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Vilnius  
European  
Green  
Capital



# „Vilnius – European Green Capital 2025“ Opening Ceremony

22-23 January, 2025

## AGENDA

22 January, Wednesday

### High-level political commitment ceremony for the Green City Accord (GCA)

**Time:** 09:30 – 11:30

**Venue:** Contemporary Art Centre, Vokiečių str. 2

09:30 – 09:45	Registration and welcome coffee
09:45 – 09:55	Priorities of the new European Commission: Cities at the forefront of the implementation of the European Green Deal  Patrick Child, Deputy Director of DG Environment of the European Commission
09:55 – 10:05	Presentation of the Green City Accord Report 2024  GCA Secretariat
10:05 – 10:45	Roundtable: Sustainable solutions implemented by cities in the framework of the Green City Accord. One city per GCA area.
10:45 – 10:55	Q&A between the participants and the panellists
10:55 – 11:30	Ceremony of commitment renewal with statements by the new GCA signatories  Mayors from 17 new signatories

## „Vilnius – European Green Capital 2025“ Official Opening

**Time:** 11:00 – 16:30

**Venue:** Contemporary Art Centre, Vokiečių str. 2

11:00 – 12:00	Registration and welcome coffee
12:00 – 12:10	Opening performance
12:10 – 12:30	Welcome speeches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Valdas Benkunskas, Mayor of Vilnius</li><li>- Ramūnas Dilba, Chief Adviser to the President of the Republic of Lithuania, Office of the President of the Republic of Lithuania</li><li>- Povilas Poderskis, Minister of Environment</li><li>- Marius Vaščega, Head of European Commission Representation in Lithuania</li><li>- Jessika Roswall, EC Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy (Video message 3 min)</li><li>- Patrick Child, Deputy Director-General for Environment</li></ul>
12:30 – 12:40	Letter of Intent signing ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Patrick Child, Deputy Director-General for Environment</li><li>- Valdas Benkunskas, Mayor of Vilnius</li></ul> <p>„Green book“ handover ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Valdas Benkunskas, Mayor of Vilnius</li><li>- Representative of Valencia - European Green Capital 2024</li></ul>
12:40 – 13:00	„Green city in the making. The case of Vilnius” Speaker: Mr Valdas Benkunskas, Mayor of Vilnius
13:00 – 13:30	„Green city in the making. The case of Vilnius” <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Remigijus Šimašius, Vilnius City Council Member</li><li>- Žymantas Morkvėnas, Environmental expert</li><li>- TBC</li></ul>
13:30 – 13:50	Keynote speech: “Creativity as a Catalyst for Urban Transformation”  Speaker: Fredrik Härén, author and global keynote speaker on creativity and urban topics

13:50 – 14:45

Lunch break

14:45 – 15:45

Inspiring session: „The path to greenest cities“

European Green Capitals Discussion

- Mr Jevgeni Ossinovski, Mayor of Tallinn, European Green Capital 2023
- Ms Anita Lindahl Trosdahl, Project manager of “Oslo - European Green Capital 2019”
- Mr Niko Kynnäräinen, Mayor of Lahti, European Green Capital 2021
- City of Grenoble, Capital 2022
- City of Guimaraes, Capital 2026
- City of Valencia, Capital 2024 TBC
- City of Essen, Capital 2017 TBC

European Green Leafs Discussion

- Mr Peter Dermol, Mayor of Velenje, European Green Leaf 2024
- City of Winterswijk, European Green Leaf 2022
- City of Elsinore, European Green Leaf 2024
- City of Viladecans, European Green Leaf 2025 TBC
- City of Treviso, European Green Leaf 2025 TBC
- City of Lappeenranta, European Green Leaf 2021 TBC

Moderator:

Ms Rugilė Matusevičiūtė, sustainability writer, climate change activist, EU Climate Pact ambassador

15:45 – 16:30

Discussion: „How long does it take for nature to recover from the effects of war? Urban resilience in turbulent times: war, climate and ecology.”

- Mr Vitali Klitschko, Mayor of Kyiv
- Mr Andriy Sadovyi, Mayor of Lviv
- Mr Andrius Kubilius, Commissioner for Defence and Space (recorded speech)
- Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova, Member of Parliament of Ukraine (online)
- TBC

Moderator:

Ms Justė Ancevičiūtė, journalist, analysing environmental situation in Ukraine

16:30 – 16:40

Conclusion

## Reception

**Doors open:** 19:00 **Programme starts:** 19:30

**Venue:** Energy and Technology Museum, Rinktinės str. 2

23 January, Thursday

### Special programme for mayors

**Time:** 10:00 – 14:00

*Information about the program is provided directly*

10:00 – 11:30	Site visit Networking
12:00 – 14:00	Lunch

### European Green Capital & European Green Leaf Awards Network Meeting

**Time:** 09:45 – 16:00

**Venue:** Vilnius City Municipality, Konstitucijos pr. 3

09:45 – 10:00	Welcome coffee
10:00 – 10:05	Welcome remarks, and objectives of this network meeting Vilnius representative
10:05 – 10:25	Quick introductions and insights from newly awarded and finalist cities 2026 EGCL winners and finalists
10:25 – 10:45	Tour de table All members

Topical session – The reconversion and reuse of existing buildings to foster urban sustainability

10:45 – 11:00	Presentation by Vilnius on the city's strategy and pilot projects Mrs Laura Kairienė, Chief Architect of Vilnius City
11:00 – 11:30	Panel discussion on cities' best practices in the reuse of existing buildings Cities TBC
11:30 – 11:40	Q&A and discussion

11:40 – 11:50	Coffee break
Breakout rooms (EGC & EGL)	
11:50 – 12:10	Debriefing of last year's winners' activities Valencia, Tallinn (group 1); Velenje, Elsinore (group 2)
12:10 – 12:20	2025 plan for current winners Vilnius (group 1); Treviso, Viladecans (group 2)
12:20 – 12:35	Open discussion
Closing remarks	
12:35 – 12:55	Proposal: request meeting of the political representatives of the EGC and EGL cities with the new Commissioner
12:55 – 13:00	Conclusion Vilnius
13:00	Network lunch