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UNICA IRO MEETING 2015 VILNIUS UNIVERSITY, MAY 4-6TH, 2015

Practical Information for Participants

Vilnius University
Universiteto St. 3
LT-01513 Vilnius, Lithuania
www.vu.lt/en

LITHUANIA IN FACTS



- Lithuania has 2,97 million inhabitants
- National currency is Euro
- Official language is Lithuanian, the oldest living Indo-European language. It belongs to the Baltic languages, of which only two - Lithuanian and Latvian - are living languages. Among all European languages the Lithuanian language has the largest number of diminutives expressing tenderness, endearment and affection.
- Over a half of population in Lithuania can speak at least 2 foreign languages
- It takes just 4 hours to cross the country, you can count up to 22 000 rivers and streams and almost 3000 lakes here!
- Lithuania is a flat land with plains covering approximately 75 % of the country
- Lithuania's internet upload speed is the 1st in Europe and the 2nd worldwide
- Every 10th high-end scientific laser in the world is made in Lithuania. These lasers are used by such organizations as NASA, NATO, and Pentagon etc.
- Lithuania was the first country to break free from the USSR in 1990
- Lithuania was the last pagan country in Europe. Now over 70 % of Lithuanians belong to Roman Catholic others to Evangelical, Orthodox and other religions, but all the inhabitants confess the second religion – basketball
- Lithuania is a member of EU and NATO

Learn more about Lithuania: <http://lietuva.lt/en/>

VILNIUS CITY



- Average-sized, cosy Vilnius is the capital of Lithuania. Vilnius has always been an international city – it seems like over hundreds of years half of Europe's nations have added their flavours to the melting pot. Such a rich history has resulted in a vibrant city full of culture and colours.
- Vilnius is the largest city of the country. According to the 2013 statistics, the population of Vilnius was 538 496 people -17% of the total population of the country. During the academic year, the city of Vilnius boasts about 63 000 students. The strong and visible presence of students in Vilnius gives the city a youth and modern feel, and creates an atmosphere of enthusiasm and optimism
- Vilnius is home to people of different ethnic backgrounds. Ethnic Lithuanians – 57.8%, Poles – 18.7%, Russians – 14%, Belarusians – 4%, Jews – 0.5%, and representatives of other ethnic backgrounds account for the remaining 5%.
- The historical center of Vilnius, the Old Town, is one of the largest old towns in Eastern Europe and is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List
- Parks, public gardens and other green areas cover over 46 percent of the city's area
- Vilnius residents can be proud of their clean water, so they can drink tap water without hesitation
- Residents and guest can enjoy great variety of cultural events, such as Cultural Night, Street Music Day, Vilnius Festival etc.
- You can taste up to 200 different beers in 14th century cellars of the Old Town

Learn more about Vilnius <http://www.vilnius-tourism.lt/en/>, <http://www.vilnius-events.lt/en>

VILNIUS UNIVERSITY



- Founded in 1579, it is one of the oldest universities in Central and Eastern Europe.
- Boasts the body of 20643 students, 1329 academic staff and 523 research fellows.
- Enjoys intercultural environment created by international students from over 50 countries all over the world.
- International students can choose from over 500 courses, also bachelor and master programmes taught in foreign languages
- Has the oldest (1570) and the newest (2013) libraries in the Baltic's states: and their collections contain over 5 million volumes
- Has 12 faculties, 7 institutes, 4 interdisciplinary research and study centers, 3 University hospitals, an astronomical observatory, a botanical garden and the Church of St. Johns'. The Bell Tower of Vilnius University is the highest (68 m.) building in Vilnius Old Town dominating its panorama

Learn more about Vilnius University <http://www.vu.lt>

MEETING VENUE

The meeting will take place at the Old campus of Vilnius University:

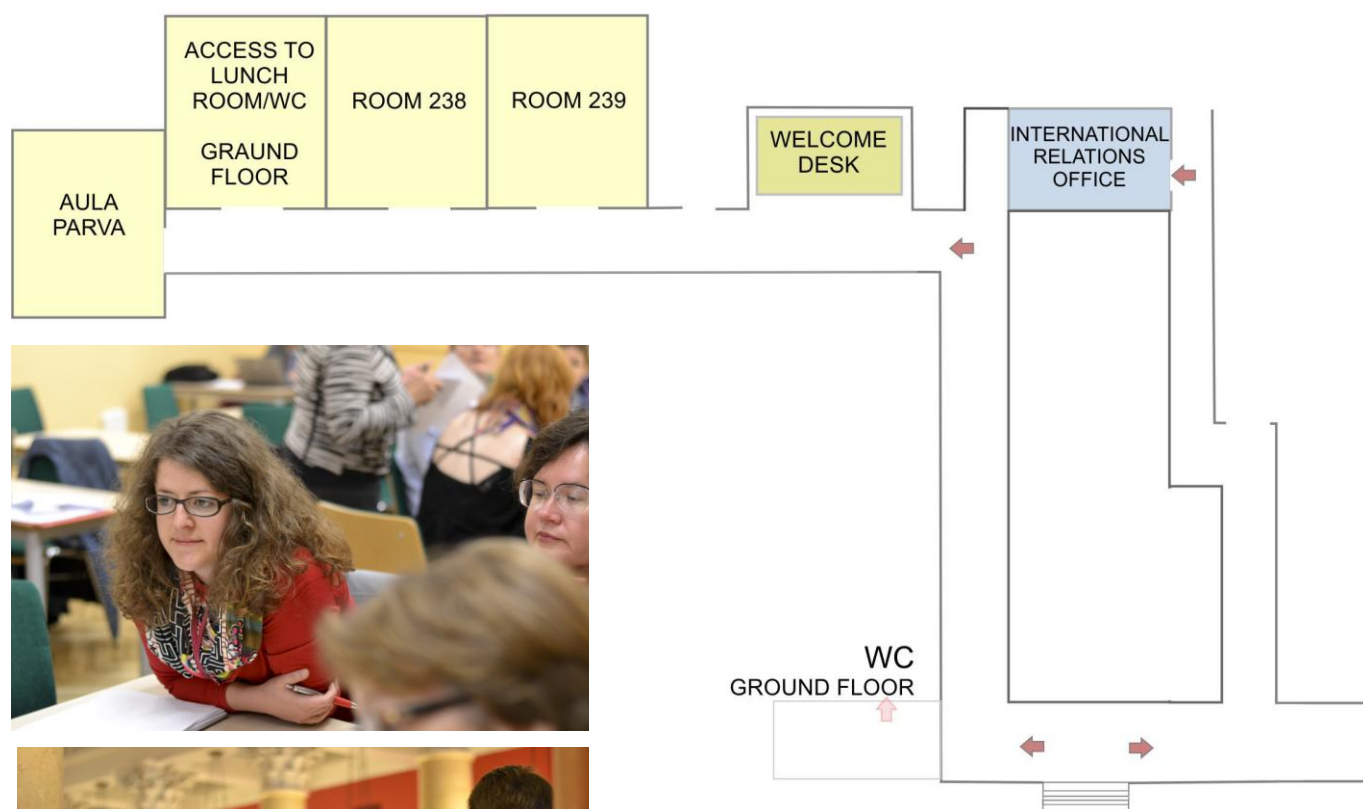
*Rector's Office building
Vilnius University
Universiteto st. 3, LT-01513 Vilnius*

Plenary sessions will take place in the Aula Parva, parallel sessions in the Seminar Rooms 238 and 239.

Lunches and coffee breaks will be served at the University cafeteria.

Wireless network connection (EDUROAM Wi-Fi service) is available in the whole campus.

MAP OF CONFERENCE ROOMS - 1st FLOOR

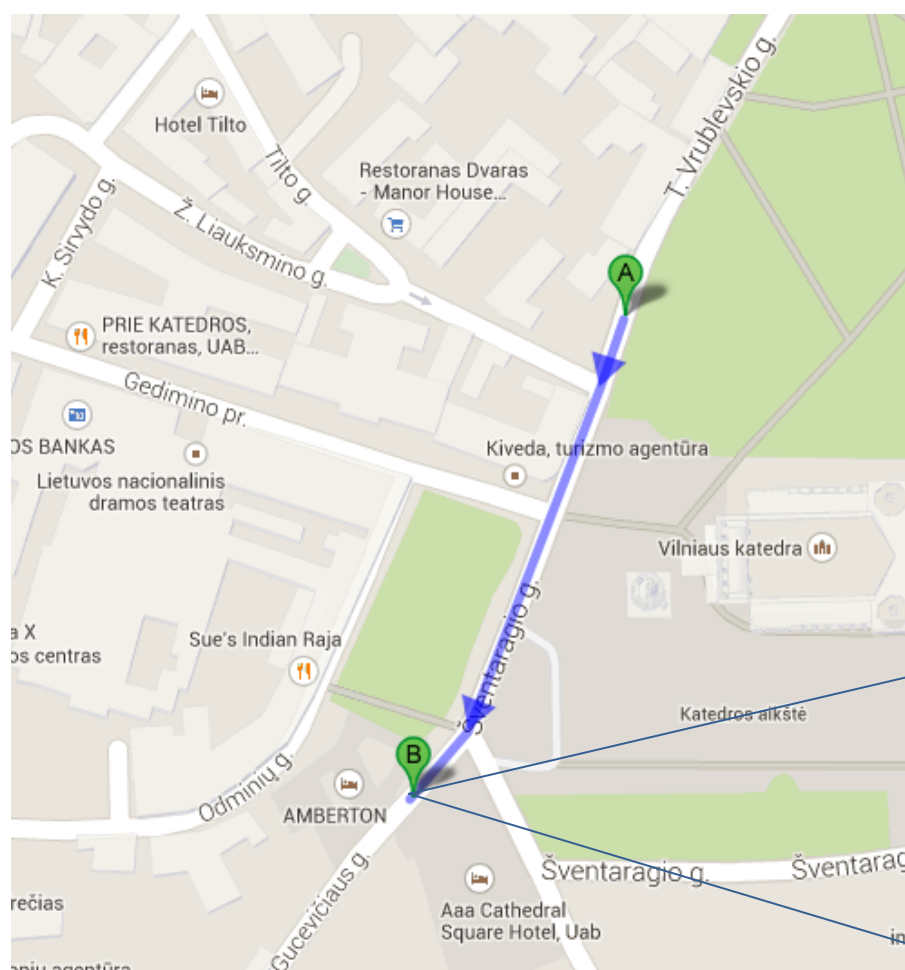


ARRIVAL INFORMATION

From Vilnius International Airport to the hotel AMBERTON

The easiest way to reach your hotel would be by taxi. Vilnius Airport approved taxi rank can be found just in front of the arrivals terminal. Always ask for a receipt at the end of the trip! All taxi cabs accept credit cards. The price from the airport to the old town is ~ 12 EUR. More information <http://www.vilnius-airport.lt/en/planning-a-trip/how-to-reach/taxi/>.

Those who stay in the hotel AMBERTON: take bus No. 88 from Vilnius International Airport and get off at the bus stop 'Arkikatedra', it is within walking distance (up to 5 minutes) from the above mentioned hotel. Single ticket price is 1 Euro (buy in the bus from the driver). The timetable of the bus No. 88 from the airport is available at <http://stops.lt/vilnius/#bus/88/a-b/2613/en>. Bus ride takes up to 35 minutes.



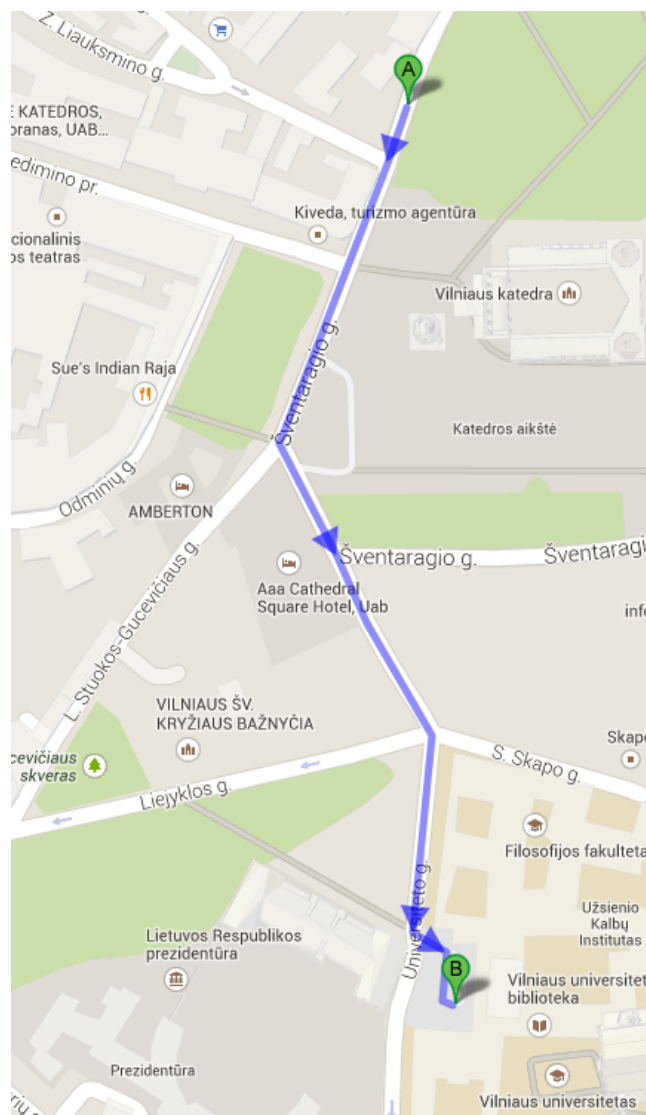
AMBERTON Hotel



From Vilnius International Airport to the meeting venue

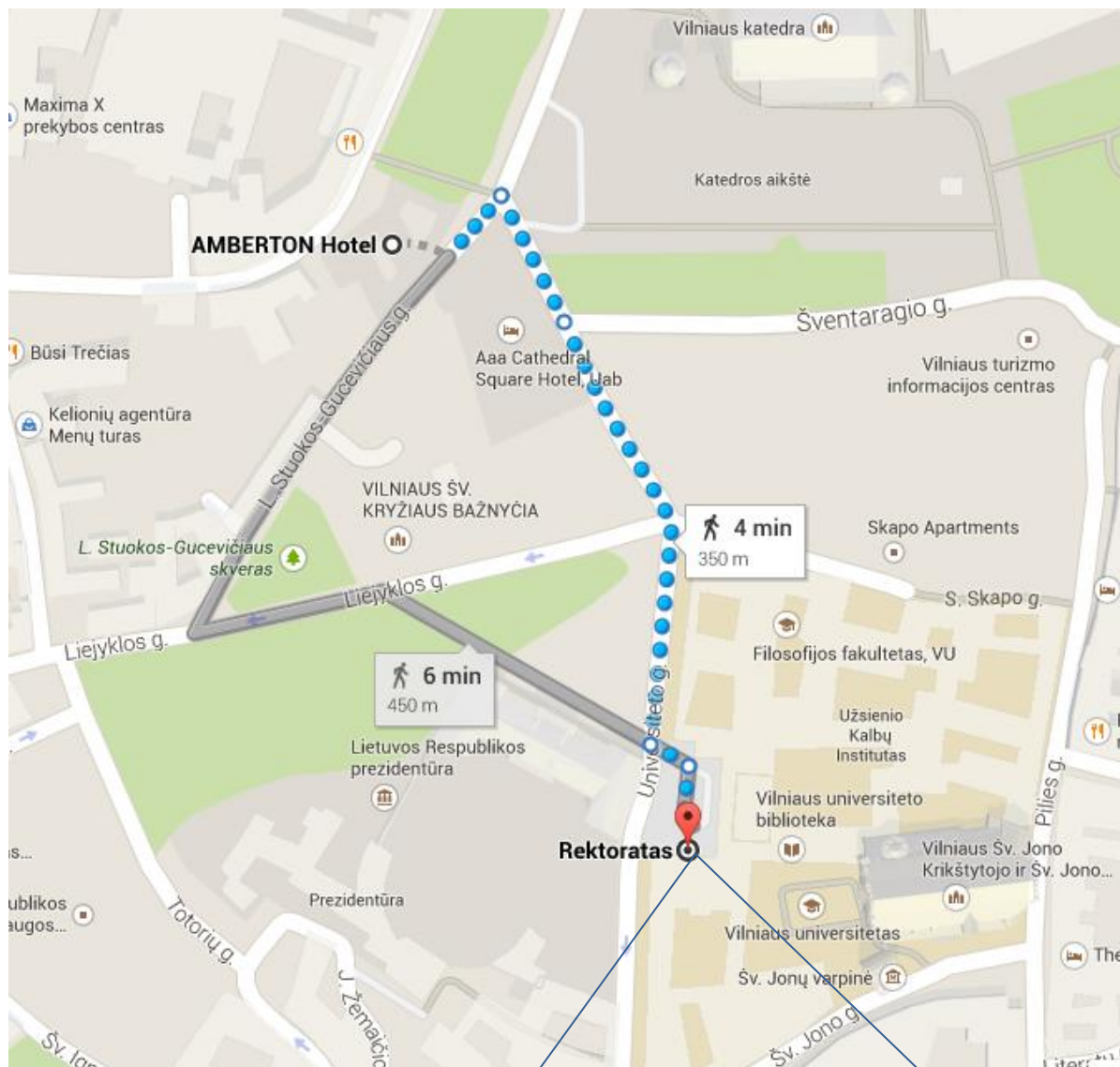
The easiest way to reach the meeting venue from the Vilnius International Airport would be by taxi. Vilnius Airport approved taxi rank can be found just in front of the arrivals terminal. Always ask for a receipt at the end of the trip! All taxi cabs accept credit cards. The price from the airport to the old town is ~ 12 EUR. More information <http://www.vilnius-airport.lt/en/planning-a-trip/how-to-reach/taxi/>.

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From the hotel AMBERTON to the meeting venue

It is not difficult to get to Vilnius University as the Old Campus is very close to the Cathedral Square and has the Presidential Palace in the neighbourhood. The walk from the hotel AMBERTON to Vilnius University takes up to 5 minutes.



Main entrance to VU

AROUND THE CITY

Public Transport

Vilnius has quite well functioning public transportation system consisting of busses and trolleybuses that will take you anywhere around the city. The Old Town and the city center are quite compact; everything is within walking distance and public transport is mostly not necessary.

If you are going somewhere and need to find directions and transportation you can use the following scheme of the city where the routes of buses (blue and green) and trolleybuses (red) are indicated: http://www.vilniustransport.lt/images/mrweb_1.pdf

Taxi Services

Especially after midnight a taxi is always safe and almost the only transport in Vilnius. The prices can slightly vary between companies. Ask for the receipt when paying. It is highly recommended to use well known firms or to ask for a taxi at the hotel:

Vilnius veža +370 5 233 3337
Smart taxi +370 5 520 0820
Ekipažas+370 5 239 5539
Romerta +370 5 275 7575



SOCIAL PROGRAMME INFORMATION



Welcome Reception

Restaurant „THE OLD GREEN HOUSE“ L. Stuokos-Gucevičiaus g. 5. LT-0122 Vilnius
Monday, May 4th, 18.00-20.00

Meeting point: Lobby of the hotel AMBERTON or restaurant THE OLD GREEN HOUSE (from the hotel AMBERTON turn right and follow the street ca. 50 m, the restaurant will be on your right)

Guided tour „The Majestic and Royal Vilnius“

Monday, May 4th, 20.00 (duration ca. 2 hours)

Meeting point: Restaurant THE OLD GREEN HOUSE (from the hotel AMBERTON turn to the right and follow the street ca. 50 m, the restaurant will be on your right)

„Vilnius was born in a dream of the Great Duke Gediminas and it became the capital of LDK. Here was the manor of the Great Duke. Life here was in full swing, the music played and the weapons clanged. During this tour you will learn how Gediminas took care of the well-being of the capital, what innovations the queen Bona brought to Lithuania, why Vladislav Vasa heart remained in Vilnius forever, also what was the contribution of Steponas Batoras in Vilnius education, and why "Kaziukas Fair" rocks the city each year“.

Visit to Trakai Castle and dinner at the restaurant „Apvalaus stalo klubas“

Tuesday, May 5th

Departure: 16.45 from the Old Campus of Vilnius University

Return to the hotel AMBERTON around 22.00

Learn more: about Trakai Castle <http://www.trakaimuziejus.lt/#/lan=en>

„Apvalaus stalo klubas“, <http://www.asklubas.lt/>

Guided tour around Vilnius University Old Campus

Wednesday, May 6th, 14.00 (duration ca. 1 hour)

Meeting point: University Cafeteria (after lunch)

HELPFUL INFORMATION

Currency

National currency is Euro. It is possible to pay by credit card in most shops, restaurants, hotels.

Climate

Ranges between maritime and continental. The average temperatures are +23°C in July and -4.9°C in January.

Time zone

UTC/GMT +2 hours

International calls to Lithuania

Calling from fixed line telephone +370 - area code - phone number

Calling from another mobile: +370 – phone number (8 digits)

Contacts

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Emergency 112

