

# Local Action Plan

## URBACT REPAIR S.Dariaus and S.Gireno aerodrome, Kaunas (Lithuania)



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# SCOPE AND OBJECTIVE OF LAP

## 1. Scope and Objective of LAP

Kaunas is the second largest Lithuanian city in terms of size and number of inhabitants. In the interwar period Kaunas was the provisional capital of Lithuania. One exceptional feature is its modern architecture.

Kaunas is widely known as an academic centre, where highly qualified industry and business professionals are educated and trained. The city has seven universities and their branches, with over 55,000 students. Immense scientific research is concentrated here, and scientific achievements are successfully connected to manufacturing activities. Kaunas University of Technology is the largest technical university in the Baltic States. The newest scientific and technological ideas meet and are constantly generated there.

The development goal of S.Dariaus and S.Gireno aerodrome (Aerodrome) is to create multi-purpose territory for aviators, science and technology park representatives and local community people. The territory of S.Darius and S.Girėnas Aerodrome is situated in the southwest section of Kaunas City (Aleksotas Neighbourhood) and covers an area of 191,2 ha. The biggest part of the territory is occupied by the airdrome field with take-off and landing paths, approaches, hangars, buildings used by the airdrome, as well as the remnants of historical buildings, take-off and landing paths, and the landing sites of soviet helicopters. The entire territory of S.Darius and S.Girėnas Airdrome is included into the Register of Immovable Cultural Heritage Valuables, and holds a unique number U8. The biggest part (~80 %) is used by aviators for aviation sports activities, smaller part for science and technology park "Technopolis" (~10%) and another part is being used for creation of Aleksotas (one of ten parts of territorial units in Kaunas city, ~23 000 inhabitants) community centre in the near future.

Feasibility study was made under Interreg III B programme partly financed project "Sustainable Reintegration of Post-Soviet Military Residential Areas a Challenge and Opportunity for Regional Development (REMIDO)". There were 3 alternatives of Aerodrome territory development made.

A Baseline Study (REPAIR Phase I) was prepared in 2009 as well as Terms of Reference for the Action Plan.

During the whole project process Kaunas LSG members and project development team were working together finding solutions for effective Aerodrome territory development.



# CITY PROFILE

## 2. City Profile

### History

Past-military use of Aerodrome territory: aerodrome, where Soviet military unit of helicopters was dislocated after 1941. Aerodrome was established in 1915 by German army during the World War I. Several hangars were built. Kaunas airport was opened in the aerodrome during soviet time. In regard to current use, only a smaller part of the whole territory is used for ultra-light planes flying.

Kaunas City municipality has taken over take-off way and parking-lot in 1993. Former military buildings were given to municipal enterprise. The whole territory and part of military objects are given to Kaunas flying club and to other public organizations for the temporal provision. Public institution "S.Dariaus and S.Girenas aerodrome" was founded in 1997, which is responsible for the management of the aerodrome. Almost all civil aviation buildings were destroyed after 1993, when Soviet army left Lithuania. There are left several derelict houses in the southern part of the territory. In the eastern part there is a rolling path with the places for the aircrafts built during soviet time. Also two residential houses are situated in the territory of aerodrome.

Aleksotas neighbourhood (structural part of Kaunas City Municipality administration) headquarters are situated in this territory too.

### Demography

Kaunas city has 321,000 inhabitants (according to statistical date of 2011). During the last ten years our city lost about 15% of inhabitants because of emigration and movement to city suburbs. For the whole territory of Lithuania, there was a reduction of approximately 400,000 inhabitants during the same period.

### Policy context

The LAP has been developed in the context of the municipality of Kaunas, its local territorial administrative unit, working under law of Lithuanian Republic Constitution. Municipality functions mainly comprise public administration and rendering public facilities. The LAP being implemented in Aerodrome territory closely relates with Kaunas city strategic plan 2005-2015 (new edition 2008-2015), Kaunas regional development plan till 2020, Lithuanian economic long time strategy till 2015. One of Kaunas city strategic plan's measure is the development of Areodrome. Because of culture heritage buildings and relicts special planning document was produced.



### Urban challenges

Kaunas has been increasingly becoming a perfect environment for development of modern industries and businesses based on knowledge and technologies.

Kaunas is the crossing point of the major European transport routes – Via Baltica and IXB. The city boasts good railway transport, an international airport (biggest Cargo airport in Lithuania), and a river port, creating excellent conditions for logistics and industry. It also has well-developed engineering and transport infrastructure. The bypasses and inner main roads serve to reduce local and transit flows.

Kaunas region effectively starts reusing brown field and waste disposal sites. Re-using urban brown field and contaminated landfill sites for development is socially, economically, environmentally and culturally important for the development for all Kaunas region cities. Cities and region working on this theme will aim to develop projects to re-use abandoned urban industrial, military or port sites.

### Local needs

The LAP of Aerodrome will be adapted to local society needs – Aleksotas community centre building will be renovated. Active Aleksotas neighbourhood inhabitants constantly participate in various local events: Aleksotas celebrity, aviation celebrity and etc. These events take part in different places: Botanic garden, Aerodrome territory.

The development of Science and Technology park (Phase II) will attract business and technical universities students to participate in local practice activities before entering labour market. This could help to reduce the number of young Kaunas city inhabitants' emigration to foreign countries for studying and working and make positive impact start creating future in Motherland Lithuania.

Aviation enthusiasts also benefit from LAP implementation. Aerodrome territory will become more attractive, more aviation business units will be created and that will make synergy effect for aviation sports activities.



# LOCAL SUPPORT GROUP

## 3. The Local Support Group

Kaunas LSG had lengthy discussions on priority and implementation of LAP. The last and probably the best decision was made: to separate territories for each stakeholder: Aleksotas community, Public company "S. Dariaus and S. Girėno aerodrome" (aviation specialists), Science and technology park "Technopolis" community. The main four pillars everyone agreed on:

1. Development of aviation infrastructure for aviation sports activities, aviation museum.
2. Development of Science and technology park "Technopolis" infrastructure (Phase II).
3. Development of Aleksotas community centre.
4. Noise made by airplanes reduction management.

As Kaunas city municipality is the owner of Public companies "Technopolis" and "S. Dariaus and S. Girėno aerodrome", Aleksotas neighbourhood is a structural part of Kaunas city municipality administration, Kaunas city municipality Council will be responsible for proper development of all Aerodrome territory.



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# EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE AND BEST PRACTICES

## 4. Exchange of Knowledge and Best Practices

So far no concrete REPAIR knowledge or best practices have been exchanged with the other partners. Kaunas mention that knowledge and best practices would be most relevant to:

- Development of the second phase of the Science and Technology Park regarding new building laboratory and technology testing centre. This activity is expected to financing by EU structural funds, municipal co-funding and private funding.
- Aleksotas neighbourhood community centre will be settled in old building which is being renovated.
- Aerodrome territory will be used not only for aviation sports and tourism but also there'll be created aviation museum.



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# KEY ACTIONS

## 5. Key Actions

1. Development of aviation infrastructure for aviation sports activities, aviation museum: this includes establishing an inventory of culture heritage relics in terms of existing and destroyed buildings (hangars), modifications to an earlier development plan, creation of zoning plan for aviation sports activities, museum and etc.
2. Development of Science and technology park "Technopolis" infrastructure (Phase II): the main actions include application for EU structural funds support to develop Phase II – create laboratory – technology testing centre, search of potential investor for further development.
3. Development of Aleksotas community centre: the first initial action is applying for EU structural funds support to renovate abandoned building and adjust to local community needs.
4. Noise made by airplanes reduction management: identifying the level of noise made by ultra light airplanes and develop a noise reduction plan (look for funding to replace the windows for private houses, manage frequency and time for airplane flights and etc.)



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# FINANCIAL RESOURCES

## 6. Financial Resources

The main financial resources we expect are European structural funds, private financing (possible PPP model) and the Kaunas city municipality budget (smallest part).

The Aleksotas Aerodrome is operated by Public company which was established by Kaunas city municipality. This company searches for Aerodrome development opportunities together with Kaunas city municipality administration, Public company "Technopolis" and etc.



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# Annex

## SWOT Analysis

### Annex: SWOT analysis

|                  | Positive   | Negative   |
|------------------|--|--|
| internal factors | <b>STRENGTHS</b>   | <b>WEAKNESSES</b>  |
|                  | Prosperous geographical position   | Strong culture heritage restrictions for new construction  |
|                  | Rich historical past   | The territory is abandoned   |
|                  | Big territory  | Problems with buildings' legitimation  |
|                  | Good social environment (active local people)  | Confrontation between aviation enthusiasts and local community people                            |
|                  | Many aviation activities taking place time by time   | Abandoned historical buildings   |
|                  | Developed infrastructure (detail plan and etc.)  |  |
| external factors | <b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>   | <b>THREATS</b>   |
|                  | Kaunas city municipality will to revitalize aerodrome and fit to society needs   | Political incompatibility among different society parts: government, local institutions and etc. |
|                  | Lithuania's entering to Shengens zone –important for aviators (small plane owners)   | No concrete model accepted by Kaunas city council  |
|                  | Rapid development of aviation sports, aviation tourism and business – strong impact on Aerodrome territory development         | Air and noise pollution  |
|                  | Science and technology park "Technopolis" activities as catalyst for creation of innovative business in Kaunas city and region |  |