

Utena district municipality and its community, 31 940 population

Utena town is one of the oldest towns of Lithuania founded in old 1261. The town is not big, covering 1528 ha area and having 31 940 inhabitants. Utena district municipality with its community is successfully implementing the projects, contributing to the harmonious and ecological vision of town developing.



1. Improving of natural and formed landscape

The relief of Utena town is very various, so the great possibilities of nature are existing to create the attractive spaces for recreation. In the plan of town developing are planned 12 territories for parks in a way that green areas will maximally join together. In the plans are foreseen the occupation of parks about 140 ha. Today 50 ha are cleared and surveyed. In seven reconstructed parks of town (Dauniškio park, Vyžuonos park, City garden, Krašunos river banks, Vyžonaičio park, Smiltinės park and Krašunos regeneration park) has been tried to maintain the naturally formed landscape. The vegetation of parks was enriched by new species, setting out the plants in suitable growing places. In Dauniškio park is built the pontoon bridge with benches, the synchronised dynamic fountain is installed in the lake.

All prepared parks are in the centre of the town, near the water places. There are formed paths for pedestrians and cyclists, giving the possibility to walk by water places, are installed the children play grounds and car parking places, are exhibited the buildings of little architecture.

Besides, the municipality reconstructed the main square of town and its accesses. The care is constantly taken about the quality of street trees – broken and unhealthy trees are cut, the new and suited for the streets are planted. Utena district municipality implemented the project of bypass in the south part of town.

2. Arts, culture and heritage

Utena land is rich by the movable and immovable objects of cultural heritage, art collectives, folk artists, who are perfectly representing this land by their oeuvres. The brightest building of immovable cultural heritage is the old post office of Utena town, where Utenos art school is working and it is the unique institution on the way of Sankt Petersburg – Warsaw tract. The art gallery is established inside the ensemble of buildings.



The traditions of 50 folk artists of old crafts in Utena land carried through the generations (wood carving, ceramics, smithery, whickering, weaving, paper cutting, etc.) have the big influence. Utena district is famous for V. Valiušio ceramics museum, the one in Baltic countries built in XX c., where are exhibited 700 authentic examples of old ceramics. The citizens of Utena cherish very much their old culture traditions, that are transferred during ethno-cultural events and festivals held on the mounds. The big popularity has the international festival of folk music and national dances „The range of lakes“. Utena is also famous for the continuity of Lithuanian traditions – certificated culinary heritage.

In 2003 in Utena was built the second parochial church, sacred by the name of Dievo Apvaizdos. In point of art the style of church has not the analogue in Lithuania with its modern – minimalistic expression.

3. Environment protection

Utena has the water supply and sewage plant that is one of the most modern waterworks enterprises in Lithuania. Even in 2000 this enterprise introduced one of the most innovative technologies of biological azote and phosphorus elimination from effluent. Besides, this enterprise first in Lithuania used biomass from silt to produce electric power. 99 percents of Utena town inhabitants have the possibility to use the public services of water supply and sewage.

Utena has one of the most advanced dumping ground in Baltic countries, which changed other 102 dumps of region, that were below European Union standards. There is established the line for waste sorting and the system of silt processing. Next to the dump the grounds for reception and composting the dangerous waste are working. There is the system of waste treatment.

In the boiler-house of town are used the most ecological sorts of fuel – bio-gas and natural gas. This time the construction of new heat and power plant is going on and it is planed that the amount of biomass to produce the thermo energy from all fuel amounts in 2013 will be till 70 % (today it is 30 %). The going projects of habitation and public buildings renovation rapidly contribute to the saving of energetic. Renewing the house the people save from 16 to 37 % of heating expenses. In Utena are renovated 7 multi-apartment houses, hospital, culture centre, 3 schools, 4 kindergartens and 4 new multi-apartment houses are built. From 2006 the streetlights have been changed in Utena town, i.e. the mercury lamps changed to the sodium lamps. In this way about 40 % of electric power is saved.

Utena town has Animal care house working 5 years, giving the services of catching, ward, treating and if it is necessary mercy killing the homeless animals. The animals are protected until the new owners are found.

Utena is first Lithuanian town, realized the roof's of private houses and facade's programme, then was refused a buildings materials from asbestos.

4. Involving the community

In Utena district are 195 non-governmental organizations (NGO), the most popular are youth, sport, culture, health, community, social and educational organizations. The spectrum of interests and sorts of activities of all NGO is very similar. Most of NGO are established in the villages. The organisations of young people are very popular, one of the most important in Utena town is the Council of schoolchildren. There is the regional council of youth matters representing the interests of young people organisations and collaborating with the politicians of the district. Our district is one of achievers, where the creating people and collectives have many of highest evaluations – 3 „Golden Crowns“, 6 „Golden Birds“. Utena was given the highest award of Lithuania municipalities association „Golden krivulė“ for the merits in culture.

The Leader+ program is successfully implemented in Utena district. It is one of four initiatives financed by the structural funds of European Union, involving the skills of rural communities to influence the development of the village.

The town is famous for the altruistic actions in social field, healthcare - „Bank of food“, „Help the sick people“, “I was hungry, you fed me“, „Health to the home“, charitable activity – the projects that are very important in aging society. The town-dwellers actively contribute to the international public voluntary aid „Let's do it“ going in Baltic countries, during it not only the nature is cleaned, but the public spirit, ecological thinking and social activeness are promoted.

5. Healthy way of life

Utena town has the reconstructed swimming pool with fully appointed complex of baths, which is attended by about 80 adult people every day and about 120 sportsmen are training there. The multifunctional sport complex is built and it receives about 2700 spectators.

In social point of view, Utena can boast the public library getting the premium of the Republic of Lithuania for integration to the environment. The library distinguishes by the innovative projects, such as the motivation of children back to school.

The commission of Children wealth of Utena district municipality involving the specialists of law, prosecution, medicine, aid for children service, school leaders, representatives of municipality, is taking care about the children prevention. In educational institutions are successfully implemented the different preventive activities.

In Utena town is established the Municipality Public Health Bureau helping to take care about the quality of life and doing the survey of physical and psychological health.

6. Strategic planning

The administration of Utena district municipality has the consequent hierarchy of Utena town

strategies, that is implemented by the annual plan and the process of its control is applied. The hierarchy is composed of: Utena district municipality's budget (1 year), Utena district municipality's strategic plan of activity for 2011-2013 (3 years) and Utena district/region development strategic plans for 2011-2017. In the mentioned plans are foreseen the vision of the town, the need of financial resources and time of implementation.

The general plan of Utena town is the most important document of planning town territories, solving the problems of sustainable development and developmental priorities. The special documents of planning territories are prepared for separate fields.

The community is periodically informed about the activities of municipality on local television, radio and press. The information is constantly announced in the web page, the community actively takes part in the meetings with representatives of municipality. To work productively the administration signed The Citizens Charter (the politics of quality named by EN ISO 9001 terms). This year the administration got the certificate of international quality management standard ISO 9001:2008, that allow better optimise the activity of institution on the point of community and quality of life.