

PERSONAL INFORMATION Lithuania



Europa

Date of birth: 1253-07-06

PERSONAL STATEMENT My name has already been known for more than a thousand years. During this time, I was a kingdom, then a grand duchy for more than 500 years, and a century ago, I started down the path of statehood, which is what I am fostering now. I am known in the world as a supporter of democratic ideals with a strong character and unbreakable free spirit. I am respected for my determination, responsibility and open opinion.

WORK EXPERIENCE

1919–1939
1990–dabar

Republic of Lithuania

- In 1918–1920, I managed to implement my most successful career change: I proclaimed an independent democratic republic, organised an army, and defended our newly won political freedom in battles.
- In 1920, I arranged the first general election, in which the country’s men and women of different confessions and nationalities voted equally through a secret ballot.
- In 1922, I adopted a progressive state constitution and implemented large-scale agrarian reform, followed by education reform six years later—that is my success story.
- In 1923 I took over the port of Klaipėda and became a prosperous maritime state.
- From 1920 to 1940, I formed the modernist architectural face and Western atmosphere of Kaunas, the new capital.
- From 1944 to 1953, I managed to coordinate and carry out a tenacious, long-term, structured partisan war against the Soviet aggressor.
- During the occupation, I never reconciled myself or adapted to the situation—I maintained my basic human decency and devotion to the previous work and ideas of statehood.
- In 1988 I created a mass gathering known as *Sąjūdis*, thanks to which I was the first to decide to leave the Soviet Empire for freedom.
- Despite the terrible misfortunes in the mid-20th century, I managed to become a European and global political and historical entity. Also, I created a contemporary national culture and cultivated a modern civil society that understands the importance of freedom and the responsibility that comes with it.
- On 13 January 1991, during the peaceful, singing revolution, I was able to hold out against armed Soviet intervention and won our most important battle of the 20th century—one where unarmed people fought against heavy tanks.
- In the late-20th century and early-21st century, I carried through some critical domestic and foreign policy goals, which allowed me to expand my career on an international scale.
- In 2004, I joined the European Union and NATO. Integration into the most significant structures of today’s world has helped to obtain the highest security guarantees for my sovereignty since 1253. Presently, I am also making a substantial contribution to the development and maintenance of both my own and the global security system.

1263 –1795 Grand Duchy of Lithuania

- In 1387—albeit a bit past due—I organised my Catholic baptism, which opened the door to

Western European integration even more widely.

- Under the rule of Vytautas the Great, I used military and diplomatic means to expand the territory of the state to the Black Sea in the 14th and 15th centuries.
- I brought up the Jagiellonian dynasty, which reigned over several Eastern and Central European countries in the 15th and 16th centuries and was one of the most influential dynasties on the Old Continent.
- Together with my partners, I have accomplished some impressive military achievements: in 1410, I was part of the Battle of Grunwald, which was Europe's most important victory of the 15th century; in 1514, I fought in the Battle of Orsha and crushed the army of the Grand Duchy of Moscow; and in 1621, I held the forces of the Ottoman Empire at bay in the Battle of Khotyn.
- I prepared three important legal codes known as the Statutes of Lithuania (1529, 1566 and 1588). The Third Statute, which was unique on a European scale, remained in force right up until the mid-19th century.
- Starting in 1569, I spent two centuries implementing the project for a union with the Crown of the Kingdom of Poland.
- In the 16th and 17th centuries, I was known for my religious tolerance and ability to avoid major religious conflicts and wars.
- In the 16th–18th centuries, I managed to create the unique Vilnius Baroque culture.
- Together with the Kingdom of Poland, I drew up and adopted the first written constitution in Europe in 1791.

1253–1263

Kingdom

- I overcame difficult political circumstances and managed to become the last European monarchy just in time by organising the baptism and coronation of my ruler, Mindaugas.
- I acquired diplomatic experience and established my first international relations.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

1922–1940

1990–dabar

School of Restoration, Restitution and European Integration of the Republic of Lithuania, Republic of Lithuania

- From 1918 to 1940, I attended creative workshops in modern Lithuanianism, individual farming (business) studies, and a state development and management programme, and studied democracy and parliamentarism.
- Since 1990, I have been taking a compulsory practical course in de-Sovietisation; I am also refreshing my knowledge of democracy, parliamentarism and civil society, attending a daily European integration programme that involves constant homework, and devoting much attention to regional security and leadership studies.

1940–1990

Homo Sovieticus School, USSR

- From 1940 to 1956, I attended involuntary survival school in the ghettos and the Gulag—I lost my freedom, my property, and other fundamental human rights.
- In 1941–1943, the Nazis and local collaborators murdered most of my Jews.
- Later I was able to choose between resistance, adaptation, or collaborative as my field of study.
- Even though I dreamed about jeans and chewing gum, I ended up taking informal courses every day on how to survive deficits, corruption, widespread poverty, and *dedovshchina*—a form of military hazing.

1579–1832

Vilnius University, Vilnius (GDL; from 1795 – the Russian Empire)

- I gained excellent skills in rhetoric, theology and logic.
- In the 14th and 15th centuries, I learned to sing church songs and later learned how to read and write.
- I managed to build masonry buildings. I also acquired the skills to interact with my neighbours in a civilised manner.
- In 1547, I published my first book—the *Catechism*.
- In the 16th century, I enrolled at Vilnius University, which was founded in 1579.
- In 1636, I saw my first opera performance—Virgilio Puccitelli’s *The Kidnapping of Elena*. It was at that time that I began attending a Baroque culture fan club.
- In the late 18th century, I built myself an observatory and began watching the stars.
- My studies were put on hold in 1832 when the Russian Empire closed the university where I was studying.
- Starting in the second half of the 19th century, I could only learn about the world at Russian schools or at secret underground schools, where I studied from banned Lithuanian alphabet books provided by book smugglers.
- During this period, I learned to be a representative of European culture and foster noble freedoms, and later I was even forced to become a smuggler and sneak Lithuanian books through the border.

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother Tongue(s) Lithuanian

Foreign Language(s)

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English (2018 level)	C1	C1	C1	C1	C1
Russian (1985 level)	C1	B2	C1	C1	B2
French (1938 level)	B2	C1	C1	C1	C1
German (1930 level)	—	B2	C1	C1	C1

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user - B1 and B2: Independent user - C1 and C2: Proficient user
Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Communication Skills

- In 1930, marking 500 years since the death of my medieval ruler, Grand Duke of Lithuania Vytautas, I reminded the world that we are an old European state based on old political and historical traditions.
- Upon winning the 1937 and 1939 European Men’s Basketball Championships, I created an “orange” form of cultural identity which, from 1937 to this day, has given the public the joy of victory on numerous occasions—something that distinguishes me in the world of sport.
- In 1944–1953, while waging a partisan war against the USSR under challenging conditions, I managed to publish a few dozen periodicals, the last of which came out as late as in 1957. The underground press, which was published in up to a few thousand copies, provided important news about the war and Lithuanian and world politics, as well as fight songs and accounts given by individual people.
- From 1972 to 1989, I published the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*, a samizdat periodical that the Soviet repressive structures never managed to trace and which became a unique tool in the unarmed political struggle against human rights violations in what was then the Soviet Union.
- Together with Latvia and Estonia, we formed the Baltic Way in 1989—millions of people joined hands to remind the world of the illegal 1940 occupation of the Baltic States.

Organisational / Managerial Skills

- I have the qualities necessary for political leadership, and I enjoy taking on regional leadership.
- In 2013, I held the presidency of the Council of the European Union.

- In 2014–2015, I took part in the activities of the UN Security Council.
- I like putting innovation into practice—I have the fastest public Wi-Fi in the world.
- Over the past two decades, I have often been called the threshold of Western values in Eastern Europe.
- I actively defend the interests of the Baltic States in international organisations.
- I am employing various measures to achieve full energy independence.
- I take an ongoing interest in the development of democracy and civil and political rights in the post-Soviet space.
- I was one of the first to proactively help Georgia when it was attacked in 2008, and Ukraine in 2014.
- I participate responsibly in international NATO and European Union military operations.

Other Skills

- I am an excellent basketball player and have won medals at many international tournaments.
- I know how to make some unique food products: I can bake black bread, prepare *skilandis*, a delicious matured sausage, and press white cheese.
- In my spare time, I like to construct lasers and forage mushrooms.
- I have a lot of friends and relatives in London, Oslo, Dublin and Chicago, so I feel very much at home in these cities.
- I can't imagine summer or holidays without kayaking, a delicious barbecue, or a good jazz festival.