



EUROPEAN
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INITIATIVE

EUI CAPACITY BUILDING EVENT

Towards stronger SUD in Lithuania: strengthening cooperation, strategic alignment and local capacities

Country-specific Event

30 September – 1 October 2025, Panevėžys, Lithuania

Stasys Museum, Respublikos str. 40



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AGENDA (OUTLINE)

Timing	Content
Day 1, 30 September	
08.30-09.00	Registration and coffee
09.00-10.00	Greetings and introduction <i>Moderator: Raluca Toma</i> Welcome, agenda and rules of the game Welcome from Panevėžys municipality Panel discussion with 2 questions around key challenges and opportunities related to SUDs (from each governance level perspective). The panel discussion will be complemented with an interactive "SUDs bingo" to engage the audience in pointing out what are for them the main challenges and what they see as main opportunities with SUDs. Speakers: Andrius Valickas, Senior advisor (Regional policy) at the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania Gediminas Česonis, Expert of regional and municipal development, Central Project Management Agency Saulius Glinskis, Head of the Territorial Planning and Architecture Department of Panevėžys municipality
10.00-11.00	Plenary 1: Strengthening horizontal governance of SUD strategies The plenary focuses on how to build strong and innovative local governance systems in the delivering of strategies and projects. Particular attention will be given to the topics highlighted as more important in the survey, namely citizen engagement and the cooperation among urban and rural stakeholders. <i>Moderator: Ramunė Vaičiulytė</i> Speakers: • Asst. Prof. Cyril Tjahja, the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands <i>Why don't citizens get engaged and how to change their mindset: the Unified Citizen Engagement Approach in Groningen</i> • Sascha Benes, Örebro Municipality, Sweden <i>How to strengthen cooperation between stakeholders in the implementation of SUD strategies: challenges and success stories in the horizontal dimension</i> • Andrius Kasparavičius, Vilnius, Lithuania <i>Not public relations, but people relations: open dialogue as a guarantee of success</i>

11.00-11.15	Coffee break
11.15-12.30	Workshop 1 Theme 1: Strengthening horizontal governance of SUD strategies Building on the insights from Plenary 1, this workshop will provide participants with the opportunity to explore governance challenges through an interactive role-play simulation. Participants will be divided in groups. <i>Moderator: Ramunė Vaičiulytė</i>
12.30-13.30	Lunch break
13.30-14.15	Networking session – Lithuanian SUDs fair Session in which in an informal setting strategies can meet and compare challenges among them and exchange ideas, strengthening their capacity to address common challenges and fostering mutual learning. During this session the UCP will showcase EUl activities.
14.15-15.15	Plenary 2: Harmonizing SUD strategies with policy frameworks and instruments The plenary focuses on how to promote better integration of SUD strategies with relevant national, regional, and local policy frameworks and planning instruments. The focus is on harmonization of objectives, timelines, and procedures, and on overcoming fragmentation between sectoral policies and funding mechanisms. <i>Moderator: Dziugas Lukosevicius</i> Speakers: • Agnieszka Jurecka-Fryzowska, Gdynia Renewed, Poland • Linda Medne, Saldus city, Latvia • Donatas Baltrušaitis, Panevėžys, Lithuania
15.15-15.45	Coffee break
15.45-17.00	Workshop 2 Theme 2: Harmonizing SUD strategies with policy frameworks and instruments Participants are divided in groups of 8, maximum 10. The group work will use the “Sailboat” method, where each group acts as a municipality sailing towards the island: integrated SUD strategies aligned with policy frameworks. Participants will identify sails (factors that help progress, inspired by Gdynia, Panevėžys and Saldus), anchors (barriers slowing progress), and scissors (actions that can cut

	anchors loose). This metaphor encourages participants to think creatively about both challenges and solutions. After a short individual reflection on sticky notes/flipchart, ideas will be shared in groups of 8–10 and consolidated into three sails, three anchors and three scissors. Each group will then present its findings, feeding into a panel discussion to draw conclusions, highlight common themes, and identify practical lessons for strengthening SUD strategies. <i>Moderator: Dziugas Lukosevicius</i>
19.00	Dinner at “Romantic Hotel” Kranto g. 24, Panevėžys
Day 2	
08.30 – 09.00	Welcome coffee
09.00-10.00	Plenary 3: Improving the capacities of local authorities in strategy implementation The plenary focuses on how to strengthen the strategic, administrative, and technical capacities to implement SUD strategies effectively. Particular attention will be given to the topics highlighted as more important in the survey to municipalities, namely the public procurement process, and the adherence to deadlines. <i>Moderator: Martynas Marozas</i> Speakers: • Monna Salmi, Municipality of Tampere, Finland • Lukasz Pancewicz, town planner and urban designer, Gdansk University of Technology, Poland • Marija Stocka, Municipality of Jelgava, Latvia
10.00-11.30	Workshop 3 Theme 3: Improving the capacities of local authorities in strategy implementation This session will open with insights from Łukasz Pancewicz, town planner and urban designer at Gdańsk University of Technology, on the interplay between governance and technical solutions. While effective tools such as procurement processes and systematic project management are essential, they only succeed when supported by clear decision-making authority, strong coordination among stakeholders, and solid governance frameworks. This introduction will set the stage for participants to explore where implementation challenges emerge and how they can be addressed in practice. Participants will then engage in interactive group work. First, they will map their own project implementation bottlenecks using timeline templates, before testing possible

	solutions inspired by Latvian, Finnish and Polish frameworks. Each group will be asked to propose one actionable solution and share it through a rapid-fire pitch. In a second exercise, participants will work in smaller, mixed groups to design 90-day implementation plans, define resources and success metrics, and adapt project management tools such as PM². <i>Moderator: Martynas Marozas</i>
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee break
12:00 – 12:30	Closing Plenary <i>Moderator: Raluca Toma</i> What we have learned, key actions and appointments for the future.
12.30 – 13.30	Farewell networking lunch