Technical support for RES policy development and implementation – Simplification of permission and administrative procedures for RES installations (RES Simplify)

Lithuania

Written by: Mantė Bartusevičiūtė, Jurga Tallat-Kelpšaitė, eclareon GmbH

26 January 2021, Berlin

Supported by the

Executive summary

This report covers four most relevant RES-E and RES-H technologies in Lithuania: onshore wind, rooftop and ground-mounted PV and biomass.

All in all, most of the barriers identified in the survey for this report concern onshore wind development, while solar ground-mounted installations face some, but not significant obstacles. No barriers were communicated by the stakeholders with regard to solar rooftop and biomass plants. It is noteworthy that solar PV as well as biomass projects are seen as very successful in Lithuania.

For onshore wind, one of the key barriers in the site selection phase is the territorial limitation due to national security interests. The Lithuanian Armed Forces approved a map with restricted areas for the development of wind power, which covers around one third of the country's territory and thus excludes many areas from possible consideration. In addition, a new Environmental Impact Assessment was communicated as a barrier for the repowering and lifetime extension of the onshore wind farms.

For PV systems below 30 kW, simplified administrative and grid connection procedures are used in Lithuania. As a result, no major barriers were reported for smaller PV systems. However, the preparation of a special plan is seen as the biggest obstacle to larger ground-mounted PV projects. The problem is that around 90% of the municipalities in Lithuania have no special plans and therefore require project developers to prepare them at their own expense. This process takes around one year and causes additional project costs.

Obtaining a grid connection permit is a transparent and uncomplicated process in Lithuania, especially for smaller systems with an output of up to 30 kW. However, the long statutory deadline of 22 months for connecting the power plant to the electricity grid is perceived as an obstacle by the developers of onshore wind and larger solar power projects.

Lithuania has already started to implement the RED II into its national legislation. Simplified procedure for small installations as well as procedural transparency and public consultations have been established in 2018-2020 revisions of the Renewable Energy Act (RES Act, 2011). Some additional smaller amendments are expected by June 2021.

Table 1 contains a traffic light assessment of the relevant process steps for the installations of onshore wind, solar and biomass technologies in Lithuania.

Table 1: Traffic light assessment of the relevant process steps

Process step	Site selection	Electricity production license	Application preparation process	Administrative authorisation	Grid connection permit	Corporate legal-fiscal	Other
Onshore wind							
PV ground-mounted							
PV rooftop							
Biomass							

No barriers identified
Moderate barriers identified
Minor barriers identified
Not relevant for target country
Severe barriers identified
No projects implemented

Table of contents

1. National RES targets and relevant RES technologies

According to the Lithuanian National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 (NECP) as well as the National Energy Independence Strategy of Lithuania (NEIS, 2018), the country's objective is to increase the share of energy from renewable energy sources (RES) in gross final energy consumption to 45% by 2030 and to 80% by 2050. In 2018, the RES share in gross final energy consumption was 24.21%. To achieve the general RES target of 45% for 2030, the NEIS also sets sectoral targets: 45% RES share in the electricity sector and 90% in district heating (NECP, 2019).

In the electricity sector, the NECP expects that the investments in wind and solar power will be most attractive for investors in Lithuania by 2030. This is due to the economic attractiveness and relatively simple installation of these renewable energy technologies. Wind energy is expected to remain the main source for electricity generation for this decade and is expected to account for at least 70% of locally generated electricity in 2030 (NECP, 2020). Under the "planned policies and measures" (PPM) scenario in the NECP, the total installed capacity of wind turbines should increase from 533 MW in 2018 to 1,322 MW (of which 350 MW offshore wind) in 2030 (EnMn, 2020; NECP, 2019).

Offshore wind power is not yet being developed in Lithuania. The Lithuanian parliament approved a support scheme for offshore wind energy in the Baltic Sea with the planned offshore wind capacity of up to 700 MW. However, the first offshore wind auction is not expected to take place until 2023 (MoEn 2020b).

In terms of solar energy, the NECP forecasts that this renewable energy source will account for 3% of locally generated electricity in 2030 (NECP, 2019). The total installed capacity of solar power in Lithuania should rise from 88 MW in 2018 to 117 MW in 2030 and under the PPM scenario to even 792 MW (MoEn, 2020a; NECP, 2019). To achieve this technology-specific goal, the Lithuanian government relies heavily on solar prosumers. According to the NEIS (2018), the share of prosumers should account for 30% of the total number of electricity consumers.

Other renewable energy sources in the country's energy mix for electricity generation in 2030 are hydropower, biomass and biogas. Hydropower is expected to account for 8% of total electricity production. However, due to strict environmental regulations, there are no plans to install new hydropower capacities by 2030 (NECP, 2019). The use of biogas, which will make up 2% of locally produced electricity in 2030, will be transport-oriented and thus no new biogas capacities will be installed to generate electricity by 2030 in Lithuania either (NECP, 2019). Finally, 9% of locally generated electricity should come from biomass plants in 2030. New biomass capacities are expected from the currently constructed Vilnius biomass power plant - a combined heat and power (CHP) plant that is expected to become operational in 2021. The total electrical capacity of the CHP will be around 92 MW (NECP, 2019). Apart from that, no further biomass plants are planned for this decade (Nagevičius, 2021; NECP, 2019). It is only intended to maintain the capacity of the existing biomass plants of 73.46 MW (NECP, 2019).

In contrast to the planned development of RES in the electricity sector, figure 1 displays the annual deployment of PV and onshore wind between 2010 and 2019. Both PV and onshore wind reached the peak in mid-2010's, with a poor deployment in the last three years.

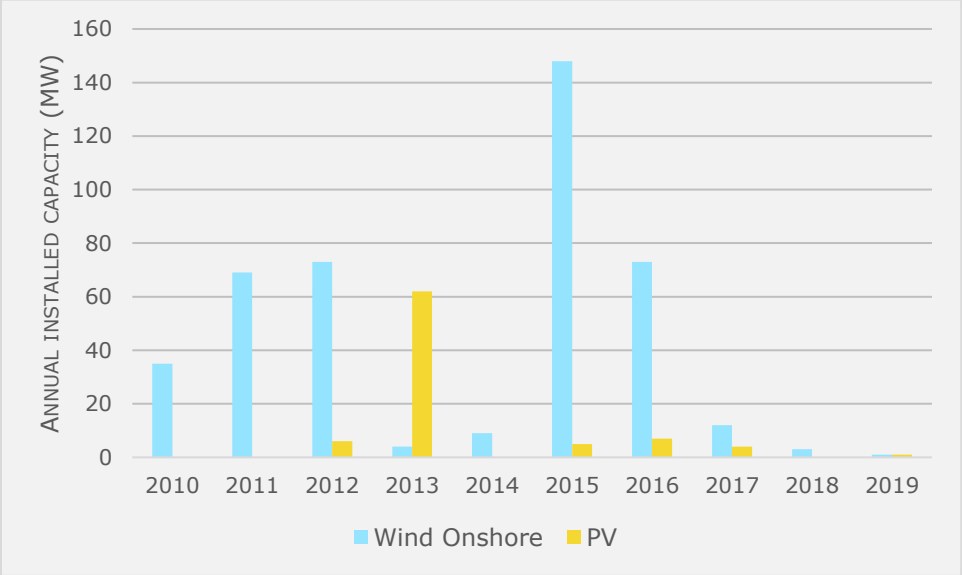

Figure 1: Annual installed capacity of PV and Wind onshore 2010-2019 (source: EurObserv'ER)

In the heating sector, Lithuania has a very well-developed district heating system that supplies around 75% of the total heat demand. The NECP sets an objective that 90% of the energy in district heating will come from renewable energy sources by 2030 and 100% by 2050 (NECP, 2019). Renewable energy sources accounted for 68.7% of district heating and more than 46% of total heating and cooling already in 2017 (NECP, 2019). The main source of renewable heat is solid biomass (Biokuras, 2018).

Taking into account the above mentioned, this report will focus on the administrative and grid connection procedures for onshore wind, rooftop and ground-mounted solar PV and biomass.

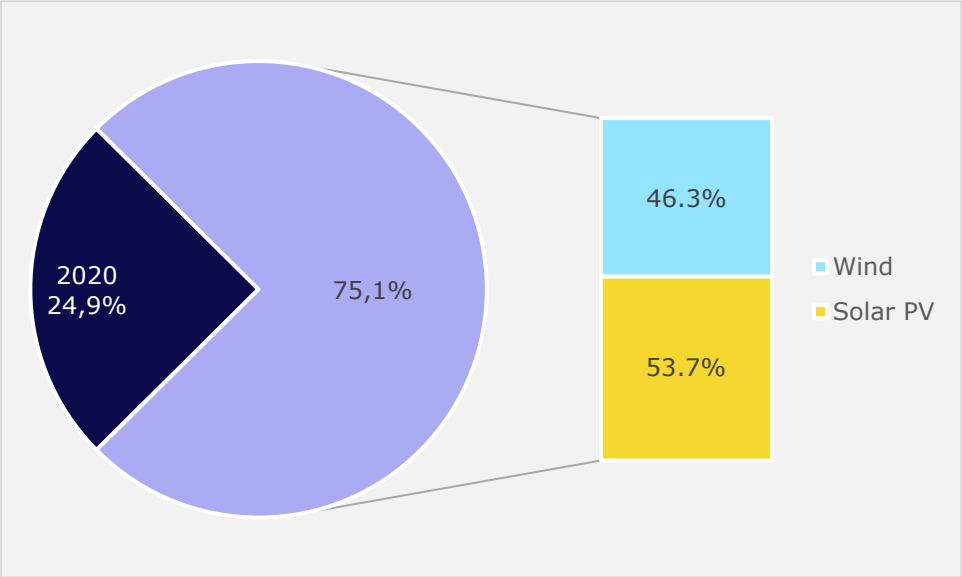

Figure 2: Planned deployment of RES-E 2020-2030 in relation to past deployment (source: NECP)

2. Administrative and grid connection procedure

2.1. Relevant process steps

Selecting a location for the planned renewable energy installation, coordinating the intended site with the relevant municipality and acquiring the right to use the land plot for the construction of an installation are the first steps in developing the renewable energy project.

The site selection is followed by the administrative authorisation procedure, which can only be initiated once the project developer has acquired the right to use the plot of land. The administrative authorisation includes site planning, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), the Public Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and building permit. During the site planning, the change in land use has to be initiated by the project developer if necessary and coordinated with the relevant municipal administration. This is mainly done by preparing a spatial territorial planning document – a detailed or special plan in which the designated area and the requirements for the construction are specified. During the EIA approval process, most of the renewable energy projects are first screened by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to determine whether they require a full EIA. If an EIA is necessary, the project developer must first prepare the EIA programme and then the EIA report, both in coordination with the relevant institutions (e.g., Environmental Protection Agency, Cultural Heritage Department, etc.), followed by a public consultation. After the EIA approval, the project developer can apply to the municipal administration for a building permit.

As soon as all of the above-mentioned permits in the administrative authorisation procedure have been obtained, the project developer should apply for the grid connection permit, capacity development license and electricity production license.

2.1.1. Site selection

Process flow

The site selection process is relevant for new renewable energy installations with the exception of rooftop PV systems.

When choosing a location for the planned renewable energy project, the project developer needs to check the spatial territorial planning documents of the respective municipality. Each municipality is obliged to adopt comprehensive plans in which, among other things, the land use, the principles for the development of the engineering infrastructure and related restrictions (e.g., for natural reserves and cultural heritage) are specified (art. 5, 14 and 15 Territorial Planning Act). The municipality's comprehensive plan also stipulates for the construction of renewable energy facilities, except for the cases provided for in the Law on Energy from Renewable Sources (RES Act) (art. 20 par. 4 Territorial Planning Act).

The construction of renewable energy installations is permitted on plots with the determined land use 'territory of engineering infrastructure' (sec. 5 Spatial Planning Standards). If the land use of the selected plot is other than 'territory of engineering infrastructure', the project developer needs to initiate a land use change procedure (see Section 2.1.3. 'Administrative authorisation').

In the site selection process, the project developer has to consider specific site restrictions regulated by the Special Land Use Act. First, when planning the area for wind power installations, construction in areas determined to be relevant for national security

have to be approved by the Lithuanian Armed Forces (art. 49 par. 8 RES Act; art. 135 Special Land Use Act). Therefore, before starting the administrative authorisation procedure, the developer of an onshore wind project needs to contact the Lithuanian Armed Forces in order to examine whether territorial restrictions apply to the intended area due to national security (sec. 2 Resolution No. 626). The project is additionally coordinated with the Lithuanian Armed Forces during the spatial planning in the administrative authorisation process (see Section 'Administrative authorisation').

In 2016, the Lithuanian Chief of Defence approved a map[1] of the Lithuanian territory with the special land use restrictions relevant for the national security (MoEn, 2016). Accordingly, the construction of wind power plants in the areas marked in red is prohibited completely, while the construction in yellow areas needs an approval from the Lithuanian Armed Forces. In the yellow areas, construction will not be approved if the disruptions caused by the planned wind power plants cannot be avoided through additional measures such as reimbursement of part of the investment and other expenses necessary to ensure the national security functions. The amount of compensation is calculated by multiplying the capacity (kW) of the power plant to be installed by EUR 18/kW (art. 49 par. 8 RES Act).

The Special Land Use Act contains also other restrictions relevant for onshore wind, ground-mounted PV and biomass that need to be considered by the project developers and coordinated with the relevant authority:

- radar protection zones (general zone of 1,5 km and special zone of 30 km radius). Coordinated with Transport Competency Agency, State Border Guard Service or Lithuanian Armed Forces (art. 118-120)
- aerodrome security zones, coordinated by the Transport Competence Agency (restricted zones depend on the size of aerodrome, distance and the height of installation) (art. 14, 15, 16)
- state border zones (500 m from the border with Belarus and Russian Federation, and 100 m from the border with Poland and Latvia), coordinated with the State Border Guard Service.

Construction work is completely prohibited in the following territories:

- territories of natural heritage objects and 25 km around them (art. 61-62)
- cultural and natural reserves (art. 65-67)
- protected cultural heritage areas (art. 60)
- forest areas (art. 95).

When the decision on the specific location for the construction of renewable power plant is made, the project developer needs to acquire rights to use the land on which the power plant is to be constructed and get an approval on the project from the landowners of the surrounding plots (sanitary protection zone) (art. 18 par. 2 Energy Act; art. 7 par. 1 Special Land Use Act).

Deadlines

Regarding the assessment of whether territorial restrictions (due to national security interests) apply to the construction of an onshore wind farm in question, the Lithuanian Armed Forces have to send the decision to the applicant by post and/or e-mail within 15 working days of receiving all the necessary documents (sec. 2 Resolution No. 626). In the event that the documents submitted by the project developer are insufficient, the

[1] The map is available at: https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/55f57a70d6d411e583a295d936

response time will be suspended from the day of notification by the Lithuanian Armed Forces that additional documents or information is needed. Once these documents have been submitted, the deadline continues.

Detected barriers

Limitation of wind power development near air surveillance radars. Currently, due to the potential negative impact on air surveillance radars, wind power development is prohibited or limited in around one third of the Lithuanian territory (Radavičius, 2020). These limitations are related to the investments in air monitoring systems (RNP, 2020). Some air surveillance radars used by the Lithuanian Armed Forces are obsolete and therefore there is a risk that due to the rotating blades of wind power turbines radar signals can be interpreted incorrectly. As indicated above, the Lithuanian Armed Forces adopted a map with red and yellow zones for the construction of wind power plants. However, the Lithuanian Wind Power Association has doubts about the validity and justification of those red and yellow zones in the map. The Lithuanian Armed Forces simply drew a line in all directions with a radius of 30 km from the radar and published the map without considering any exceptions or consulting relevant stakeholders. Another obstacle to wind energy projects is the non-existence of deadlines for the construction of the radars by the Lithuanian Armed Forces after the compensatory measures have been provided by the project developer. There are cases, where the developer financed the radars, however the Lithuanian Armed Forces have still not finished building them for three years now (Radavičius, 2020).

To address this conflict of interests, the former Vice-Minister of Energy, Rytis Kėvelaitis, suggests strengthening cooperation between the Lithuanian Armed Forces and wind energy developers, for example, by organising trainings in the long-term perspective (Kėvelaitis, 2020). The Lithuanian Wind Power Association believes that an open discussion with the wind industry from the military side would be a good first solution to improve the approval process and would open a platform for discussing measures to reduce the impact of wind turbines and improve the air surveillance. In addition, a national or even European standard or some sort of recommendation on how to reconcile energy industry and military objectives would be helpful (Radavičius, 2020).

Limitations for onshore wind farms by sanitary protection zones. When planning a wind farm, a project developer needs to receive written consent from all owners of the land plots located in the sanitary protection zone, before the EIA takes place. Often project developers need either to buy or rent these land plots or compensate the owners (art. 18 par. 2 Energy Act). Thus, there are some additional monetary aspects for the project developer (RNP, 2020). The Lithuanian Wind Power Association currently considers the distances and compensatory measures to be appropriate. However, there are political discussions to increase the distance of the sanitary protection zone to 1km. This would make it very difficult for a project developer to find a suitable land plot for the project realisation (Radavičius, 2020).

Identified good practice

Despite the above given shortcomings related to the map approved by the Lithuanian Armed Forces, it is generally recognized as a good practise by the Lithuanian Wind Power Association. Using this map, the project developers can immediately identify the areas where the development of wind energy is prohibited or restricted due to national security. It saves time for the wind energy project developers in the site selection process (Radavičius, 2020).

2.1.2. Electricity production licence

Process flow

Developers of renewable energy projects have to obtain permit to develop electricity generation capacity as well as permit to produce electricity from the National Energy Regulatory Council (NERC) (art. 16 RES Act; NERC, 2020a). These permits are relevant for new installations, repowering and lifetime extension of the installation.

The permit to develop generation capacity will only be granted after the network operator has issued the preliminary grid connection conditions and the Environmental Protection Agency or the National Centre for Public Health have made their decisions about the necessity to conduct environmental and public health impact assessments. In order to obtain the permit to produce electricity, the project developer needs to submit the permit to develop generation capacity along with two other documents - the certification of the completed construction of the power plant and a document proving the ability to accumulate or maintain the power reserve (applies to installations over 5 MW only) (NERC, 2020b).

Small-scale devices

Both, permit to develop electricity generation capacity and permit to produce electricity, are not required for installations with the capacity of up to 30 kW used for self-consumption in households (art. 9 par. 2 Electricity Act). In addition, a simplified procedure is applied for renewable energy installations with the capacity of up to 10 kW, if the electricity is fed into the grid. In this case, in order to get the permits from NERC, the applicant has only to submit preliminary grid connection conditions from the network operator (NERC, 2020a).

No concerns about the NERC permitting procedures have been communicated by the stakeholders surveyed for this report.

Deadlines

The permit to develop electricity generation capacity as well as electricity generation permit are issued within 30 calendar days of receiving the application and all necessary supporting documents (art. 21 par. 1 Energy Act). In case any documents or information are missing, the term of 30 days starts over after receiving all the missing documents (art. 21 par. 1 Energy Act).

Failure by the NERC to reply within 30 calendar days is considered a positive decision, i.e., the decision to issue the permission. This silent approval rule does not apply in the event of legal disputes over permission terms and conditions. In this case, the applicant must be granted the permission or a written reasoned refusal to issue the permission no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the legal proceedings (art. 21 par. 2, 3 Energy Act).

A request for the extension of the electricity generation permit has to be submitted to the NERC no later than 30 calendar days before the expiry of the permit (NERC, 2020b).

Detected barriers

No barriers related to this process were identified.

Identified good practice

No good practice related to this process was identified.

2.1.3. Administrative authorisation

Process flow

After acquiring the rights to use the land on which the power plant is to be constructed, the project developer must in certain cases (see below) change the determined land use and thus prepare a detailed or special plan. In addition, if required by law, the project developer needs to carry out an EIA and/or Public Health Impact Assessment (HIA). Lastly, a building permit has to be acquired before the renewable energy installation can be constructed.

The administrative authorisation procedure is relevant for new installations, repowering and lifetime extension of the installation.

Spatial planning and land use change

If land use of the selected plot of land is other than 'territory of engineering infrastructure', the project developer needs to initiate a procedure to change the land use (sec. 2 Resolution No. 1073). This applies to installations with capacity of 500 kW and more (art. 49 par. 3 RES Act).

The land use change usually requires preparation of either a detailed plan or a special plan, which specify mandatory requirements for the use of territories established in a municipal-level comprehensive plan or a local-level comprehensive plan, if prepared (Geometra, 2020; art. 22 par. 4 and art. 17 par. 1 Territorial Planning Act). The drafting or modification of detailed and special plans is organised by the director of municipal administration and can be initiated by natural or legal persons (art. 6 par. 2 and 3 Territorial Planning Act).

Prior to the preparatory stage, the organiser of the planning has to contact the competent authorities that are specified in the Complex Territorial Planning Rules (sec. 6 Resolution No. D1-8), such as Environmental Protection Agency, Cultural Heritage Department, Lithuanian Armed Forces (see section 2.1.1.), etc. These competent authorities have to issue territorial planning conditions within 10 working days of being contacted by the planning organiser. If no response has been received within the given period of time, the territorial planning can be initiated (art. 25 par. 4 Territorial Planning Act).

In the preparatory stage of detailed and special planning, the planning organiser needs to prepare and adopt a programme of planning works. Among other things, the programme establishes which surveys and feasibility studies have to be carried out regarding the pollution, noise etc., and determines whether a SEIA is required (art. 25 par. 2 Territorial Planning Act; sec. 6 it. 244 Resolution No. D1-8).

In the preparation stage, the territorial status quo is analysed, the concept and requirements of detailed or special plan are prepared and the SEIA is carried out (art. 25 par. 5 Territorial Planning Act; sec. 6 it. 287 and 289 Resolution No. D1-8). The aim of the SEIA is to identify and assess the possible significant impacts of the project on the environment and to ensure that certain state (EPA or Cultural Heritage Department, etc.) and local government bodies and the public are consulted (sec. 6 it. 299 Resolution No. D1-8). Thereafter, the spatial planning documents are published, the public consultation is carried out as described below and the final plan is approved (sec. 6 it. 302 Resolution No. D1-8).

If the land use has to be changed, but the required future land use corresponds to the comprehensive territorial plan of the municipality, the preparation of a detailed plan is not required (art. 17 Territorial Planning Act). In addition, these plans do not need to be drawn up, if the municipality has already adopted a detailed or special plan. Some

municipalities in Lithuania have adopted special plans for the deployment of alternative energy sources - solar and wind power plants for their municipal territory. These plans specify territories where the construction of wind and solar power plants is permissible (Skuodas, 2020; Telsiai, 2012).

In these cases, it is sufficient to apply to the director of the municipal administration with a request to change the land use of the land plot. Certain documents need to be attached to the request, e.g., a copy of the land ownership document, copy of the plan of the land plot, an extract from the general territorial plan and other relevant documents, including the consents of the surrounding landowners (Geometra, 2020; Geometra 2017). The municipal administration will then examine the request and make an appropriate decision on the land use change (sec. 2 Resolution No. 1073). With the positive decision the project developer needs to register the changed land purpose to the National Register Centre (Geometra, 2020).

As indicated above, the municipal decision on the preparation or modification of a detailed or special plan needs to be consulted with the public (Resolution Nr. 1079). The decision has to be published on the website of the municipality within 5 working of the decision. The public needs to be allocated at least 10 working days to get acquainted with the prepared detailed plan. During this time, the public can submit their views and opinions on the suggested solutions (sec. 6 it. 33 Resolution Nr. 1079). After the allotted time to become familiar with the detailed plan, the municipality has to present the solutions, all relevant materials and received views and opinions to the public during a public consultation meeting (ibid.). No later than 5 working days before the public consultation meeting the municipality has to inform the public and other competent authorities on the time and place of the public consultation meeting (sec. 7 it. 35 Resolution Nr. 1079).

A simplified consultation procedure is used for special plans (sec. 8 it. 40 Resolution Nr. 1079). Here the deadlines for public participation are shorter as well as no public consultation meeting is organised (sec. 8 it. 42 Resolution Nr. 1079).

Small-scale devices

For small renewable energy systems of up to 500 kW, it is not required to change the land use as well as to prepare a special or detailed plan (art. 49 par. 3 RES Act). The Ministry of Energy is currently discussing whether to extend this exception to installations up to 1 MW (Karazinas, 2020).

According to the stakeholders interviewed, municipalities in Lithuania have a lot of discretion in the site selection and land use change procedures (Radavičius, 2020; Karazinas, 2020). The best approach to obtain permits at municipal level is therefore to contact the administration and discuss the intended project in an early stage of the planning (Karazinas, 2020). The efficiency of the issuing of permits at the municipal level and the transparency of administrative procedures vary by municipality (Radavičius, 2020). Some municipalities in Lithuania, especially the smaller ones, do not have enough staff and lack experience in dealing with renewable energy projects. In Lithuania, only around 10 larger wind energy projects have been implemented so far, so that many municipalities have never dealt with the permitting of such projects and therefore have no experience in this field (Vilpišauskas, 2021). According to the Lithuanian Wind Power Association, the problem lies not only in the insufficient number of staff in specific institutions, but also in the low motivation and low income of the responsible personnel. Renewable energy is seen as a priority for the energy sector at national level. However, this should be communicated more clearly to the local authorities, i.e., that the renewable energy projects have to be prioritised also at the municipal level (Radavičius, 2020).

Environmental Impact Assessment

The assessment of an impact of economic activity on the environment is carried out at the earliest stage of project implementation - the spatial planning phase. The economic activities for which the EIA is obligatory, or which must be screened for the necessity of an EIA, are regulated in the Environmental Impact Assessment Act (EIA Act). The EIA process includes the following environmental impact assessment entities: relevant municipality, Public Health Centre, Cultural Heritage Department, the department of Civil Protection and the State Service for Protected Areas (SSPA) under the Ministry of Environment. The entire EIA process is coordinated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (art. 5 and 6 EIA Act).

Annex 1 of the EIA Act contains a list of economic activities for which the EIA is mandatory. This list also includes installations for producing electricity with the capacity of 150 MW or more. These installations are obliged to submit an EIA in any case.

Annex 2 of the EIA Act provides a list of economic activities which must be screened for the necessity of an EIA. For these activities, project developers have to send a request to EPA, which will carry out the necessary assessment, taking into account the public, other institutions and take a respective decision. The screening requirement applies to power plants with the capacity between 50 MW and 150 MW and for wind power plants in the following cases:

a) when three or more wind turbines are built, from which at least one is 50 m or more in height,

b) when wind power plant is installed closer than 1 km from a protected area, except in cases where no more than one wind turbine and not higher than 25 m is installed near farm buildings or farmstead (Annex 2 EIA Act).

If implementation of the planned economic activity may affect the protected areas of the European ecological network Natura 2000, the impact on Natura 2000 sites has to be carried out, or the assessment of the significance of the impact on Natura 2000 protected areas is performed as an integral part of the EIA. Responsible institutions for such an assessment are the State Service for Protected Areas (SSPA) under the Ministry of Environment (PAV AM, 2020). For economic activities listed in Annex 1 of the EIA Act, the impact on Natura 2000 protected areas is assessed as part of the EIA.

In the event of the economic activities listed in Annex 2 of the EIA (screened for EIA), the project developer needs to separately apply to the SSPA for an assessment of the impact of the panned activity on Natura 2000 sites. This has to be done before sending the selection report to EPA to assess, whether the EIA is required. In case the SSPA decides that the proposed economic activity does have an environmental impact on the Natura 2000 territories, the project developer skips the step of screening and has to prepare a full EIA study (art. 7 par. 3 EIA Act). If the planned economic activity is not included in the annexes of the EIA Act, but its implementation will be related to the established or potential Natura 2000 sites or the environment close to them, the impact assessment is carried out by local natural protection agency (PAV AM, 2020). The assessment report has to be coordinated with the Protected Areas Service.

The process of screening for the necessity of an EIA

The EIA screening process includes:

1) the preparation of information by the developer of the planned economic activity, according to which it will be determined whether it is necessary to perform the EIA of the planned economic activity (‘screening information'). The purpose of the screening information is to demonstrate that the activity will not have a significant

negative impact on the environment and that the technology and measures chosen are sufficient (art. 2 par. 5 EIA Act).

2) the examination of screening information by the EPA to determine whether the EIA of the proposed economic activity is obligatory. It includes consultations with the EIA relevant authorities (Cultural Heritage Department, Public Health Centre, etc.) and the public concerned, the adoption of a reasoned conclusion on screening for environmental impact assessment ('screening conclusion') and its publication (art. 2 par. 5 EIA Act).

After receiving the screening information or the EIA of the proposed economic activity from the project developer, EPA has to publish the documents on its website (www.gamta.lt) and inform the EIA relevant authorities (Cultural Heritage Department, Public Health Centre, etc.) and the public about the received screening information and about the possibility to submit suggestions no later than within 3 working days from the date of receipt (art. 7 par. 6 EIA Act).

Within 10 working days from the date of publication of the information, the EIA relevant authorities and the interested parties can submit proposals regarding the screening information (art. 7 par. 7 EIA Act).

EPA, having examined the screening information submitted by the developer of the proposed economic activity, proposals of the EIA relevant authorities and the public, within 20 working days of the receipt of the 'screening information' will adopt a 'screening conclusion', i.e., a conclusion on whether an environmental impact assessment is required (art. 7 par. 7 EIA Act). This conclusion has to be published within 3 working days from the decision.

Obligatory EIA

In case of a mandatory EIA, the project developer needs to submit to the EPA environmental impact assessment documents, including an EIA programme and an EIA report.

EIA programme

After preparing the EIA programme, the project developer has to submit it to EPA and the above mentioned EIA relevant authorities and inform the public about the prepared programme (art. 8 par. 1 and 2 IEA Act).

Within 3 working days from the receipt of the EIA programme, EPA has to publish it on its website (art. 8 par. 3 IEA Act). Then the examination of the EIA programme takes place, where the EIA relevant authorities and the interested third parties can submit their proposals within 10 working days (art. 8 par. 4 IEA Act). If before the EIA programme is approved (but not later than within 20 working days of its receipt) the municipality, where the economic activity is planned, takes a negative decision on the feasibility of the proposed economic activity, the approval process is put on hold until that decision by the municipality is valid. The municipal administration has to inform EPA and the project developer about the negative decision within 3 working days and submit a motivated reasoning (art. 8 par. 5 IEA Act).

EIA relevant authorities have the right to submit reasoned requests to supplement or amend the programme. In this case, the EIA programme has to be accordingly revised and resubmitted. The revised EIA programme is then evaluated by the EIA relevant authorities, which within 5 working days have to provide reasoned conclusions on the EIA programme to the project developer (art. 8 par. 6 IEA Act).

Project developer has to submit the EIA programme along with the proposals from the relevant EIA authorities and the public to EPA. Within 10 working days after receiving the

programme with the proposals, EPA has to publish a positive decision on the EIA programme or reasoned requirement to submit additional documents (art. 8 par. 9 IEA Act). In case of submitting additional information, EPA has additional 5 working days to approve the EIA programme upon receival of additional documents (art. 8 par. 10 EIA Act).

EIA report

The EIA report can be prepared after the EIA programme is approved by EPA (art. 10 par. 1 EIA Act). The project developer has to inform the public about the public presentation of the EIA report no later than 20 working days before the presentation (art. 10 par. 3 EIA Act).

After the public presentation, the project developer, together with the EPA, have to assess the proposals submitted by the public and revise the report accordingly. The EPA will then submit the EIA report along with these proposals to the EIA relevant authorities (art. 10 par. 4 EIA Act). Within 20 working days of the receipt, the EIA relevant authorities have to provide their reasoned conclusions on the EIA report and the impact on the environment of the planned economic activity. The results and conclusions have to be provided together with the quality assessment and reasoned requirements and compensation measures of the planned economic activity (art. 10 par. 5 EIA Act). The EIA relevant authorities can request the project developer to submit additional documents or information. In this case the EIA relevant authorities have additional 10 working days to issue their conclusions (art. 10 par. 5 EIA Act).

In the event of substantial revisions of the EIA report (new location, new technology), a new public presentation has to be carried out. If the EIA report again changes significantly after the public consultation, the assessment of the report by the EIA relevant authorities will have to be reinitiated (art. 10 par. 10 and 11 EIA Act).

The EPA must publish the revised EIA report within three working days and inform the public of the opportunity to propose changes. Interested parties can submit proposals for planned economic activity and the revised EIA report within 10 working days of the EPA's revised EIA report being published (art. 10 par. 9 EIA Act).

The decision on the EIA

After assessing the final EIA report, the associated feedback from the public and the EIA relevant authorities, the EPA will within 25 working days from the submission of the final EIA report either issue a final decision on the impact of the planned economic activity on the environment or require the project developer to supplement the EIA report. If, due to lack of expertise, the EPA decides to use an external consultant for the EIA, the EPA has a deadline of 50 working days for making the decision (art. 11 par. 1 and 2 EIA Act).

If EPA concludes that the planned economic activity does not comply with the requirements of environmental protection, public health, protection of cultural heritage, fire safety and civil protection, the economic activity cannot be carried out (art. 11 par. 11 EIA Act).

The interested parties have the right to participate in the consultation on EIA screening, the EIA programme and the report (art. 5 EIA Act). This right is, however, limited only to those interested parties who are or could be affected by the planned economic activity (art. 2 par. 14 EIA Act).

Public Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

Public HIA is performed as part of the EIA or as a separate assessment for the planned economic activity for which the EIA is not needed and the boundaries of sanitary protection zone have to be established or revised (Section 1 Resolution V-474). Sanitary protection

zones apply for any generation unit in accordance with the Law on Special Land Use, however, can be set differently during the environmental impact or public health impact assessment. The following sanitary zones are applicable for a territory around a power generation plant:

- for a CHP plant with a capacity of 50 MW or more: 100m radius
- for wind power installations
  - from 30 kW up to 300 kW: 200m radius
  - from 300kW up to 2 MW: 315m radius
  - from 2MW capacity: 440m radius (art. 51, Annex 2 Special Land Use Act).

The project developer has to get a declaration from the National Centre for Public Health under the Ministry of Health (NVSC) that the conditions of the planned economic activity comply with the public health safety requirements related to the environmental pollution, noise and other physical factors harmful to human health (art. 51 Special Land Use Act).

Building permit

Construction of renewable energy installations usually requires obtaining a building permit, which is issued by the municipality. To find out whether a building permit is required for the construction of a new power plant, project developers can check the electronic questionnaire[2] prepared by the State Spatial Planning and Construction Inspectorate under the Ministry of Environment (SSPC).

Building permit is required for wind and ground-mounted PV installations of 30 kW and more as well as for rooftop PV systems exceeding 100 kW. For ground-mounted PV installations with the capacity less than 30 kW, the permit is required only in the case of the construction in urban, protected area, cultural or natural heritage site, natural reserve, or in the Natura 2000 territory (SSPC, 2020; art. 49 par. 7 RES Act). Building permit is issued by the director of municipal administration (art. 27 par. 2 Construction Act).

Application for a building permit requires to have the completed IEA and HIA assessments at hand (art. 27 par. 5.8, Construction Act).

An application and supporting documents for obtaining a building permit have to be uploaded to the national information system of building permits 'Infostatyba', and the employees of the municipal administration and other relevant administrative bodies (e.g., Cultural Heritage Department, Environmental Protection Agency) are notified of each new application. In case the project directly affects cultural or natural heritage, or due to the project height, size, type or shape would obscure cultural values or impair their view (visual impact), Cultural Heritage Department and State Service for Protected Areas also need to assess the respective project. Additionally, the planning and construction of wind power plants exceeding 100 m height have to be approved by the Transport Competency Agency (art. 18 Special Land Use Act). After submission of the project, respective administrative body has 7 working days to issue an objection (art. 24 Construction Act). If within the specified deadline no objections have been submitted, the project developer is granted a building permit.

Deadlines

Spatial planning

If a special or detailed plan needs to be prepared, the planning organiser has to contact the competent authorities (APA; Cultural Heritage Department, etc.) that have to issue

[2] Electronic questionnaire can be accessed here: apklausos.vtpsi.lt/index.php/416549?lang=lt

territorial planning conditions within 10 working days from the request (art. 25 par. 4 Territorial Planning Act).

In case the land use has to be changed, but the required future land use corresponds to the comprehensive territorial plan of the municipality, once the project developer submits the application with all necessary documentation, the decision on the purpose of land use change is issued by the director of municipal administration within 10 to 20 working days (Geometra, 2020).

The municipality's decision to prepare or modify the detailed plan has to be published on the website of the municipality within 5 working days of the decision. The public must have at least 10 working days to get familiarized with the detailed plan (sec. 6 it. 33 Resolution Nr. 1079). No later than 5 working days before the public consultation meeting the municipality has to inform the public and other relevant authorities on the time and place of the public consultation meeting (sec. 7 it. 35 Resolution Nr. 1079).

In the event of a special plan, a simplified procedure is used. The public has 10 working days from the publication of the decision to prepare or modify a special plan to become familiar with the plan (sec. 8 it. 41 Resolution Nr. 1079). The organiser of the procedure to draft or amend the special plan must register and examine the received views and opinions and respond in writing to the persons who submitted the proposals within 5 working days from the end of the consultation period (sec. 8 it. 41 Resolution Nr. 1079). There is no public consultation meeting in case of a special plan (sec. 8 it. 42 Resolution Nr. 1079).

The registration of land use changes in the Register Centre takes place within 10 working days. For an additional fee, registration can be done faster, depending on the fee in 3, 2 or 1 day (sec. 2 it. 62 Resolution Nr. 379).

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Screening process

After receiving the screening information from the project developer, no later than within 3 working days from the date of receipt, the EPA has to publish the documents received and inform the EIA relevant authorities and the public of the screening information received and the possibility of submit proposals (art. 7 par. 6 EIA Act). Within 10 working days from the date of publication of the screening information, the EIA relevant authorities and the public can submit proposals regarding the screening information (art. 7 EIA Act). If there is no response from the EIA relevant authorities or municipality within 10 working days, the EIA screening information is considered to be approved (art. 8 EIA Act). The EPA has to make a decision on whether an EIA is required within 20 working days of the receipt of the screening information (art. 7 par. 7 EIA Act).

Obligatory EIA

After receiving the EIA programme from the project developer, the EPA has to publish the programme on its website within 3 working days of receipt (art 8 par. 3 EIA Act). Within 10 working days of publication, the EIA relevant authorities and the public can submit their opinions on the EIA programme (art. 8 EIA Act). Within 20 working days of the publication the municipal administration can submit a negative decision on the feasibility of the proposed economic activity. In this case the EIA approval process will be discontinued (art. 8 par. 5 EIA Act). If there is no response from the EIA relevant entities within 10 working days, it is considered that the EIA programme is approved (art. 8 par. 7 EIA Act).

The EIA relevant authorities have to provide their reasoned conclusions on the EIA report and the impact of the planned economic activity on the environment within 20 working days of the receipt of the EIA report and the proposals from the public. If there is no

response from the EIA relevant authorities within 20 working days, the EIA report is considered to be approved (art. 10 par. 7 EIA Act). The EIA relevant authorities can also request the project developer to submit additional documents or information. After the project developer submits the additional information required, the EIA relevant authorities have additional 10 working days to provide their conclusions on the EIA report and the planned economic activity (art. 10 par. 5 EIA Act).

Within 25 working days from the submission of the EIA report, the EPA has either to send to the project developer a reasoned request to once again supplement the EIA report or make a decision on the impact of the planned economic activity on the environment (art. 11 par. 1 EIA Act). If EPA decides to make use of an external consultant for the EIA assessment, this deadline will be extended to 50 working days. The deadline for taking a decision on the environmental impact of a proposed economic activity may be extended once for a period of up to 25 working days for objective reasons that are beyond the control of the responsible authority. The EPA is obliged to notify the project developer of the decision to extend the deadline no later than 5 working days before the end of the original deadline and indicate the reasons for the extension (art. 11 par. 2 EIA Act).

Where the project developer was requested to supplement the EIA report, within 15 working days from the resubmission, the EPA has to take a decision on the environmental impact of the proposed activity or resubmit a reasoned request to supplement the EIA report (art. 11 par. 3 EIA Act).

Public Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

HIA report of the planned economic activity is prepared by the project developer and submitted to the NVSC. The NVSC has to publish the project developer's application for public consideration on its website within 5 working days (sec. 3 it. 30 Resolution Nr. V-474).

No later than within 20 working days from the receipt of an application form the project developer, the NVSC have to submit a reasoned request to the project developer to amend or supplement the HIA report or to issue a decision on the planned economic activity (sec. 3 it. 32 Resolution Nr. V-474).

If the HIA report needs to be supplemented, the NVSC has to inform the developer of receipt of the supplements within 3 working days and issue a decision within 10 working days (sec. 3 it. 37 Resolution Nr. V-474). The positive decision from the NVSC indicates that the conditions of the planned economic activity comply with the public health regulations (sec. 3 it. 40 Resolution Nr. V-474). The NVSC has to inform the project developer of its decision on the possibilities of planned economic activity within 3 working days (sec. 3 it. 45 Resolution Nr. V-474).

Building permit

After uploading the documents required for the issue of a building permit on the information system of building permits and state supervision of construction 'Infostatyba', the administrative bodies have 7 working days to lodge an objection to the planned construction of a renewable energy power plant. If no objections are raised, the director of municipal administration within 10 working days prepares special requirements for the construction and issues the building permit (art. 24 Construction Act; Vilpišauskas, 2021).

Detected barriers

No clear reasoning for refusal to change the purpose of land. The solar industry reported that whenever a project developer receives a rejection from the municipality to change the designated land use, there are no clear reasons behind the decision (Karazinas, 2020).

Long and costly special territorial planning. If the municipality does not have a special plan, then the project developer must prepare this plan at his own expense (art. 6, par. 3. Territorial Planning Act). In addition, the municipal comprehensive plan does not contain provisions on the development of renewable energy projects and does not specify locations where these projects can be built. This was indicated as the biggest barrier to ground-mounted solar parks (Vilpišauskas, 2021). In the interview it was suggested by the solar industry representative that such areas should be marked in the comprehensive plan. This would add much effectiveness to the process and speed up the land use change procedure. Some municipalities have such practises, however around 90% of all municipalities require the project developer to prepare special plan. This process takes around one year and adds extra costs to the project (Radavičius, 2020). Finally, the project developer cannot be sure that once such a plan has been drawn up, the area may be used for the construction of a power plant or that the landowners of surrounding plots will not raise any objections (Vilpišauskas, 2021).

Long und unreasoned EIA for the repowering of wind power turbines. In Lithuania, the EIA is not only required for new installations, but also for the repowering of wind power plants. Even though the height of the turbine(s) and the total capacity of the wind farm does not change (e.g., only the model of a turbine or rotor diameter), a new EIA is required. The justification and reasoning for the need of a new IEA for repowering is not clear (Radavičius, 2020). According to the former Vice-Minister of Energy, Rytis Kėvelaitis, the new EIA assessment takes around one year. This costs extra time and requires additional human and financial resources not only on the part of the developer but also the competent authority and is not effective. The requirement for a new EIA should not apply to all but only to certain repowering projects. For example, if the installation exceeds specific thresholds (height, noise, etc.) (Kėvelaitis, 2020).

No clear criteria for visual impact assessment. During the IEA, the visual impact of the wind power plant is evaluated. According to the Lithuanian Wind Power Association, the EIA Act does not specify what a visual impact is and provides now clear criteria for its assessment (Radavičius, 2020). The conclusions on the EIA can sometimes state that there is a significant visual impact of the planned economic activity, however, the 'significant visual impact' is not clearly explained. Moreover, the statement lacks explanation as to whether certain measures to reduce that impact could be implemented. As a result, the project developer cannot adapt the project (Radavičius, 2020). In addition, there are similar projects implemented under similar conditions, but the EIA conclusions may differ – positive conclusions for one and negative for the other project (Radavičius 2020).

Concerns about the discussed amendments to the simplified procedures. For small renewable energy systems of up to 500 kW, it is not required to change the land use as well as to prepare a special or detailed plan (art. 49 par. 3 RES Act). The Ministry of Energy is currently discussing whether to extend this exception to installations up to 1 MW (Karazinas, 2020). The solar power industry is concerned about these ongoing discussions because if the exception would be applied to renewable energy installation up to 1 MW, most of the ground-mounted PV installations would not have to change the purpose of land and would be built in the areas designated for agriculture. Agricultural land is getting scarce in Lithuania and if it is used for solar power instead of agriculture, the solar industry fears that Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will also be necessary for ground-mounted PV installations in the nearest future to avoid the conflict of interest between PV and agriculture. This will create an additional restriction for solar power development (Karazinas, 2020). On the other side, building only a 500 kW solar park for a project developer is financially not attractive, so for the majority of the projects, this exception is not applicable and effective (Vilpišauskas, 2021).

Identified good practice

No good practise related to this process was identified.

2.1.4. Grid connection permit

Process flow

Connection to the electricity grid

Grid connection permit is relevant for the connection of new renewable power installations and repowering projects. Installations smaller than 6 MW capacity have to be connected to the distribution grid, and installations higher than 6 MW are connected to the transmission grid, if the technical capacities allow it (sec. 4 it. 38 Order Nr. 1-127). According to the Description of the Procedure for the Use of Electricity Networks (Order Nr. 1-127), all electricity producers have to complete the following steps for the installation to be connected to the electricity grid (either transmission (Litgrid AB) or distribution grid system operators (mainly ESO AB):

- A standard application form for preliminary grid connection conditions has to be completed and submitted to the grid system operator, either to distribution system operator, mainly ESO AB, or transmission system operator - Litgrid AB. The preliminary conditions for the connection to the electricity grid are intended for the preliminary assessment of the amount of the project developers' future investments, connection requirements and are not yet binding (sec. 4 it. 38 Order Nr. 1-127). For preliminary grid connection conditions project developer needs to submit only the prelimenary territorial plan of the installation construction site (Litgrid, n.d.; ESO, n.d.). Prelimenary connection conditions are valid for 6 months (sec. 4 it. 38 Order Nr. 1-127).
- In the case of installation with the installed capacity exceeding 500 kW, the project developer after receiving the preliminary grid connection conditions has to request to sign a protocol of intent regarding the connection of his installation from the grid system operator (art. 22 par. 8 Electricity Act; sec. 6 it. 48 Order Nr. 1-127). After receiving the protocol, developer needs to sign it and resubmit it to the grid system operator. For this step a municipality permit as well as permit from the Lithuanian Armed Forces, if needed, has to be submitted (Litgrid, n.d.). After receiving the signed protocol of intent from the grid system operator, the project developer needs to submit a document stating the enforcement of obligations, guaranteeing to build a power plant with the capacity specified in the protocol of intent (statement from financial institution) (sec. 6 it. 48 Order Nr. 1-127; Litgrid, n.d.).
- After receiving the preliminary grid connection conditions, and, if applicable, the signed protocol of intent and the document stating the enforcement of obligations from the grid system operator, the project developer has to apply to the National Energy Regulatory Council (NERC) for a permission to develop electricity generation capacity (art. 22 par. 9 Electricity Act; sec. 6 it. 48 Order Nr. 1-127).
- After receiving the permission to develop electricity generation capacity the project developer submits the application for grid connection conditions to the grid system operator (Litgrid, n.d.; ESO, n.d.; sec. 6 it. 48 Order Nr. 1-127).
- Upon obtaining the grid connection conditions from the grid system operator, the project developer has to prepare the technical grid connection project. The technical grid connection project has to be drafted in accordance with the issued grid connection conditions and has to be coordinated with the grid system operator. The final technical grid connection project has to be re-submitted to the grid system operator for approval (art. 14 par. 15 RES Act; sec. 6 it. 48 Order Nr. 1-127).

- After the project developer has received the license to produce electricity, he needs to send a request to the grid operator to prepare the connection contract. After receiving the contract, the project developer sends back the signed grid connection contract to the grid system operator and pays the grid connection fee (art. 14 par. 15 RES Act; sec. 6 it. 48 Order Nr. 1-127).
- After signing the contract with the grid operator, the project developer can apply for the permission to produce electricity to the NERC (sec. 4 Litgrid, n.d.).

Small-scale devices

Prosumers who intend to use renewable energy systems with an output of less than 30 kW and want to feed only the excess electricity into the grid, can apply for a simplified grid connection procedure (sec. 2 Order Nr. 1-127). First, they need to register with the grid operator for prosumer status. In the next step, the grid operator prepares the connections for the grid conditions, the gird connection agreement and calculates the connection fee. When the grid connection agreement is signed and the grid connection fee is paid by the project developer, the network operator connects the installation of the prosumer to the grid (ESO AB, n.d.).

Connection to the heating network

Heat suppliers are obliged to connect all renewable heating devices of independent heat producers that were installed to replace plants fired by fossil fuels. This process step is relevant for new biomass plants. The independent heat producer has to ensure that the heat supplied is consistent with the environmental and quality requirements as well as standards for the security of supply (art. 24 RES Act). The connection costs are covered by the independent heat producer (it. 23 Resolution No. O3-74).

The independent heat producer intending to produce renewable heat needs to submit a written connection request to the heat supplier (it. 30 Resolution No. O3-74). The heat supplier needs to provide the applicant with the detailed information on the technical possibilities and requirements for the connection of the heating installation to the heat transmission network (e.g., bandwidth of the grid, technical parameters, etc.). The information is provided free of charge (it. 30 Resolution No. O3-74).

The independent heat producer must provide the heat supplier with a guarantee that the connection conditions will be fulfilled. After receiving the confirmation on the guarantee of fulfilment of connection requirements, the heat supplier and the potential independent heat producer shall conclude a preliminary agreement on purchase and sale of heat (it. 36 Resolution No. O3-74). The preliminary agreement contains key conditions, including obligations and responsibility of both parties, date of connection, the way of price setting, etc. When entering into the agreement, the independent heat producer shall submit to the heat supplier the findings of the State Energy Inspectorate, stating that the renewable heat producing device complies with the applicable technical and operational requirements (it. 8 Resolution No. O3-74).

After signing the preliminary agreement, the plan of pilot operation (start-up and adjustment works) has to be prepared and submitted to the heat supplier for coordination by the independent heat producer. The pilot operation (start-up and adjustment works) may be started not later than 20 calendar days after the approval of the test operation (start-up and adjustment works) plan.

There is a priority purchase obligation for heat produced from renewable energy sources.

In the view of the stakeholders interviewed, the grid connection process step is perceived as efficient and transparent for both for the connection to the electricity grid as well as to the heating network.

Deadlines

Connection to the electricity grid

The preliminary grid connection conditions have to be issued by the distribution network operator within 15 working days from the receipt of project developer's application form (ESO, n.d.). In the case of connection to the electricity transmission system, it is 30 calendar days (sec. 3 Litgrid, n.d.).

After receiving the prepared form of protocol of intent from the grid operator the project developer has 10 calendar days to sign it and send it back to the grid operator. The protocol of intent to connect the renewable power installation has to be countersigned and returned by the grid operator to the project developer within 30 calendar days from its receipt (art. 22 par. 9 Electricity Act). Project developer within 10 calendar days after receiving the signed protocol of intent needs to submit a document stating the enforcement of the obligations stated in the protocol of intent. The grid system operator provides a confirmation within 5 working days to the project developer that the statement of enforcement of obligations was received (sec. 5 Litgrid, n.d.).

After receiving the permission to develop electricity generation capacity the project developer submits the application for grid connection conditions. The grid operator is obliged to issue the grid connection conditions within 10 working days after receiving the application and all documents (sec. 3 it. 25 Order Nr. 1-127).

The grid connection agreement is prepared by the grid network operator within 5 working days (sec. 3 Order Nr. 1-127). Within 30 calendar days the project developer needs to sign the contract (sec. 9 Litgrid, n.d.).

The grid connection agreement has to be countersigned by the distribution grid network operator within 5 working days, in case of connection to transmission grid system operator within 30 calendar days, from receiving a grid connection agreement signed by the project developer (ESO, n.d; sec. 9, Litgrid n.d.).

The grid connection agreement (with grid connection conditions) is valid for one year, in the time when the contract with the operator has to be signed (sec. 3 it. 25 Order Nr. 1-127).

The grid operator must connect the renewable power plant within 22 months or within a period during which the developer undertakes to build the power plant, if its longer than 22 months (art. 14 par. 1 RES Act). The deadline for connecting the power plant to the electricity grid may be extended if the electricity grid operator cannot connect the power plant due to delays in work on the side of the project developer or for other reasons beyond the network operator's control (art. 14 par. 3 RES Act).

Small-scale devices

For small-scale devices, the grid operator is obliged to prepare the grid connection conditions and the grid connection agreement within 5 working days after receiving prosumer's application for a prosumer status, or within 10 working days in case a technical connection project needs to be prepared (sec. 7 it. 56 Order Nr. 1-127).

Once the prosumer has signed the grid connection agreement and paid the grid connection fee, the grid operator performs the grid connection work within 20 calendar days if the technical connection project is not required, or within 60 calendar days if the planning and reconstruction of the grid is necessary (sec. 7 it. 56 Order Nr. 1-127).

Connection to the heating network

No later than within 15 calendar days from the receipt of application the heat supplier needs to provide the applicant with the detailed information on the technical possibilities

and requirements for the connection of the renewable heat installation to the heat transmission network (e.g., bandwidth of the grid, technical parameters, etc.). The connection conditions issued by the heat supplier are valid for 24 months (it. 35 Resolution No. O3-74).

The independent heat producer must within one month provide the heat supplier with a guarantee that the connection conditions will be fulfilled. This guarantee must be turned back to the independent heat provider within 5 working days after submitting the guarantee document. After this, the independent heat producer submits a request to the heat supplier to conclude a connection agreement.

After receiving an application from the independent heat producer to conclude preliminary agreement on purchase and sale of heat, the heat supplier has to conclude the contract within 14 working days (it. 47 Resolution No. O3-74). The independent heat producer has to submit back the signed connection contract to the heat supplier within 14 calendar days. After signing the preliminary agreement, the plan of pilot operation (start-up and adjustment works) has to be prepared and submitted to the heat supplier for coordination by the independent heat producer. The pilot operation (start-up and adjustment works) may be started not later than 20 calendar days after the approval of the test operation (start-up and adjustment works) plan. The actual connection of the independent heat supplier is agreed upon individually in the preliminary connection agreement (it. 50 Resolution No. O3-74).

Detected barriers

Long deadline for the network operator to connect the power plant. According to the Lithuanian Wind Power Association, the 22-month deadline for the connection of the RES plant to the electricity network is unreasonably long, especially if only one wind turbine needs to be connected (Radavičius, 2020).

Identified good practice

The stakeholders surveyed perceive the simplified grid connection procedure for renewable power systems with the capacity of less than 30 kW as good practise. The grid connection of these small-scale systems does not require many documents and the connection is organised quickly. Moreover, all documents and the grid connection status can be viewed online when logged on the operator's website (Karazinas, 2020; Vilpišauskas, 2020).

2.1.5. Corporate legal fiscal

Process flow

According to the Real Estate Tax Act, all real estate owners are subject to a real estate tax (art. 3 Real Estate Tax Act). The real estate tax in the municipal territory is set by the municipal council and can be between 0.5% and 3% of the real estate value (art. 6 Real Estate Tax Act).

All companies that produce electricity, including companies producing electricity from wind, solar or biomass, have to register their property with the Real Estate Register (sec. 4 it. 16 Resolution Nr. 379).

The use of roads for heavy vehicles has to be authorised by the Lithuanian Road Safety Administration (LTSA) under the Ministry of Transport and Communications. For small local roads such authorisation is issued by the municipality. This is applicable for the transportation of wind turbines and other heavy parts of the wind power plant from the

Port of Klaipeda to the site of construction. Together with the authorisation, a transportation tax on heavy vehicles, regulated by the Resolution No. 447 of the government of the Republic of Lithuania on the implementation of the law on financing the road maintenance, has to be paid by the project developer, which is calculated according to the load weight, size and kilometres travelled (Resolution No. 447). The size of the tax is calculated by the state enterprise Lithuanian Road Administration. The transportation tax is paid into the budget of the State Tax Inspectorate under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania (it. 8 and 9 Resolution No. 447).

Deadlines

Registration of property rights in the Real Estate Register is carried out within 10 working days. With a higher fee, this can be done in 3, 2 or 1 day (sec. 2 it. 62 Resolution Nr. 379).

Detected barriers

Highest real estate tax for renewable energy projects. As mentioned above, municipalities have the discretion to apply different real estate tax rates, ranging from 0.5% to 3% (from 0.3% to 3% by the end of 2020). According to the Lithuanian Wind Power Association, the municipalities often set the maximum allowed tariff, especially for producers of energy from renewable energy sources wind and sun (Radavičius, 2020). There is also no clear picture of how the money collected by the municipality from the real estate tax is used. As a result, both the local community and the project developer are not satisfied with this lack of transparency (Kėvelaitis, 2020).

High transportation tax for large-size and heavy load transport. In order to transport parts of the wind power plant from the Port of Klaipeda to the site of construction, the project developer has to pay high taxes for the transportation of large-sized and heavy loads. According to the Lithuanian Wind Power Association, the taxes in Lithuania are 10 times higher than in the neighbouring countries Latvia, Poland or Germany. The problem is seen in particular in the part of the tax that is calculated for the kilometres driven, which amounts to minimum of EUR 1.44/10km (it. 1 Resolution No. 447). In comparison with other countries, where mileage is not even considered at all, this adds additional high costs for the project developer. In other countries, a permit is simply issued for a specific fee (Radavičius, 2020).

Identified good practice

No good practise related to this process step was identified.

3. Use of IT systems

In Lithuania, IT or electronic application submission systems are used for many steps of the spatial, administrative and grid connection procedures.

In order to change the purpose of land one can apply through the information system for preparation of land management (https://www.zpdris.lt/zpdris/jsf/index.jsf).

For the permission to develop electricity generation capacity as well as permission to produce electricity, all documents can be submitted online through the governmental platform 'Electronic government gates' (www.epaslaugos.lt) or through electronic submission (email with electronical signature). The stakeholders interviewed perceive the use of this governmental online platform as efficient. It covers more and more services each year. To use this platform, users have to verify their identity by logging in by one of

the following ways: via electronic banking, with electronic identification or foreign identification means (eID, STORK 2.0).

To submit the documents regarding the HIA and EIA to respective institutions (National Health Centre and Environmental Protection Agency) the project developer can either send them through post or via electronic submission (email).

IT system[3] can be used also to request a construction permit and monitor the status of the request. This platform automatically notifies the municipal administration as well as other relevant competent bodies about the planned construction. If any objection is submitted, the project developer is notified through the platform as well.

To find out, whether a construction permit is required for the construction, the project developers can check the electronic questionnaire implemented by the State Spatial Planning and Construction Inspectorate under the Ministry of Environment (VTPSI)[4].

Application form for the preliminary grid connection conditions and application for the grid connection permit can be submitted through online platform or per email to the network operator. ESO, the biggest distribution system operator (DSO) in Lithuania, provides an online self-service platform to manage all the applications related to grid connection[5]. The Lithuanian transmission system operator (TSO) Litgrid provides an online application form[6]. Both, the ESO and Litgrid platforms are considered clear and effective.

Also, the application for authorisation to use roads for heavy vehicles can be submitted online[7].

For the registration of the power plant with the State Enterprise Centre of Registers (SECR), businesses can send their requests for registration with electronic signature to the SECR via email.

4. Complaint procedure

According to the Public Administration Act, a natural or legal person have the right to appeal against an administrative decision. Right of appeal applies also in cases where no response has been sent to the applicant within the established deadline for considering application (art. 14 Public Administration Act). The natural or legal person can choose to appeal either to the pre-trial Administrative Dispute Commission (art. 8 Pre-Trial Administrative Disputes Procedure) or to a District Administrative Court (art. 29 Administrative Proceedings Act), unless the law regulates otherwise. This includes the appeal on the decisions and conclusions of the Environmental Protection Agency on the EIA assessment.

Complaints go through out-of-court procedure and/or two administrative court instances. Complaints regarding the received decision from the administrative body or refusal to perform actions can be submitted either to the Administrative Disputes Commission (out-

[3] planuojustatyti.lt/eInfostatyba-external/public/login

[4] apklausos.vtpsi.lt/index.php/416549?lang=lt

[5] www.eso.lt/savitarna/

[6] www.litgrid.eu/index.php/paslaugos/prijungimas-perkelimas-rekonstravimas/pateikti-prasyma/gamintoju-prasymas-isankstinems-prijungimo-salygoms-gauti/1

[7] https://eismoinfo.lt/leidimai/

of-court procedure) or directly to the District Administrative Court, with few exceptions. Out-of-court procedure is obligatory for real estate tax related complaints (VAAT, 2020).

Complaints on the decision to Administrative Disputes Commission have to be submitted by the interested party within one month from the publication or notification of the action or decision from the public administration entity (art. 8 par. 1 Pre-Trial Administrative Disputes Procedure). Failure to act or delay in considering application or request by administrative body (failing to give answer within the set time) may be appealed within 2 months from the expiry of the set deadline (art. 8 par. 2 Pre-Trial Administrative Disputes Procedure).

A complaint submitted to the Administrative Disputes Commission must be examined within 20 working days of its receipt, with a possibility to extend it for another 10 working days (art. 12 Pre-Trial Administrative Disputes Procedure). At the request of the applicant, the deadline for filing a complaint may be renewed if the director aof municipal administration finds that it was missed for an important reason (art. 9 Pre-Trial Administrative Disputes Procedure). There is a possibility to set an additional 14-day deadline for the applicant to eliminate any deficiencies in the documents submitted (art. 10 Pre-Trial Administrative Disputes Procedure). Once the case is closed, recourse to the Administrative Disputes Commission on a dispute between the same parties on the same subject matter and on the same grounds is not permitted (art 18 Pre-Trial Administrative Disputes Procedure).

The appeal to the decision of the Administrative Dispute Commission can be submitted to the District Administrative Court within 30 calendar days from the decision (first court instance) (art. 20 par. 3 Administrative Proceedings Act).

An appeal to the decision of the District Administrative Court can be submitted to the Supreme Administrative Court of Lithuania as a second court instance (art. 21 par. 1 Administrative Proceedings Act). Preparations for an administrative case in court must normally be completed within one month from the date of receipt of the complaint. The decision to order a hearing should be taken not later than one month before the date of the hearing. The first hearing should take place no later than three months from the date of the order designating the hearing (art. 64 Pre-Trial Administrative Disputes Procedure).

The Administrative Disputes Commission does not decide on issues of damages or reimbursement of costs incurred by the parties during the process. Compensation for damage caused by illegal actions of public administration entity is settled in the Administrative Court (art. 17 Administrative Proceedings Act). An order of the Administrative Court (first instance) regarding the reimbursement of costs may be appealed to the Supreme Administrative Court of Lithuania within seven calendar days of its publication (art. 41 Pre-Trial Administrative Disputes Procedure).

There is a separate complaint procedure for disputes related to the issue of the grid connection permits. A person must first contact the network operator and submit his claims directly (out-of-court dispute settlement procedure). The grid operator must examine the received request and respond to it no later than within 30 days from the receipt of the request (MoEn, 2019).

If the answer does not solve the issue, a person can submit a complaint to the NERC. The NERC investigates complaints regarding actions or omissions of electricity network operators, regarding the request for connection to the relevant networks or connection equipment, acceptance of produced energy into energy networks or performing other network operator obligations (art. 64 RES Act; art. 34 par. 4 Energy Act). If NERC determines that the preliminary grid connection conditions do not comply with established grid connection procedures, the electricity network operator must issue new

preliminary grid connection conditions no later than within 30 calendar days (art. 14 RES Act).

Decisions made by the NERC enter into force if neither party files a claim with the District Administrative Court within 30 days from NERC's decision (art. 34 par. 7 Energy Act). Procedural decisions of NERC may be appealed to a District Administrative Court within 7 days from the decision (art. 34 par. 9 Energy Act).

In general, the stakeholders surveyed for this report do not perceive the complaint procedures as effective. Procedures can take around 2 to 7 years (Karazinas, 2020). Also, the remedies are not clearly defined (Vilpišauskas, 2021).

5. Specific features to ease administrative procedure

Table 2 below provides information on the existing specific features to ease administrative procedures in Lithuania.

Table 2: Specific features to ease administrative procedures

Specific feature	Existing	Short description
Simultaneous procedures	no	
National contact points and one-stop-shops	yes	In 2019, the Ministry of Energy established a national contact point for renewable energy developers and producers – the Lithuanian Energy Agency (LEA) (Kėvelatis, 2020). Project developer can be guided by the LEA, which would facilitate the entire administrative permit application and granting process. However, there is not much information provided online for developers to contact the agency regarding the administrative processes. During the interviews, this agency was not mentioned as a contact point, suggesting that this possibility is not well communicated (Karazinas, 2020; Radavičius, 2020). For now, one-stop-shop exists only in the municipality, covering the territorial planning and permissions from the cultural heritage as well as natural protection agencies and building permit.
Application of 2+1 and 1+1 rules	yes	Deadlines for procedures for the installation of a power plant are already compliant with RED II and are not subject to further changes. The procedures for installations larger than 30 kW are compliant with the rule 2+1 (Sveklaitė, 2020). Simplified procedure is applied for installations up to 30 kW and up to 150 kW. They are exempt from spatial planning and land use change requirements. However, only the installations of less than 30 kW comply with the 1+1 rule.
Simple notification procedure	yes	Simple notification procedure applies for the grid connection of prosumers' installations of less than 30 kW capacity. They need to apply for a prosumer status, if the excess electricity is fed into the grid. Then the grid connection conditions and grid connection agreement are prepared, and the connection fee is calculated by the grid operator within 5 working days (or 10 working days if a

		technical project is needed). This simple notification system is perceived as effective.
Pre-planning	no	
Pre-application consultation	yes	Pre-application consultation is optional and can be organised by the project developer. This is an increasing trend among the wind power project developers (Radavičius, 2020). For solar PV projects this is rather not a common practise (Karazinas, 2020). Pre-application consultation is organised before applying for a construction permit from the municipality. Wind power industry leads discussions not only with the municipality, but also with the relevant local community. The aim of such a consultation is to understand the conditions of the municipality and address the concerns of the local community and this way facilitate and accelerate the administrative procedure at the municipality level. The re-application consultation is perceived as very effective by the wind industry, especially with regard to addressing communities' concerns before the project is initiated. However, because this process is optional, many developers do not use this measure.
Project acceptance measures	yes	• Information campaigns are organised by the Ministry of Energy and Ministry of Environment to inform the society on the benefits of renewable energy. • The maximum real estate tax of 3% for the RES power plant makes renewable energy projects more attractive to the municipality. • Pre-application consultation with the community and municipality became a common practise for renewable energy project developers, where communities' concerns are clarified and addressed by the project developer. This is mainly the case with wind power projects in Lithuania. • Voluntary compensation measures for communities that are close to the areas of wind power parks are in place.
Measures to streamline litigation by third parties	yes	• Once the judicial process is over, it is not allowed to go to court for disputes between the same parties on the same subject matter and on the same grounds (art 18 Pre-Trial Administrative Disputes Procedure). • The right of a claim against the decision or act of the administrative body is limited to the interested parties, i.e., those who are or might be affected by the decision or act concerned (art. 5 Administrative Proceedings Act).
Other	no	

6. Indicators to measure the performance of the overall process

Table 3 below provides information on the indicators to measure the performance of the overall administrative and grid connection process in Lithuania.

Table 3: Performance indicators to assess administrative and grid connection processes

Performance indicator	Description
Average response time by the competent authorities and TSO/DSO for grid connection procedures	The average response time is generally corresponding with the official deadlines. In many cases it is 30 calendar days (Radavičius, 2020). TSO/DSO have also clearly established deadlines to respond and they are kept. Where the deadlines are not defined, the response time can vary from 1 week to 1,5 years (Karazinas, 2020).
Process duration	For PV systems exceeding 30 kW the whole process takes around 6 months (Karazinas, 2020). For wind power plants, the whole administrative process takes around 4 or 5 years, including the EIA assessment (Kėvelaitis, 2020) The land purpose change or refusal to change is issued within 10 working days (Resolution No. 1073). To prepare a special or detailed territorial plan, if municipality does not have one, takes around 1 year (Vilpisauskas, 2021). The permission to develop electricity generation capacity as well as electricity generation permission are issued within 30 calendar days of receiving the application and all necessary supporting documents (art. 21 par. 1 Energy Act). The whole EIA process, including the preparation of EIA assessment takes around 12 months (Kevelaitis, 2020). After submitting an application for construction permit, in not objections within 7 days have been submitted, the director of municipal administration within 10 working days prepares special requirements for the construction and issues the construction permit (art. 24 Construction Act). Connection of an installation to the electricity grid takes up to 22 months (Radavičius, 2020; Sveklaitė, 2020).
Project approval rates	N.A.
Costs of administrative processes	The cost of administrative processes is perceived as appropriate by the stakeholders interviewed (Karazinas, 2020; Vilpišauskas, 2021). The cost is as follows: • For systems up to 30 kW: around EUR 100-300 • For installations between 30 kW and 100 kW: EUR 1,000 - 3,500 • For installations between 100 kW and 1 MW: from EUR 3,500 (Karazinas, 2020)
Share of permits that are legally challenged	No data is available on the exact share. It could be estimated at less than 10% of all projects (Vilpišauskas, 2021; Karazinas, 2020).
Share of legal challenges that are overruled	N.A.
Stakeholder interests	Stakeholder interests are addressed in the spatial planning, the EIA approval and building permitting procedures (see Section 2.1.3.).

	There are no or little stakeholder involvement in the grid operator's decision-making process (Radavičius, 2020).

References

Biokuras, 2018. Central heating announces a revival. Available at: < http://www.biokuras.lt/centrinis-sildymas-skelbia-atgimima> [Accessed 3 February 2021].

EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), 2020. Public participation in the environmental impact assessment (EIA) and EIA selection processes of planned economic activities. Available at: <https://am.lrv.lt/uploads/am/documents/files/PAV/Visuomen%C4%97s%20dalyvavimas%20PAV_2020-10-14.pdf> [Accessed 19 December 2020].

epaslaugos, n.d. Issuance of permits for the development of electricity generation capacity and permits for the production of electricity. Available at:< https://www.epaslaugos.lt/portal/service/92422/16020> [Accessed 3 February 2021].

ESO AB (Distribution System Operator), n.d. Information on grid connection for installations up to 30kW. Available at: <https://www.eso.lt/lt/namams/elektra/jei-elektra-gaminu-pats/gaminancio-kliento-prijungimas-iki-30kw.html> [Accessed 5 December 2020].

Geometra, 2020. Land purpose change. Available at: <https://www.geometra.lt/paslaugos/zemes-paskirties-keitimas> [Accessed 21 January 2021].

Geometra, 2017. How to change the purpose of land? Available at: <https://www.geometra.lt/blogas/138-kaip-pakeisti-zemes-sklypo-paskirti> [Accessed 21 January 2021].

Litgrid AB (Transmission System Operator), n.d. Description of the procedure for the use of electricity producers in electricity transmission networks. Available at: <https://www.litgrid.eu/uploads/files/dir481/dir24/dir1/6_0.php> [Accessed 19 December 2020].

MoEn (Ministry of Energy), 2019. Procedure for appealing against decisions. Available at: <https://vei.lrv.lt/lt/administracine-informacija/ukio-subjektu-prieziura/sprendimu-apskundimo-tvarka> [Accessed 5 December 2020].

MoEn (Ministry of Energy) 2020a. Statistics. Available at: < https://enmin.lrv.lt/lt/veiklos-sritys-3/atsinaujinantys-energijos-istekliai/statistika> [Accessed 19 January 2021].

MoEn (Ministry of Energy) 2020b. A procurement for an environmental impact assessment of wind farms in the Baltic Sea has been announced. Available at: < https://enmin.lrv.lt/lt/naujienos/paskelbtas-pirkimas-vejo-elektriniu-baltijos-juroje-poveikio-aplinkai-vertinimui-atlikti> [Accessed 3 February 2021].

MoEn (Ministry of Energy), 2016. The map of the territories of the Republic of Lithuania, where the design and construction works of wind power plants may be restricted has been approved. Available at: < https://enmin.lrv.lt/lt/veiklos-sritys-3/atsinaujinantys-energijos-istekliai/aktuali-informacija-naujienos/patvirtintas-lietuvos-respublikos-teritoriju-kuriose-gali-buti-ribojami-vejo-elektriniu-aukstu-statiniu-projektavimo-ir-statybos-darbai-zemelapis> [Accessed 21 January 2021].

NERC (National Energy Regulatory Council), 2020a. Permission to develop generation capacity. Available at: <https://www.vert.lt/Puslapiai/bendra/technine-prieziura/Leidimas-pl%C4%97toti-elektros-energijos-gamybos-paj%C4%97gumus.aspx> [Accessed 5 December 2020].

NERC (National Energy Regulatory Council), 2020b. Description of the provision of administrative services by the State Energy Inspectorate. Permission to produce

electricity. Available at: <https://www.regula.lt/Puslapiai/bendra/Paslaugos/Leidimo-gaminti-elektros-energija-isdavimas.aspx> [Accessed 5 December 2020].

NERC (National Energy Regulatory Council), 2020c. Rules of the procedure for out-of-court settlement of disputes. Available at: <https://www.regula.lt/Puslapiai/naujienos/2019-metai/2019-birzelis/2019-06-27/patvirtintos-vartotoju-skundu-nagrinejimo-ir-gincu-neteisminio-sprendimo-proceduros-taisykles.aspx> [Accessed 5 December 2020].

Radavičius, A., 2020. Renewable Energy in Lithuania- will we maintain the direction after the elections? Article in 15min. Available at: <https://www.15min.lt/naujiena/aktualu/nuomones/aistis-radavicius-atsinaujinanti-energetika-lietuvoje-ar-islaikysime-krypti-po-rinkimu-18-1384018> [Accessed 23 November 2020].

RNP (Renewable Networking Platform), 2020. Obstacles and Best Practices database. Available at: <https://www.renewables-networking.eu/obstacles> [Accessed 28 December 2020].

Skuodas, 2020: Special plan for the development of alternative energy sources - wind and solar power plants in the territory of Skuodas district municipality. Available at: <https://www.skuodas.lt/administracine-informacija/planavimo-dokumentai/skuodo-rajono-savivaldybes-teritorijos-alternatyviu-energijos-saltiniu-vejo-ir-saule-jegainiu-pletros-isdestymo-specialusis-planas/> [Accessed 21 January 2021].

SSPC (State Spatial Planning and Construction Inspectorate under the Ministry of Environment), 2020. Questionnaire on mandatory construction permits for new constructions. Available at: <http://apklausos.vtpsi.lt/index.php/416549?lang=lt> [Accessed 19 December 2020].

Telsiai, 2012. Special plan of the territory located in Degaičiai, Egirdžiai, Patausalė, Dirmeikiai, Tryškiai, Ubiškė, Duseikiai areas, Telšiai district (Special plan of wind power plants). Available at: <http://www.telsiai.lt/go.php/lit/Specialieji-planai/1> [Accessed 19 December 2020].

VAAT (Vilnius Administrative Court), 2020. Pre-trial dispute procedure. Available at: <https://vaat.teismas.lt/asmenu-aptarnavimas/ka-reiketu-zinoti-kreipiantis-i-teisma/gincu-nagrinejimas-ne-teismo-tvarka/114> [Accessed 19 December 2020].

Interviews

Karazinas, A., 2020. Lithuanian Solar Power Association. Interviewed on 25.11.2020.

Kėvelaitis, R., 2020. Ministry of Energy of Republic of Lithuania. Interviewed on 7.12.2020.

Nagevičius, M., 2020. Lithuanian Confederation of Renewable Resources. Interviewed on 06.01.2021.

Radavičius, A., 2020. Lithuanian Wind Power Association (LVEA). Interviewed on 23.11.2020.

Sveklaitė, L., 2020. Ministry of Energy of Republic of Lithuania. Email exchange on 14.12.2020.

Legislation

Administrative Proceedings Act (Administrative Proceedings Act of the Republic of Lithuania), 1999. Lietuvos Respublikos administracinių bylų teisenos įstatymas (Nr. VIII-1029).

Construction Act (Construction Act of the Republic of Lithuania), 1996. Lietuvos Republikos statybų įstatymas (Nr. I-1240).

EIA Act (Environmental Impact Assessment Act of the Republic of Lithuania), 2017. Lietuvos Respublikos planuojamos ūkinės veiklos poveikio aplinkai vertinimo įstatymas (Nr. I-1495).

Energy Act (Energy Act of the Republic of Lithuania), 2002. Lietuvos Respublikos energetikos įstatymas (Nr. IX-884).

Electricity Act (Electricity Act of the Republic of Lithuania), 2000. Lietuvos Respublikos elektros energijos įstatymas (Nr. VIII-1881)

NECP (National Energy and Climate Plan), 2019. Lietuvos Respublikos nacionalinis energetikos ir klimato srities veiksmų planas 2021-2030m. Available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/lt_final_necp_main_en.pdf> [Accessed 3 January 2021].

NEIS (National Energy Independence Strategy), 2018. Lietuvos Respublikos Nacionalinė energetinės nepriklausomybės Strategija. Available at: <https://enmin.lrv.lt/uploads/enmin/documents/files/Nacionaline%20energetines%20nepriklausomybes%20strategija_2018_LT.pdf> [Accessed 8 January 2021]

Order Nr. 1-127 on approval of the description of the procedure for the connection of electrical equipment of electricity producers and consumers to the electricity networks, 2012 (2012 liepos 4d. įsakymas Nr. 1-127 dėl elektros energijos gamintojų ir vartotojų elektros įrenginių prijungimo prie elektros tinklų tvarkos aprašo patvirtinimo).

Pre-Trial Administrative Disputes Procedure Act (Pre-Trial Administrative Disputes Procedure Act of the Republic of Lithuania), 1999. Lietuvos Respublikos ikiteisminio administracinių ginčų nagrinėjimo tvarkos įstatymas (Nr. VIII-1031).

Public Administration Act (Public Administration Act of the Republic of Lithuania), 1999. Lietuvos Respublikos viešojo administravimo įstatymas (Nr. VIII-1234).

Real Estate Tax Act (Real Estate Tax Act of the Republic of Lithuania), 2005. Lietuvos Respublikos nekilnojamojo turto mokesčio įstatymas (Nr. X-233).

RES Act (Renewable Energy Act of Republic of Lithuania), 2011. Lietuvos Respublikos atsinaujinančių išteklių energetikos įstatymas (Nr. XI-1375).

Resolution No. 626 on territorial restrictions of Republic of Lithuania for the construction of wind power plants with respect to the national security, 2012 (Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2012 m. gegužės 29 d. nutarimas Nr. 626 dėl informacijos apie Lietuvos Respublikos teritorijas, kuriose, atsižvelgiant į nacionalinio saugumo reikalavimus, gali būti taikomi vėjo elektrinių projektavimo ir statybos apribojimai, teikimo ir vėjo elektrinių projektavimo bei statybos vietų šiose teritorijose derinimo tvarkos aprašo patvirtinimo).

Resolution No. O3-74 on the description of the procedure and the conditions for the purchase of heat from independent heat producers, 2013 (Valstybinės Kainų ir Energetikos Kontrolės Komisijos 2013m. vasario 28 d. nutarimas Nr. 03-74 dėl Valstybinės Kainų ir Energetikos Kontrolės Komisijos 2010 m. spalio 4 d. nutarimo nr. o3-202 „dėl šilumos supirkimo iš nepriklausomų šilumos gamintojų tvarkos ir sąlygų aprašo patvirtinimo“ pakeitimo).

Resolution No. 379 on approval of the land register provisions, 2014 (Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2014 m. balandžio 23 d. nutarimas Nr. 379 dėl nekilnojamojo turto registro nuostatų patvirtinimo).

Resolution No. 447 of the government of the Republic of Lithuania on the implementation of the law on financing the road maintenance, 2005 (Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2005m. balandžio 21d. nutarimas Nr. 626 dėl Lietuvos Respublikos kelių priežiūros ir plėtros programos finansavimo įstatymo įgyvendinimo).

Resolution No. 474 on approval and authorization of the identification and authorization of the description of the procedure for performing the public health impact assessment not provided in the law on environmental impact assessment of planned economic activities, 2011 (Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2011m. gegužės 13d. planuojamos ūkinės veiklos poveikio aplinkai vertinimo įstatyme nenumatytų poveikio visuomenės sveikatai vertinimo atlikimo atvejų nustatymo ir tvarkos aprašo patvirtinimo ir įgaliojimų suteikimo (V-4747).

Resolution No. 626 on the information on the territories of the Republic of Lithuania in which taking into account the requirements of national security restrictions on the design and construction of wind power plants may be applied, 2014 (Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 2012 m. gegužės 29 d. nutarimas Nr. 626 dėl informacijos apie Lietuvos Respublikos teritorijas, kuriose, atsižvelgiant į nacionalinio saugumo reikalavimus, gali būti taikomi vėjo elektrinių projektavimo ir statybos apribojimai, teikimo ir vėjo elektrinių projektavimo bei statybos vietų šiose teritorijose derinimo tvarkos aprašo patvirtinimo).

Resolution No. 1073 of the government of the Republic of Lithuania on the approval of the description of the procedure and conditions for determining and changing the main purpose and method of land use, 1999 (Lietuvos Respublikos vyriausybės 2003m. spalio 14d. nutarimas Nr. 1073 dėl pagrindinės žemės naudojimo paskirties ir būdo nustatymo ir keitimo tvarkos bei sąlygų aprašo patvirtinimo).

Resolution No. 1079 on public information, consultation and participation in the decision-making on the approval of spatial planning, 1996 (Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 1996 m. rugsėjo 18 d. nutarimas dėl visuomenės informavimo, konsultavimo ir dalyvavimo priimant sprendimus dėl teritorijų planavimo nuostatų patvirtinimo).

Spatial Planning Standards (Order on the Approval of Territorial Planning Standards) 2014. Įsakymas dėl Teritorijų Planavimo Normų Patvirtinimo (Nr. D1-7).

Special Land Use Act (Special Land use Condition Act of the Republic of Lithuania), 2019. Lietuvos Republikos specialiųjų žemės naudojimo sąlygų įstatymas (Nr. XIII-2166).

Territorial Planning Act (Territorial Planning Act of the Republic of Lithuania), 1995. Lietuvos Respublikos teritorijų planavimo įstatymas (Nr. I-1120).