

# Versatile Research and Novel Technologies for Smart Aerobiology

EUROPEAN SYMPOSIUM ON AEROBIOLOGY (ESA2024)



8-12 JULY 2024, VILNIUS, LITHUANIA





# DEAR MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN AEROBIOLOGY SOCIETY

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Here is a proposal to organize  
the European Symposium on  
Aerobiology in 2024 in Vilnius

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Vilnius is the capital of Lithuania, known for its rich history and picturesque Old Town. Vilnius is quickly building a reputation as a fresh destination with dynamic arts and culture scenes, seemingly endless culinary delights, and all kinds of events.

We propose to hold the symposium at Vilnius University, founded in 1579. Functioning for a long time as the only school of higher education in Lithuania, it has been a maintainer of cultural and scientific traditions and has played a significant role in the cultural life of the neighbouring countries. Research on pollen in Lithuania has long-standing traditions. The beginning of interest is associated with beekeeping, which is mentioned in its economic aspects in written sources since the 14th century.

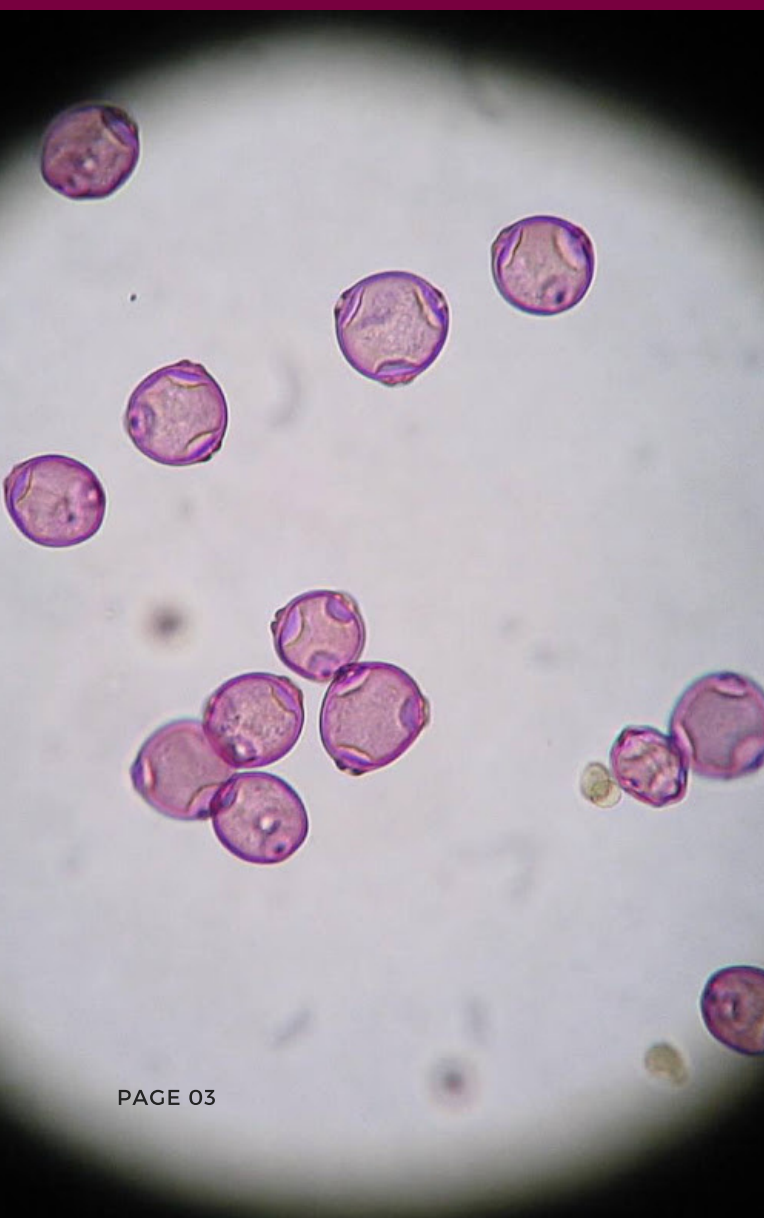
Keeping up with European advancement in science, pollen served for identifying vegetation development, pollen features were selected for the creation of new plant species or for analysing biodiversity. Studies on pollen of anemophilous plants as an integral part of palynology were conducted in a fragmented manner. Year 2004 is to be considered the beginning of systematic aerobiological research this is when Šiauliai University initiated the development of the national airborne pollen monitoring network.

Year 2024 will be the first twenty years of aerobiological research in Lithuania. It would be a great honour for us to hold ESA2024 in Vilnius. We are already looking forward to your arrival!

# SYMPOSIUM RATIONALE

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Knowledge of aerobiology is gaining increasing scientific and practical importance every day



The last few decades witnessed the emergence of scientists groups and national networks. The number of users of aerobiological knowledge is growing and the diversity of user groups is expanding. Research of scientists working in the field of aerobiology contributes to the economic and social well-being of humankind. Results of research on pollen and microscopic fungal spores help to assess climate change, increase agricultural yields, obtain novel superfoods, seek progress in biodiversity conservation area, and improve the quality of life of individuals sensitive to airborne allergens.

Most of the worlds aerobiological monitoring stations are in the Northern Hemisphere; and the majority of them, in Europe. Since the establishment of the European Aerobiology Society in 2008, the tradition of sharing knowledge and experience has been implemented in a different European city every 4 years. The high-level international symposium involves researchers not only from Europe but also from other parts of the world. The organizers of the symposium ensure quality conditions for scientific discussions for both top-level scientists and novice researchers. Organisation of parallel sessions for presentation of the results of the multidisciplinary scope research provides the opportunity to obtain information on novelties and trends in aerobiology and related fields within a short period of time.

The cosy and friendly community of the European Aerobiology Society is open to communication and collaboration; therefore, the symposium topics given below are just an initial initiative. Ideas and activity requests are welcome.

## **SYMPOSIUM TOPICS**

Agronomy and Forestry Application  
Airborne Microorganisms  
Airborne Pollen  
Climate Change  
Environmental Pollution  
Forecasting and Modeling  
Indoor Aerobiology  
Molecular Aerobiology  
New Methods for Detection and Analysis  
Plant Phenology and etc.





# VILNIUS UNIVERSITY - ESA2024 HOST

Vilnius University was founded at a time when the Reformation movement spread in Lithuania, and Jesuit monks were invited to fight against Reformation. The formation of the complex of Vilnius University took several centuries; therefore, it consists of Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, and Classical architecture buildings. The architecture of the medieval mansion contrasts with the cheerful student atmosphere. Thirteen courtyards, arcades and galleries add glamour.

The university with about 20 thousand students has 14 academic departments. The old building of Vilnius University houses the administration of the university and 3 faculties. There is also a library founded in 1570 with over 5 million accumulated prints and old manuscripts.

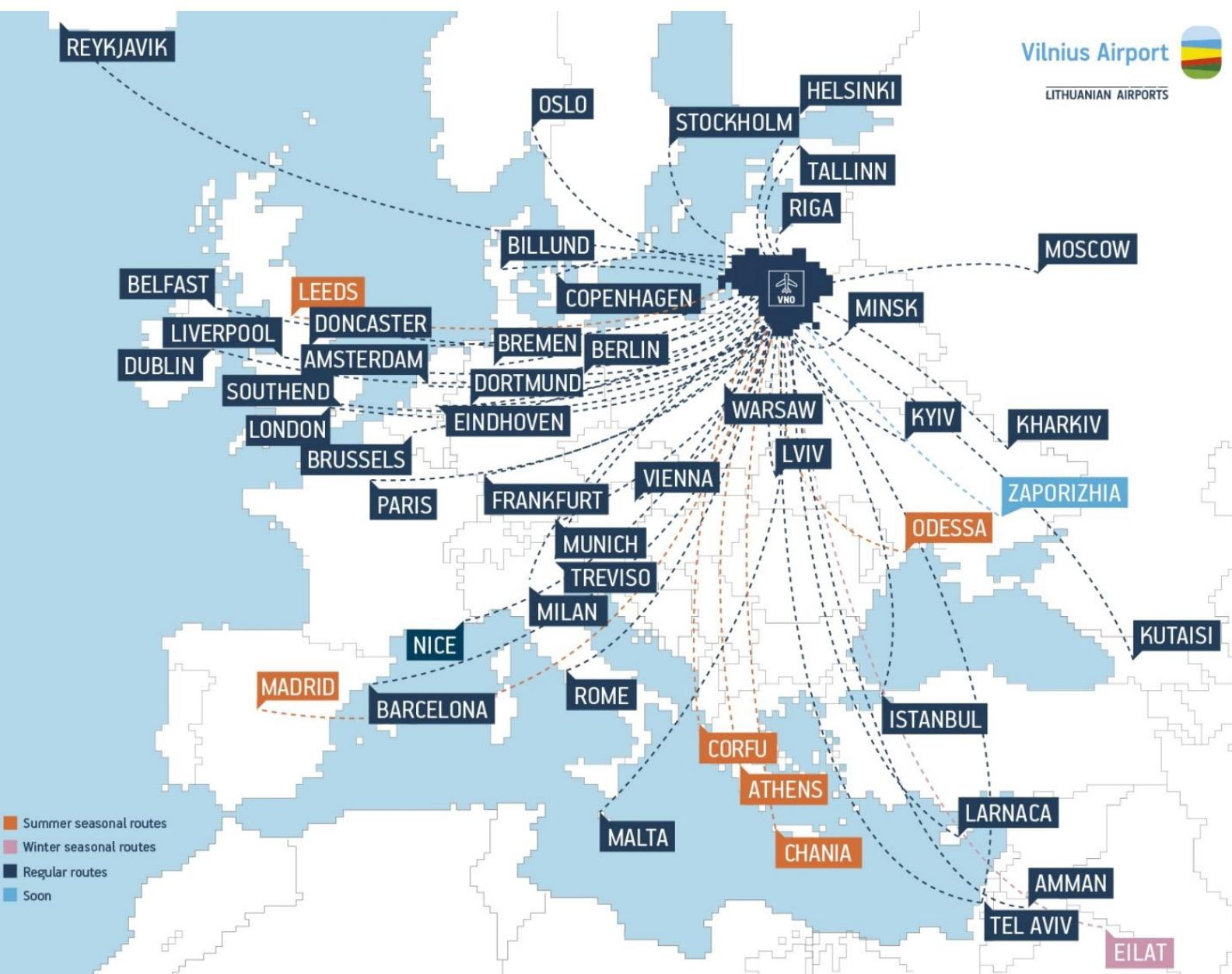


**VENUE - 3 UNIVERSITETO STREET,  
THE HISTORICALLY OLDEST PART  
OF VILNIUS UNIVERSITY.**

here is St Johns Church in the courtyard of the complex, where services, diploma award ceremonies, concerts, and other events take place.

The University's Botanical Garden was established in 1781. During almost 240 years, the garden has become an integral part of science as well as educational and social life for the communities of the University and the capital.





# FLIGHTS TO VILNIUS

Currently, more than 15 airlines offer direct flights to more than 40 destinations from Vilnius International Airport. Flight times are only three hours or less. The airport is only a 15-minute taxi ride from the center. For more detailed information [www.vno.lt](http://www.vno.lt).

There is a direct bus line from Vilnius city to Vilnius Airport. The price of a single ticket – EUR 1. You can reach the centre of Vilnius city from the airport by bus in 20 minutes.

There is a special train "Vilnius - Airport" running regularly from Vilnius railway station. The train shuttles 16 times a day. It takes 7 minutes to arrive to the airport from the railway station. The ticket costs EUR 0.70.

Car sharing services providing by CityBee and SPARK.

Plan a journey by public transportation: [www.stops.lt](http://www.stops.lt)



# OTHER WAYS TO ARRIVE

**Direct air links connect the capital cities, while by bus or car the countries are connected by the Via Baltica highway**

Lithuania is easily accessible via various modes of transport. The infrastructure here is well developed, moreover, the country is not large and it is easy and convenient to travel between the major cities.

You can also come to Vilnius from the airport in Kaunas city. There are direct flights to Kaunas from Ireland, Greece, Spain, Italy, the United Kingdom, Cyprus, the Netherlands, Norway, and Finland. Kaunas, the second largest city in Lithuania, is about 100 km away from Vilnius.



Via Baltica highway runs through the center of Lithuania and links Kaunas to Warsaw and Riga/Tallinn. The overall condition of highways and major intercity roads is very good. There is no highway toll fee in Lithuania.

By car distant to Vilniaus from Warsaw 500 km, Berlin 1100 km, Vienna 1200 km, Praha 1200 km, Paris 2100 km.





# SYMPOSIUM VENUE



We propose to organize the opening of the symposium in an exceptionally solemn Theatre Hall accommodating 250 listeners.

The Theatre Hall can be used for plenary sessions or these sessions would take place in Aula Parva that accommodates 150 people.

There are enough rooms for up to 70 persons to work in the sections. All meeting rooms are equipped with the necessary equipment (projector, computer, microphones, and the like).

Part of the seminar rooms will be used for poster presentations and coffee breaks as well as for parallel meetings of societies.





8-12 July 2024

3 University street, Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania

PLANNING AT A GLANCE									
MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
10:00 -17:00	Registration	8:30	Registration	8:30	Registration	8:30	Registration	8:30	New EAS Committee Meeting
		9:00	Plenary session	9:00	Plenary session	9:00	Plenary session	9:30	Session
		11:00	Coffee Break/Exhibition/ Posters	11:00	Coffee Break/Exhibition/ Posters	11:00	Coffee Break/Exhibition/ Posters		
		11:30	Session	11:30	Session	11:30	Session	12:00	Coffee Break
		13:00	Lunch/Exhibition/ Posters	13:00	Lunch/Exhibition/ Posters	13:00	Lunch/Exhibition/ Posters	13:00	Conclusion, Awards
		15:00	Opening Session	14:00	Session	14:00	Session	14:00	EAS General Assembly
15:30	Keynote 1								
16:00	Keynote 2			16:00	Coffee Break/Exhibition/ Posters	16:00	Coffee Break/Exhibition/ Posters	16:00	Coffee Break/Exhibition/ Posters
16:30	Keynote 3			16:30	Session	16:30	Session		
17:00	Keynote 4								
				18:30	EAS Committee Meeting	18:30	Sightseeing Tour	16:30	Session
18:30	Welcome Ceremony								

# ESA2024 TIMETABLE

## Preliminary program of scientific and social activities

Symposium working hours from 9:00 to 18:00.

The scientific program includes keynotes, plenary, thematic, and poster sessions.

The social program consists of a Welcome Ceremony, a Sightseeing tour in Old Vilnius and a Congress Dinner.

Allocated time for EAS Committee meetings and General Assembly.

A coffee break will be provided during the conference. Participants will be able to continue scientific discussions and visit exhibitions.





There are many different types of hotels and hostels in the vicinity of Vilnius University. Not only hotels but also other accommodation options can be chosen; e.g., separate apartments with or without service.

Here are several nearby hotel offers:

- Artis Centrum Hotels 4\* is 400 m from the conference venue. 118 rooms, with a price from 67 euros for a double room.  
<https://artis.centrumhotels.com/>.
- Antagonist Art Hotel 4\* is 150 m from the conference venue. 30 rooms, with a price from 90 euros for a double room.  
<https://www.antagonist.lt/en/>.
- Hotel Tiltio 3\* is 150 m from the conference venue. 60 rooms, with a price from 50 euros for a double room. <http://www.hoteltilto.com/lt>.
- Pogo hostel is 350 m from the conference venue. Bed in 6-bed mixed dormitory from 14 euros.  
<https://www.pogo.lt/>.



# ACCOMMODATION





# RESTAURANTS FOR LUNCH AND DINER

**Vilnius is an outstanding  
gastronomic destination and  
dining in the city remains a  
relatively affordable  
experience with a wide variety  
of options**



## RESTAURANTS

Vilnius is packed full of flavours! Lots of taste experience you can find in walking distance from the symposium venue.

Try modern Lithuanian cuisine in restaurants Ertlio namas, Fiorentino, Queensberry, Mykolo 4, Grey, Cozy, Meat Lovers Pub, Jurgis ir Drakonas, Amandus, Meat Lovers Pub and much more.

## VEGETARIAN AND VEGAN

Vegetarian and vegan you will find a place to eat in Vilnius. Products come directly from the farmers – they don't have any flavour enhancers or unnatural additives, and every dish speaks of harmony. Food at cafés and restaurants in line with these principles chefs prepare in most of restaurants.







# BUDGET

The registration fee includes the following:

- attendance to the scientific sessions,
- conference material,
- certificate of attendance,
- certificate of participation for the presented communications (oral/poster),
- coffee breaks,
- welcome ceremony,
- symposium dinner,
- tourist info and the guided tour in Old Town,
- information assistance.

Registration Fees (VAT included):

Up to May 2024	From May 2024	
600 €	700 €	General Delegate
500 €	600 €	EAS Member
300 €	400 €	Young researcher (below 31 years)



**THE BUDGET SURPLUS WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE EUROPEAN AEROBIOLOGY SOCIETY (EAS)**

All the bank transfer charges should be paid by the participant.



# WHY VILNIUS?



## EASY TO GET TO

The recently renovated Vilnius International Airport sits in the perfect centre of Europe, meaning that it's easy to get to from both the West and the East. The fact that it is situated just minutes away from Vilnius City centre is an additional bonus.

## UNIQUE VENUE

Vilnius gives the opportunity to combine the meeting with a little taste of history. In the UNESCO heritage city one can choose from 16th century wine cellars, manors, and church halls. The jewel in Vilnius' crown, Vilnius University, is not only the region's oldest university but also one of the city's best conference hosts.

## ECO-FRIENDLY & SAFE

The city is becoming as progressive in an ecological sense as it is green nature-wise whereby guests and residents can enjoy many new bicycle paths, rent an electric car or charge theirs at free public charging points. Vilnius presents persons touring the city an opportunity to enjoy a peaceful and relaxing environment. Visitors compliment the city for having a low level of noise, widespread green areas, and of having the cleanest air of all the major cities in the EU.

## HIGH STIMULUS & AFFORDABLE COSTS

97% of 25 to 64 years old Lithuanians speak at least one foreign language and rank second in Europe (2017) for foreign language knowledge. Lithuania still keeps costs low compared to Western or Northern Europe, making it an easily reachable and fantastic option for any visit.

## GASTRO EXPERIENCES

Lithuanian cuisine is also experiencing a renaissance, with the nation's top restaurateurs competing to create a new Lithuanian cuisine using local products and age-old recipes, all with a modern spin. If you ever thought kohlrabi and honey didn't mix, our chefs will prove you wrong. To experience a culinary revolution in the making, visitors can simply open the "30 best Lithuanian restaurants" guide and choose from a selection of gourmet experiences.

## ENJOY NATURE

There is no better way to forget your stress after a day of meetings, than to take a slow and relaxing boat ride on one of Lithuania's glacial lakes, or an amber massage from one of the country's many spas. Lithuania is proud of its vast pine scented forests, blue eyed lakes and well-preserved parks. So, it is easy to surround yourself with peacefulness and enjoy the kind of meditative experience that only nature can give you. Take a deep breath of fresh air and recharge yourself.



# DISCOVER LITHUANIA

Lithuania is a country of lowlands and highlands, noted for a number of lakes and rivers making their way through tranquil landscapes. Lithuania is great for sightseeing as it shares rich history and unique artistic and cultural heritage. Longest distance from north to south – 276 km, from east to west – 373 km.

## KURŠIŲ NERIJA NATIONAL PARK

The settlements of Alksnynė, Juodkrantė, Pervalka, Preila, and Nida join together into the Neringa resort. The entire resort is located on the Curonian Spit, which is inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The strip of sand that separates the Baltic Sea from the Curonian Lagoon is a unique place, enchanting for the magnificence of its dunes and the spirit of Curonian heritage.



## THE HILL OF CROSSES

Desecrated but never destroyed, set on fire but never burned down, the Hill of Crosses is a potent symbol of faith, hope, and freedom. And for pilgrims, it is another must-visit location in Lithuania. The Hill of Crosses near Šiauliai is a hill covered with thousands of wooden crosses. During the Soviet era, these crosses were removed by the authorities, but locals continuously replaced them. In 1993, Pope John Paul II prayed here, and he often mentioned the sacred site in his homilies and speeches. He later sent a crucifix to Lithuania which was placed on the hill, and today pilgrims begin and end their journeys at this location.



## BE FREE!

Set out on a trip around Lithuania with your own tourist routes or ones that we recommend and discover tourist attractions places. You will be surprised how many undiscovered and unexpected places you will see and how many new sensations you will experience. Take a bit information (<https://lithuania.travel/en/category/tourist-routes>) and feel free!



# INTERESTING AND PRACTICAL POINTS

## GEOGRAPHY

Lithuania is located in Northern Europe, on the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea. 90,66 km of the Baltic Sea coast with 4 Blue flag beaches in Palanga, Nida, Juodkrantė and Smiltynė. Neighboring countries: Latvia, Belarus, Poland, Russia. Lithuania is a member of NATO, EU and Schengen area.

The population of Lithuania in 2020 is 2 794 329 persons with 86,4 % Lithuanians, 5,7 % Polish, 4,5 % Russian, 3,4 % others (Ukrainian, Belorussian etc.).

## WEATHER

Transitional climate between maritime and continental with wet, moderate winters and summers. Average temperature: July is +17°C, in January – -4.9°C.

## CURRENCY

Euro. All major credit cards are accepted.

## INTERNET

Wireless internet is widely available in public spaces and internet speed is usually extremely good. Believe it or not, the Baltic state enjoys one of the fastest internet upload speeds in the world, owing to having the most fibre-optic broadband capacity in Europe.

## VISA

Citizens of the EU do not need visa to enter the country. Non EU citizens who have been granted Schengen visa may also enter Lithuania. Otherwise entry requirements may differ depending on the traveler's citizenship and it is recommended to obtain visa-related information beforehand.

## ELECTRICITY

220V, 50Hz (European style plug, 2-prong)

## TOURISM INFORMATION

Vilnius Tourism Information Centre provide accurate information about city's attractions, events, restaurants, nightlife, shopping, hotels, transportation and much more. Please contact if you have any questions about tourism in Vilnius: email [tic@vilnius.lt](mailto:tic@vilnius.lt), website [www.vilnius-tourism.lt/en](http://www.vilnius-tourism.lt/en).

Lithuania is a perfect choice for ESA2024: a great food, excellent service, comfortable rooms and close proximity to local attractions, with plenty of opportunities to have fun after work. Enjoy beautiful surroundings, fresh air, high-quality services and high service standards - all at a reasonable price.





EUROPEAN AEROBIOLOGY SOCIETY



**Vilnius  
University**

# **WELCOME ESA2024 AT VILNIUS UNIVERSITY**

**8-12 JULY 2024**

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