

SME-related policy measures adopted, implemented or announced in 2021

LITHUANIA

| Title of the measure (national language) | Title of the measure (English translation) | Implementing body | Adopted / implemented / announced as part of the 'National Recovery and Resilience Plan' (Yes / No) | Status (Adopted or implemented or announced) | Date of adoption/ implementatio n or announcement (DD/MM/YYYY) | General description (objectives / key features / budget - if applicable, and weblink to online source) |
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| ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABILITY | | | | | | |
| Nacionalinė klimato kaitos valdymo darbotvarkė | National Climate Change Management Agenda | The Government of the Republic of Lithuania | No | Adopted | 02/06/2021 | The Government has adopted the National Climate Change Management Agenda, which sets short-, medium- and long-term targets for climate change mitigation, adaptation and targets for individual sectors. The vision of climate change policy is based on three main equivalent pillars – the circular and climate-neutral Economy of Lithuania; protection and conservation of biodiversity; climate-resilient society. It also includes industry-specific actions such as: i) |

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| | | | | | | <p>encouraging industry to become energy-producing consumers through RES; ii) promoting the use of hydrogen in industrial processes, e.g. production of fertilisers and/or other products; iii) supporting waste-free and low-waste production, circular economy models, rational use of resources, secondary and more climate-friendly raw materials. It also foresees support for innovation in industrial processes and projects that reduce energy consumption, industrial reorientation, and digitalization.</p> <p>https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/7eb37fc0db3311eb866fe2e083228059?positionInSearchResult</p> |
| SOCIAL ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABILITY | | | | | | |
| Socialinio verslo platforma | Social Business Platform | Versli Lietuva (Enterprise Lithuania) | No | Implemented | 10/03/2021 | <p>The social business platform is a digitalized tool for creating, measuring, and developing the competencies of social enterprises or entrepreneurs. It offers training programmes for those who have established social business or merely have an idea. Social businesses can learn how to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) measure their impact during interactive training; ii) assess the effectiveness of their activities; iii) get acquainted with the theory of change and; |

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| | | | | | | <p>iv) acquire basic entrepreneurship skills. Young social entrepreneurs are guided from the venture idea to the business model to planning and measuring impact. The platform is available to anyone who has registered a social business or an idea for such a business.</p> <p>https://socialinisverslas.verslilietuva.lt/learning-platform/</p> |
| DIGITALISATION (e.g. Digital Innovation Hubs, training, vouchers, grants or loans for digitalisation and to invest in new digital equipment, etc.) | | | | | | |
| 2021–2030 metų Lietuvos Respublikos Ekonomikos ir inovacijų ministerijos valstybės skaitmeninimo plėtros programa | State Digitisation Development Programme of the Ministry of Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania for 2021-2030 | Ministry of Economy and Innovation | Yes | Adopted | 17/11/2021 | <p>The programme sets the frame for the development of innovative technological solutions for the government, business and people. One of the main objectives set out in the document is to ensure the efficient management of state information resources and the interoperability of state information systems, which is expected, among other benefits, to improve business environment. It also foresees measures directly related to business such as the development of e-services, tools and technological solutions operating on the principles of artificial intelligence, data analytics, as well as opening government data to businesses and measures to enhance digital skills. EUR 449,8 million were allocated for the programme, including EUR 277,8 million from the Recovery and Resilience Fund (RRF), the</p> |

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| | | | | | | European Union Structural Funds and the state budget. https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/fff902e44e8c11ec86bdc0a6d573b32?jfwid=rivwzvpg |
| Industry 4.0 Lab | Industry 4.0 Lab | Ministry of Economy and Innovation | Yes | Announced | 15/05/2021 | The project was designed to encourage Lithuanian industrial companies (esp. SMEs) to implement digital technologies in the field of circular economy. The result will be two or three virtual simulation labs, where the companies will be able to check (test-before-invest) technologies, related to circular economy including relevant audit and consulting services. The project will be implemented by European Digital Innovation Hubs once these are selected in mid-2022. |
| E.Komercijos modelis Covid-19 | E. Commerce Model | Lithuanian Business Support Agency (LVPA) together with the Ministry of Economy and Innovation | No | Implemented | 19/08/2021 | The purpose of the measure is to encourage SMEs to deploy information technology to manage business transactions electronically: (1) customer self-service solutions on e-commerce platforms; (2) solutions for integrating the resource management systems into e-commerce platforms for products and services. This measure with a budget of EUR 40 million provides a maximum subsidy of EUR 50.000. |

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| | | | | | | https://lvpa.lt/lt/paraiskos/e.-komercijos-modelis-covid-19-nr.-1-1551 |
| Skaitmeninės ekonomikos inovacijų rinkos kūrimas finansuojant inovatyvius viešuosius pirkimus „GovTech“ sprendimams ir skatinant žaliąsias inovacijas. | Creating the market for digital economy innovation by funding innovative public procurement for GovTech solutions and promoting green innovation | MITA an Ministry of Economy and Innovation | No | Implemented | 31/12/2021 | <p>The aim of the measure is to stimulate the implementation of digital and green innovation solutions by public institutions. It also helps attract innovative start-ups and SMEs to experiment with creative GovTech solutions. Potential applicants (challenge owners) are public sector entities, with the exception of Lithuanian higher education institutions.</p> <p>The funding is provided to projects that require a GovTech pilot. A GovTech pilot is a digital solution with basic configuration, content, or other features sufficient to demonstrate and test the performance of a product. The project must be implemented in two phases, with a design contest in Phase I (concept phase), and unpublished negotiations with the project winners in Phase II.</p> <p>Tenders are open to everyone: start-ups, innovative companies, even individuals in building GovTech solutions. 37 projects were successfully implemented.</p> |

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| | | | | | | https://mita.lrv.lt/lt/skelbimai/kvietimas-gauti-finansavima-govtech-issukiams |
| Innovation (e.g. vouchers, grants or loans for R&D and innovation, support to encourage SMEs to commercialise RTD results and to acquire patents, etc.) | | | | | | |
| Kūrybiniai čekiai covid-19 nr. 1 | Creative COVID-19 Cheques | LVPA together with the Ministry of Economy and Innovation | No | Implemented | 16/07/2021 | <p>The objective of the measure is to encourage SMEs to use innovative services provided by actors operating in the creative and cultural industries and to develop and implement design and marketing innovations. SMEs may apply for the cheque up to EUR 70.000.</p> <p>The planned amount of funding for the call is EUR 7.000.000.</p> <p>https://lvpa.lt/lt/paraikos/kurybiniai-cekiai-covid-19-nr.-1-1492</p> |
| SKILLS (e.g. vocational education and training, forecasting skill needs, measures to adapt the vocational training systems to the requirements of the labour market, etc.). | | | | | | |
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| ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN | | | | | | |
| Ūkio subjektų administracinės naštos ir prisitaikymo prie reguliavimo išlaidų vertinimo metodika | Methodology for Assessing the Costs of Adaptation to Regulation on Economic Entities | The Government of the Republic of Lithuania | No | Announced | 19/05/2021 | <p>The purpose of the Methodology is to regulate the assessment of the adaptation burden on economic entities that is caused by the obligations imposed by the adopted legal acts or draft legal acts. It helps to estimate the adaptation burden resulting from a regulatory obligation itself, or the way it is implemented, in monetary terms. It also helps to evaluate whether the obligation is necessary for the intended objective of the legal regulation to achieve or whether the</p> |

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| | | | | | | <p>adjustment costs for the entity are reasonable and proportionate.</p> <p>https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAP/c222dfe0568411ec86bdcb0a6d573b32?positionInSearchResults=0&searchModelUUID=948b269d-c501-46ff-b081-defedd51f5dd</p> |
| REGULATORY OBSTACLES | | | | | | |
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| ACCESS TO FINANCE (including guarantee schemes, public funding programmes, support for alternative financing and equity financing, favourable legal, tax and regulatory frameworks for investments, fiscal incentives) | | | | | | |
| Subsidijos nuo Covid-19 nukentėjusiems Individualią veiklą vykdančioms asmenims | Subsidies for Individuals affected by Covid-19 | Valstybinė mokesčių inspekcija (State Tax Inspectorate) together with the Ministry of Economy and Innovation and LVPA | No | Implemented | 24/03/2021 | <p>Residents who in 2020 carried out individual economic activities, that were included in the list of restricted activities and did not receive one-off non-repayable grants to maintain operational liquidity may apply. The subsidy amount to 100% of income tax paid or the business certificate(s) price (income tax) paid for the 2019 operating periods, but not less than EUR 100 and not more than EUR 10.926.</p> <p>https://www.vmi.lt/evmi/subsidijos-savarankiskai-dirbantiems ; https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/ca3d0f208c9f11eb9fecb5ecd3bd711c</p> |
| Tiesioginės COVID-19 paskolos | Direct COVID-19 Loans | INVEGA together with the Ministry of Economy and Innovation | No | Implemented | 19/01/2021 | The main objective of the measure is to reduce the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on businesses and entrepreneurs by providing loans to finance |

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| | | | | | | <p>operating costs of businesses. Loans are provided to businesses that meet the criteria for assistance with the main criterion being a drop in turnover of more than 30 % during the second quarantine period (1/11/2020-31/1/2021) and, in the case of new companies, a restriction on their activities. The loan should not exceed EUR 100.000. Direct loans are provided on preferential terms, i.e., at reduced interest</p> <p>An amendment to the measure is being prepared, following which loans will be provided to provide liquidity and loans to finance investments.</p> <p>https://invega.lt/data/public/uploads/2021/04/tiesiogines-covid-19-paskolos_aprasas_0310.pdf</p> |
| Subsidijos nuo covid-19 nukentėjusioms įmonėms | Subsidies for COVID-19 affected companies | VMI (State Tax Inspectorate) together with the Ministry of Economy and Innovation and LVPA | No | Implemented | 15/01/2021 | <p>Funds were allocated for companies, which turnover decreased more than 30% during the COVID-19 period October, 2020–February, 2021 compared with COVID-free period October, 2019–February, 2020. The aim of measure was to ensure the liquidity of enterprises from negative consequence of COVID-19 virus spread.</p> <p>https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/d369ba10574a11eb9dc7b575f08e8bea</p> |

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| Subsidijos nuo covid-19 labiausiai nukentėjusioms įmonėms | Subsidies for the most COVID-19 affected companies | VMI (State Tax Inspectorate) together with the Ministry of Economy and Innovation and LVPA | No | Implemented | 15/04/2021 | <p>Companies most affected by COVID-19 can apply for a one-off non-repayable grant. Companies meeting the criteria set out by the Ministry of Economy and Innovation and agreed with the European Commission, may submit an application form through the Electronic Declaration System.</p> <p>The enterprise may apply for a subsidy which depends on the amount of personal income tax paid by the enterprise in 2019, on the income related to the employment relationship. If the average company's monthly income has fallen by at least 50%, the enterprise may apply for a subsidy to cover fixed costs. The amount of the subsidy may then amount to no more than 70% of the company's fixed costs incurred between 1 November 2020 and 30 April 2021, up to a maximum of EUR 40.000 and at least EUR 500.</p> <p>Total funding allocated – EUR 120.000.000.</p> <p>https://www.vmi.lt/evmi/subsidijos-labiausiai-nuo-covid-19-nukentejusioms-imonems; https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAP/e488b7f29d2811eb998483d0ae31615c?positionInSearchResults=1&searchModelUUID=57c</p> |
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| Vertybinių popierių įtraukimo į vertybinių popierių biržą skatinimas | Promotion of listing of securities on the stock exchange | INVEGA / Ministry of Economy and innovation | No | Is implemented | 20/07/2021 | <p>The objective is to promote the participation of SMEs in capital markets in Lithuania and help attract the necessary financing for development.</p> <p>SMEs may apply for compensation of part of the costs related to issuing shares or bonds and listing them in the securities market Nasdaq Vilnius and alternative securities market First North.</p> <p>Eligible costs include expenses related to strategy and structure development, relations with potential investors, promotion, due diligence, etc. Subsidy shall not exceed EUR100.000 .</p> <p>Up to EUR 1.000.000 allocated for the measure.</p> <p>https://invega.lt/doclib/aipv0ibzu1t4wxy58pku4rc9s829ctbs</p> |
| Nuomos pastoviųjų išlaidų dalies kompensacija vykdančioms individualią veiklą | Compensation of part of the fixed costs of the lease for those engaged in an individual activity | INVEGA together with the Ministry of Economy and Innovation | No | Implemented | 01/09/2021 | <p>The measure aims to support individuals affected by COVID-19 by compensating them with the costs of renting and operating premises or commercial or service space.</p> <p>Small entrepreneurs operating under an individual activity certificate or business certificate can receive compensation if their activities have been restricted during quarantine.</p> <p>The maximum compensation will amount to up to 70% of the fixed costs incurred between 1 November 2020 and 30 April</p> |

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| | | | | | | <p>2021, up to a maximum of EUR 20.000. Totally EUR 12 million allocated for the measure from the state budget.</p> <p>https://invega.lt/verslui/visos-priemones/25/kompensacijos-individualiai-dirbantiems-uz-nuomos-ir-su-ja-susijusias-islaidas-102; https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/1050cbb00b5c11ecb4af84e751d2e0c9?jfwid=</p> |
| LATE PAYMENTS <i>(measures aimed at addressing late payments)</i> | | | | | | |
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| ACCESS TO MARKETS <i>(e.g. market-specific support and business training activities, export credit insurance, missions – covering both the Single market and third countries)</i> | | | | | | |
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| Start-Up Environment | | | | | | |
| Startuok | Start Up | INVEGA together with the Ministry of Economy and Innovation | Yes (EGF) | Is implemented | 14/09/2021 | <p>The aim of the measure is to support access to financing for start-ups and young SMEs. SMEs should be operating for the period over 1 year, but not exceeding 3 years from the day of registration, or in case of social impact companies – 5 years.</p> <p>Eligible SMEs can apply for investment loans and loans for working capital financing. In the case of investment, loans up to EUR 3.000.000 could be provided. The loan's term is 120 months. If the purpose of the loan is to increase the working capital - up to EUR 200.000 is available. The loan's term is 36 months.</p> |

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| | | | | | | <p>The European Guarantee Fund (EGF) will guarantee loans from the 'Startuok' financial instrument. The EGF guarantee may be used to guarantee investment or revolving loans by 70 percent. The total potential loan portfolio will make EUR 57 million, it is expected that 500 SMEs will benefit from this measure.</p> <p>https://invega.lt/verslui/visos-priemones/25/startuok-90 ; https://www.delfi.lt/en/business/invega-uses-european-guarantee-fund-to-support-lithuanian-businesses-in-wake-of-covid-19-pandemic.d?id=88317965</p> |
| Akceleratorius 2 | Accelerator 2 | INVEGA/ Ministry of Economy and innovation | No | Announced | 28/05/2021 | <p>INVEGA and the Ministry of Economy and Innovation initiated a new financial instrument in the form of venture capital for start-ups - EUR18 million acceleration fund - the "Accelerator 2". This financial instrument will be implemented by two selected financial intermediaries – fund managers, who will have to attract to the funds at least 10% of private funds and set up two venture capital funds: the Pre-seed Fund and the Seed Fund. The first investments are expected to take place in 2022.</p> <p>https://invega.lt/naujienos/47/rizikos-kapitalo-finansines-priemones-akceleratorius-2-</p> |

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| MILInvest | MILInvest | INVEGA | No | Announced | 18/05/2021 | <p>MILInvest aims to promote experimental development and innovation in the defence and security sector by providing investments for emerging and viable high-tech companies in Lithuania. The instrument will support the pre-acceleration and acceleration programmes. It will also provide equity and quasi-equity investments in viable businesses.</p> <p>Defence Investment Fund financed from the State budget will contribute to MILInvest Fund. It is expected that the MILInvest fund manager selected by INVEGA will attract additional funding from independent private investors.</p> <p>https://invega.lt/naujienos/47/kvieciame-teikti-paraiskas-rizikos-kapitalo-finansines-priemones-milinvest-finansu-tarpininko-atrankai:1128</p> |
| Biotechnologijų srities pramonės plėtra Lietuvoje | Development of Biotechnology Industry in Lithuania | MITA | No | Implemented | 06/10/2021 | <p>The measure aims to promote the biotechnology industry in Lithuania by supporting R&D activities that will contribute to the development of innovative products. Two calls for proposals are launched under the measure Development of Biotechnology Industry in Lithuania. The first is for start-ups, with up to EUR 200.000 per project, and the second goes up to EUR 500.000 for established companies. Total amount of</p> |

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| | | | | | | <p>funding – EUR 13.7 million (including EUR 4,455 million for start-ups)</p> <p>The supported projects should address technology readiness levels (TRL) 4-9, with minimum end-stage of 6. The funding intensity applied to the to the eligible costs of start-ups and other private legal entities – maximum 80%.</p> <p>https://mita.lrv.lt/lt/skelbimai/kvietimas-startuoliams-teikti-priemones-biotechnologiju-srities-pramones-pletra-lietuvoje-paraiskas</p> |
| SCALE-UP ENVIRONMENT | | | | | | |
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| NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS | | | | | | |
| Turizmo paslaugų ir produktų inovacijos | Tourism service and product innovation | MITA | No | Implemented | 01/10/2021 | <p>The measure provides funding for developing new interactive tourism services and products on the Internet: the creation of interactive maps, educational trails, virtual tours, digital personalized travel packages, audio guides. Marketing activities of digital tourism services and products are also eligible. The maximum funding available – EUR 20.000 per project.</p> <p>https://mita.lrv.lt/lt/veiklos-sritys/programos-priemones/turizmo-paslaugu-ir-produktu-inovacijos</p> |

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| Paskolos apgyvendinimo ir maitinimo paslaugų teikėjams | Loans to accommodation and catering providers | INVEGA together with the Ministry of Economy and Innovation | No | Implemented | 26/07/2021 | <p>The loans aim at reducing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism business. The loans finance the necessary costs such as employees' salaries, purchase of transport and other services, rental of real estate, costs of maintaining a property, payment of other loan instalments according to loan repayment schedules. The loan should not exceed EUR 3 million. The maximum duration of the loan stands at 72 months. The interest rate is fixed at 0,1% to 0,69% for SMEs, depending on the loan duration.</p> <p>https://www.invega.lt/verslui/visos-priemones/25/paskolos-apygyvendinimo-ir-maitinimo-paslaugu-teikejams-17</p> |
| OTHER RELEVANT TOPICS (e.g. second chance for honest bankrupt entrepreneurs, bankruptcy prevention, entrepreneurship education, public procurement) | | | | | | |
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