



Estate Planning in Lithuania

How to protect and transfer your assets

French–Lithuanian Chamber of Commerce – Lithuania

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Context & Key Issues

A growing number of expatriate families and international entrepreneurs are looking for the best way to organise the transfer of their assets in Lithuania and across Europe.



Continuity

Ensure continuity in asset management



Protection

Protect family and business assets



Harmony

Avoid inheritance disputes among heirs



Optimisation

Optimise the transfer at European scale

Legal Framework in Lithuania

Lithuanian Civil Code

- Primary reference for domestic succession
- Forced heirs: children and spouse are entitled to a guaranteed minimum share
- Notarised or private will accepted under legal conditions

EU Regulation

- Cross-border successions harmonised within the EU
- Choice of applicable law (nationality or habitual residence)
- European Certificate of Succession to simplify procedures

Planning Tools (1/2)

1 Lithuanian Will

- Main succession instrument in Lithuania
- Notarised (official) or private, subject to legal conditions
- Forced heirs retain a guaranteed minimum share
- Easily combined with international asset strategies

2 Holding Companies

- Holding of real estate or company shares
- Clarifies governance and succession of business assets
- Gradual transfer of family assets to heirs
- Suited to entrepreneurs and investor families

Planning Tools (2/2)

3 Trusts / Fiduciary Relationships

- Lithuania recognises limited fiduciary relationships for certain assets
- Less common than in Anglo-Saxon jurisdictions
- Useful in certain cross-border structures

⚠ Lithuanian Foundations

- Private wealth foundations: non-existent in Lithuania
- Only for public or charitable purposes (education, culture, health)
- Cannot be used as a tool for transferring family wealth

Note: Unlike DIFC or RAK models (UAE), private wealth foundations do not exist under Lithuanian law.

Benefits of Tailored Planning

Legal Security

Compliance with civil and European law — enhanced protection for all parties

Succession Clarity

Reduction of family conflicts and tax optimisation of the transfer

Flexibility

Combination of wills, holding companies and trusts to suit your needs

International Planning

Compatible with the EU Regulation on cross-border successions

Summary

Lithuanian Will

Central instrument, combinable with European strategies

Holding Companies

Governance and gradual transfer of business assets

Trusts

Limited but useful solutions in a cross-border context

Foundations

Not a private wealth planning tool in Lithuania