Vilnius Open-Air Cafés (2020) — Free Public Space for Outdoor Tables During Covid Reopening, With 380 Permits and Early Equity Criticism but No Published Evaluation

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Lithuania

Quality score: 43/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

In April 2020 Vilnius let cafés and restaurants put outdoor tables on squares and streets free of charge. About 380 permits were issued by 1 June; critics raised access and equity concerns and the city had not yet surveyed residents.

Key dimensions

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

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-10-30

Vilnius City Municipality — accessed 2026-10-30

LRT: Vilnius to turn into vast open-air cafe (29 Apr 2020) — accessed 2026-10-30

Euronews: Vilnius becomes giant open-air cafe (Apr 2020) — accessed 2026-10-30

LRT: Does transforming Vilnius into an open-air cafe exclude people? (3 Jun 2020) — accessed 2026-10-30

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