHERS' CONGRESS AND INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL CONFERENCE

Together with EUGEO 2026 General Assembly and Seminar



INVITATION

We invite you to the most significant event of this decade for Lithuanian geographers – the **5th Lithuanian Geographers' Congress** and the international scientific geographical conference **“Development of Resilient Cities and Regions”** which will take place on September 17–19, 2026, in Vilnius at the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences.

On the first day of the conference, September 17, the **General Assembly of the member countries of the Association of Geographical Societies in Europe (EUGEO)** for 2026 and an **EUGEO seminar** on the topic of geography communication will also take place.

The event is organised by the Lithuanian Geographical Society, the Institute of Geosciences at Vilnius University, the Division of Biology, Medicine, and Geosciences and the Climate Commission of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, and EUGEO.



A BIT OF HISTORY...

The first Lithuanian Geographers' Congress took place during the interwar period in Lithuania; it was held in 1938 in Kaunas, the capital of Lithuania at the time. Afterwards, congresses were held only after Lithuania regained its independence, taking place in 1999, 2014, and 2020. This Congress is dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the geography departments at Vilnius University, the country's largest academic institution in the field of geography.

TOPIC OF THE CONGRESS

With the increasing scale of urbanization, cities and regions are important subjects of multidisciplinary research in contemporary geography. Geographers and the science of geography, with its various natural, social, and hybrid branches, as well as interdisciplinary approaches, have much to offer cities and regions seeking solutions to overcome climatic, ecological, social, economic, urban, geopolitical, cultural, and other challenges. Having moved beyond the basics of descriptive science, today geographical concepts, knowledge, a comprehensive approach, spatial analysis and modeling, and other quantitative and qualitative interdisciplinary methods used by geographers are becoming the foundation for the governance of states, cities, and regions, as well as for spatial planning and the development of strategic visions. This Congress aims to strengthen geographical scientific ideas and discussions, develop networks of collaboration among geographers from different fields, and make a valuable contribution to the communication of geographical science to the public.

The conference invites speakers to present papers in these six thematic sessions:

1. **GEOPOLITICAL CHALLENGES AND NATIONAL RESILIENCE FROM A GEOGRAPHICAL PERSPECTIVE**
2. **URBAN CLIMATE**
3. **SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENTS IN CITIES AND REGIONS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN UNSTABLE TIMES**
4. **GEOGRAPHY AND GEOGRAPHERS IN SPATIAL PLANNING**
5. **LANDSCAPE HORIZONS 2026: A LANDSCAPE APPROACH**
6. **EUGEO SEMINAR: THE IMPORTANCE OF GEOGRAPHICAL COMMUNICATION**

This 6th session is also an EUGEO seminar intended primarily for EUGEO national representatives, but everyone is welcome to participate and contribute their thoughts.

Detailed session descriptions begin on page 4.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Three keynote speakers will address the plenary sessions of the Congress, speaking on topics that reflect the interdisciplinary nature of geography, ranging from spatial thinking and landscape to geographic communication.

Dr. Rūta Ubarevičienė

Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences, Delft University of Technology (Netherlands)

A keynote speech on the topic of spatial thinking.
The title to be announced at a later date.



Prof. Dr. Hannes Palang

Tallinn University (Estonia)

A keynote speech on the topic of landscape.
The title to be announced at a later date.



Prof. Dr. Massimiliano Tabusi

EUGEO Secretary General
University for Foreigners of Siena (Italy)

A keynote speech on the topic of public communication of geography.
The title to be announced at a later date.





THEMATIC SESSION 1

GEOPOLITICAL CHALLENGES AND STATE RESILIENCE FROM A GEOGRAPHICAL PERSPECTIVE

The current geopolitical reality requires us to revisit fundamental questions about the world's geopolitical structure and the resilience of nations. Russia's aggression against Ukraine openly challenges the foundations of international law, the inviolability of borders, and security guarantees, while the increasingly unpredictable policy of the United States is altering the long-standing basis of geopolitical stability and the logic of alliances.

Will the world remain as we have known it until now, or are we already living in a new, fragmented geopolitical reality where geopolitical resilience and military power are becoming more important than economic growth?

This geopolitical session of the Congress is dedicated to analysing these processes from a geographical perspective. We welcome papers addressing the interaction between space and power, territorial aspects of geopolitical resilience, changes in borders and regions, and the role of state cooperation and infrastructure in shaping the security structure. Conceptual and methodological reflections that contribute to the development of geographical interpretations of geopolitical transformations are particularly encouraged.

**This session will be held in
Lithuanian and English.**

Presentations in Lithuanian
will be translated via
simultaneous
interpretation.



THEMATIC SESSION 2

URBAN CLIMATE

Urban development is inevitably linked to climatic, environmental, and hydrological processes that occur at the local, regional, and global levels. The changes in the climate system observed in recent decades are fundamentally altering urban environmental conditions, increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme events, and posing new challenges for urban planning, infrastructure functioning, and the quality of life of residents.

Virtually all cities face microclimatic challenges, such as the heat island effect, altered water balance, and increased flood risk, which are further exacerbated by urbanization. At the same time, these challenges open up opportunities to change established planning and management practices, implement data- and modeling-based solutions, and strengthen cities' resilience to environmental change. The ability to understand urban climate processes, apply microclimate and hydrological models, and integrate scientific research into practical solutions is becoming an essential prerequisite for sustainable urban development.

The analysis of urban climatology, microclimate modeling, climate risk assessment, and hydrological processes in cities, along with the search for scientific and practical solutions, constitute the thematic scope of this session.

This session will be held in Lithuanian and English.

Presentations in Lithuanian will be translated via simultaneous interpretation.



THEMATIC SESSION 3

SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT OF CITIES AND REGIONS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES DURING TURBULENT TIMES

The development of regional and urban systems, which are only partially autonomous, is inevitably linked to various processes that take place outside their borders and are not controlled by local actors. In recent years, the processes taking place both in the world and in our region have fundamentally changed the possibilities of specific cities and regions to compete in world markets, maintain demographic stability, and ensure the social welfare of the population.

Virtually all regions and the vast majority of cities in the Baltic Sea Region are facing long-term social and demographic challenges, and the crises of recent years have further complicated this situation. At the same time, it is also an opportunity to change the established pathways of development. The ability to withstand, change and adapt to the challenges that arise both externally and internally depends to a large extent on local social actors: political and business leaders, active communities and local residents.

The recent socio-demographic challenges faced by various regions and cities, as well as the decisions and actions of local social actors to cope with emerging challenges and take advantage of new opportunities, are the main themes of this session.

This session will be held in Lithuanian and English.

Presentations in Lithuanian will be translated via simultaneous interpretation.



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THEMATIC SESSION 4

GEOGRAPHY AND GEOGRAPHERS IN SPATIAL PLANNING

This session aims to highlight the role of geography in researching, interpreting, and shaping urban and regional development processes, and to reveal the role of geographers in the practical field of spatial planning. Geography, as an integrative spatial science, provides a broad perspective on territorial processes and enables geographers to act as intermediaries between different disciplines, stakeholder groups, and decision-makers.

The session welcomes presentations that highlight geographers' professional experiences in urban and regional planning practice, their involvement in preparing spatial planning documents, working in the public and private sectors, or leading planning processes. Special attention is given to international experiences—how geographers have established themselves within planning systems in different countries and historical periods, the roles they fulfill, the positions they hold within institutions, and how their expertise contributes to strategic spatial decision-making.

We invite you to share both theoretical insights and professional stories, case studies, and reflections on geographers' career paths, challenges, and opportunities in the field of spatial planning. The aim is to foster academic and practical dialogue, strengthening the visibility and influence of the discipline of geography in shaping resilient, sustainable, and socially inclusive cities and regions.

This session will be held in Lithuanian and English.

Presentations in Lithuanian will be translated via simultaneous interpretation.



THEMATIC SESSION 5

LANDSCAPE HORIZONS 2026: LANDSCAPE APPROACH

"Landscape Horizons" is a forum-conference being held in Lithuania for the fourth time, and at this Congress, it has become a session dedicated to the development of a global approach to landscape and the promotion of the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in Lithuania.

To address pressing issues in a specific territory, we must be able to assess a wide range of aspects, combine quantitative and qualitative methods, analyse the connections not only between nature and society but also between tangible and intangible elements and phenomena, draw on historical lessons, respect heritage and local identity, the needs of current and future generations of society, and ensure high-quality collaboration across disciplines, fields, and social groups. These are the relevant tasks of landscape geography today.

The session invites researchers to present the development of landscape geography as a discipline and current research in the field that contributes to the preservation of landscape distinctiveness, geo-, bio-, and cultural diversity, the natural framework, geoecological potential, and the strengthening of diverse ecosystem services, as well as the adaptation of cities and regions from a landscape point of view. This session aims to explore fundamental and applied research, cases of interdisciplinary collaboration, studies of morphological zoning of territories at various scales and landscape character, and reviews of the historical development of the landscapes of cities, regions, and countries, which contribute to the sustainable development of cities and regions resilient to today's challenges and to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention.

**This session will be held in
Lithuanian and English.**

Presentations in Lithuanian
will be translated via
simultaneous
interpretation.



THEMATIC SESSION 6 / EUGEO SEMINAR

THE IMPORTANCE OF GEOGRAPHICAL COMMUNICATION

In this digital age of information overload, when it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain focused attention and mobilize resources to solve critical systemic problems, we are witnessing a rapid surge in the polarization of social groups and opinions, and we face daily challenges to scientific knowledge, the power of social media, and the erosion of traditional media. Therefore, effective communication of the science of geography, geographical ideas and activities, and the profession itself is a necessity, and communication has become a vital part of everyday life in the modern world. Effective communication in geography is the foundation for the profession's prestige and the significance of geography in modern life. It is crucial to share international experiences and learn from one another.

In this session, we propose to analyse the experiences of various countries and organisations representing geography on the following topics: communicating the profession, the academic discipline, geographic technologies, activities, and geographic education through various channels, highlighting "Geography Night" lessons, social media tools, and geographers' statements in various media, emphasizing the importance of geographic communication in ensuring the prestige and influence of the discipline of geography and in attracting young people.

This session-seminar will be held entirely in English.

This is a fee-free session intended for EUGEO national representatives and others interested in the topic.



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GEOGRAPHICAL DAY TRIP

DAY TRIP 'SOCIAL URBAN PATTERNS AND LANDSCAPE IN AND AROUND VILNIUS'

19 September 2026





FEES, SUBMISSION AND REGISTRATION

CONFERENCE (SESSIONS 1–5)

17–18 September

CATEGORY	EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION *	REGISTRATION
LGD, VU and LMA Member**	Free	Free
Non-member (speaker)	100 EUR	150 EUR
Non-member (non-speaker)	50 EUR	75 EUR
Students (including PhD)***	40 EUR	60 EUR

TRADITIONAL LITHUANIAN DINNER

17 September

CATEGORY	EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION *	REGISTRATION
LGD, VU and LMA Member**	35 EUR	50 EUR
Non-member	45 EUR	60 EUR

GEOGRAPHICAL DAY TRIP

19 September

CATEGORY	EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION *	REGISTRATION
LGD, VU and LMA Member**	30 EUR	40 EUR
Non-member	40 EUR	50 EUR

* *Payment by 15 July 2026*

** *Member of Lithuanian Geographical Society, Vilnius University and (or) Lithuanian Academy of Science*

*** *Proof of student status is required*

Call for abstracts: [ABSTRACT SUBMISSION](#)

The deadline for submitting is June 25, 2026.

Registration: [REGISTER](#)

Early bird registration ends on July 15, 2026.



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VILNIUS, LITHUANIA

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