

Vilnius Becomes an Open-Air Café — Emergency Street Dining During COVID-19

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Lithuania

Quality score: 57/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

In April 2020 Vilnius let cafés and bars use squares and streets free of charge for distanced outdoor seating so hospitality could reopen during COVID-19. 151 applications arrived within a day; over 160 venues joined a scheme later cited by the OECD as a model.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	1/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability	2/3
Sustainability / continuity	1/3
Innovation	3/3
Inclusiveness / equity	1/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-26

[Vilnius City Municipality](#) — accessed 2026-08-26

[OECD Observatory of Public Sector Innovation — case study](#) — accessed 2026-08-26

[CBC News — coverage](#) — accessed 2026-08-26

[TheMayor.EU — voucher scheme detail](#) — accessed 2026-08-26

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