

NEWS & EVENTS > Vilnius to turn its Unesco-listed historic centre into a vast open-air cafe

POSTED ON
01 MAY 2020

Vilnius to turn its Unesco-listed historic centre into a vast open-air cafe



Lithuania's capital, Vilnius, has announced plans to turn the city's historic centre, a **world heritage site inscribed by UNESCO**, into a vast open-air cafe, by giving over much of its public space to hard-hit bar and restaurant owners so they can put their tables outdoors and still observe physical distancing rules.

Physical distancing rules and safety measures implemented by the health ministry have posed a problem for many restaurateurs in Vilnius old town, Senamiestis, a Unesco-listed world heritage site whose narrow streets

make it almost impossible to place more than a couple of tables outside – prompting the mayor’s offer.

“Plazas, squares, streets – nearby cafes will be allowed to set up outdoor tables free of charge this season and thus conduct their activities during quarantine,” said Remigijus Šimašius. Public safety remained the city’s top priority, the mayor said, but the measure should help cafes to “open up, work, retain jobs and keep Vilnius alive”.

Eighteen of the city’s public spaces, including its central Cathedral Square, have been opened up for outdoor cafes and restaurants, city hall said, and more are expected to be added as the summer progresses. The move has been welcomed by owners, with more than 160 applying to take up the offer.

[Read full report in [The Guardian](#)]

Image: Empty streets in Senamiestis, the old town of Vilnius. Lithuania has said cafes and restaurants with outdoor seating can reopen this week.
Photograph: Xinhua/Rex/Shutterstock

SIMILAR CONTENT

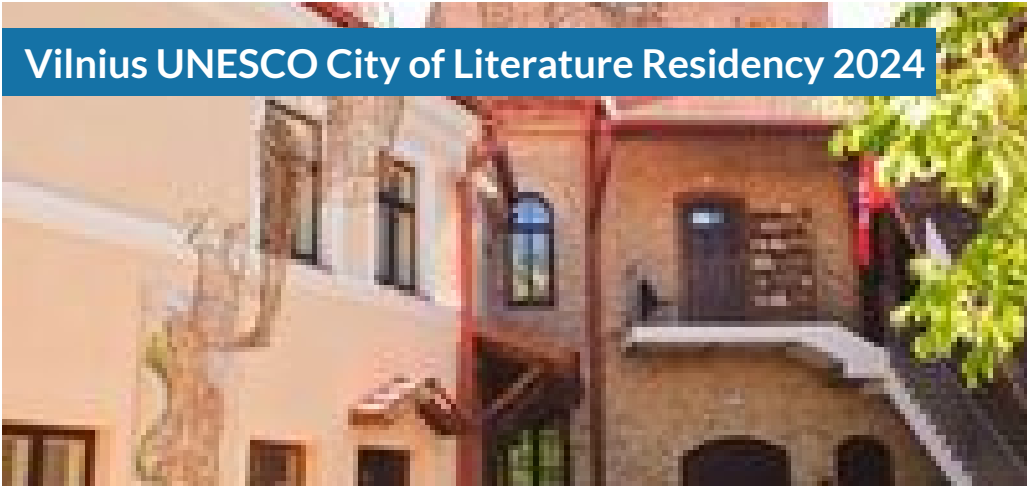
DEADLINE
20 JAN 2022



RESIDENCIES
INTERNATIONAL LITHUANIA

DEADLINE
01 JUL 2024

Vilnius UNESCO City of Literature Residency 2024



RESIDENCIES
INTERNATIONAL LITHUANIA

POSTED ON
05 MAY 2020

New drive-in formats trialled for performances and cinema in Europe



NEWS
DENMARK LITHUANIA

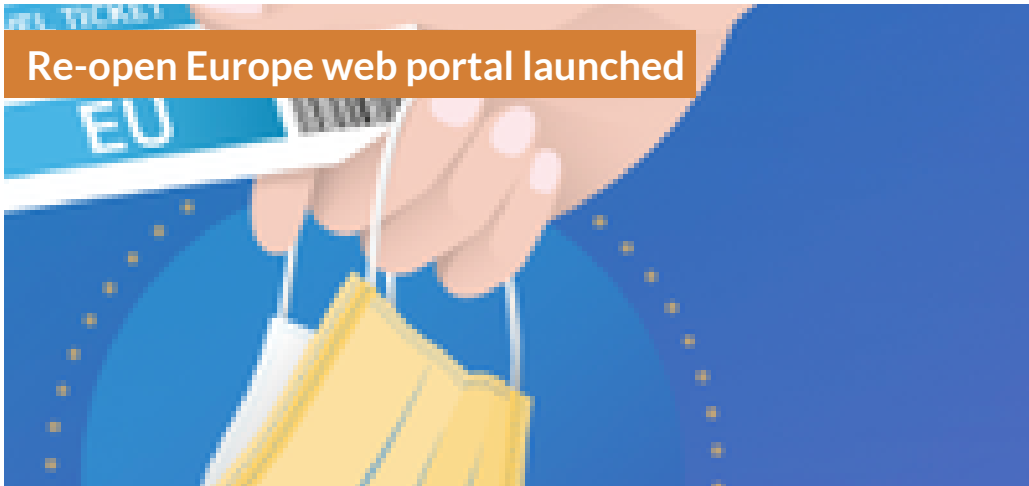
POSTED ON
12 AUG 2010

Salvador Dalí home town re-creation in China



POSTED ON
17 JUN 2020

Re-open Europe web portal launched



NEWS
EUROPE

POSTED ON
25 JAN 2021

Museums step up as vaccination centres



NEWS
ITALY UNITED KINGDOM

WEBSITE

[HTTPS://WWW.THEGUARDIAN.COM/WORLD/2020/APR/28/LITHUANIAN-CAPITAL-TO-BE-TURNED-INTO-VAST-OPEN-AIR-CAFE-VILNIUS](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/28/lithuanian-capital-to-be-turned-into-vast-open-air-cafe-vilnius)

COUNTRY

LITHUANIA

THEMES

COVID-19 HERITAGE

ABOUT ASEF CULTURE360

culture360.asef.org brings Asia and Europe closer by providing information, facilitating dialogue and stimulating reflection on the arts and culture of the two regions.

MORE ABOUT ASEF CULTURE360 | [FAQ](#) | [f](#) [X](#) [@](#)

This website was created and maintained with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.



About us
Team
Partners
FAQ
Brand guidelines
How to partner with us
Contact us
#ASEFCulture