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## Scope

The 5G-DiGITs project seeks to stimulate innovation, promote an entrepreneurial mindset, and enhance knowledge exchange in order to bridge the gap between the fast-paced digital transformation and the skills and competencies required by the workforce for the deployment of 5G technologies. Addressing these gaps requires closer collaboration and a shared understanding between educational institutions and the labour market, as differing perceptions may otherwise limit synergistic progress.

As part of the project activities, brokerage events will be organised to bring together key stakeholders with the aim of fostering a common understanding of 5G and other advanced technologies. These events will also serve as a platform to stimulate discussions on European policies, educational curricula, and future developments related to such technologies. In addition, the brokerage events aim to connect potential partners in order to identify business opportunities and avenues for collaboration.

The **brokerage event** in Lithuania marks the second initiative to initiate dialogue on 5G technology and its applications with local players, educators, and students, while also addressing existing policy frameworks and opportunities within the advanced technologies landscape.

## Context and Objectives

Lithuania faces a growing strategic gap between rapidly deployed 5G infrastructure and the limited, fragmented capacity of industry and the education system to exploit it. The key problems are (1) insufficient large-scale industrial 5G use cases in manufacturing, (2) weak integration between vocational / higher education curricula and real industrial 5G competencies, and (3) persistent skills mismatch and coordination failures between telecom providers, manufacturers, and education institutions. If unaddressed, Lithuania risks becoming a **connectivity provider rather than a high-value Industry 4.0 producer**, losing competitiveness in advanced engineering and smart manufacturing.

The primary goal of the brokerage event is to **close the gap between Lithuania's advanced 5G infrastructure and its limited industrial and skills-development uptake**. The event will aim to build a shared national understanding among vocational institutions, universities, researchers, industry, and policymakers of where Lithuania is falling behind in industrial 5G deployment and why. A key objective

of the brokerage event is to stimulate concrete cross-sector partnerships that translate 5G capabilities into real engineering and manufacturing use cases, especially in SMEs.

Another goal is to **align vocational and higher education curricula with emerging industry needs by identifying priority competencies for private 5G networks, industrial IoT, and smart manufacturing**. That is why the brokerage event will also facilitate dialogue on regulatory, funding, and innovation barriers that currently slow industrial adoption. Particular emphasis should be placed on creating mechanisms for continuous industry–education feedback loops rather than one-off projects.

## Audience

The brokerage event will focus on four key stakeholder groups that form part of the industrial innovation value chain. The event expects to bring together at least 50 participants from different stakeholder groups presented below.

- **Students from technical VET institutions and universities.** Students provide valuable insights into perceived skill gaps and their preparedness to enter the labour market. Their input contributes to discussions on the alignment between educational curricula and the expectations of professional recruitment teams.
- **Educators, including VET providers, researchers, and lecturers from universities and technical institutes.** Educators contribute a grounded perspective to the dialogue by balancing expectations between students and the labour market, while also identifying policy- and administration-related barriers within public institutions and their own organisations.
- **Industry representatives, including SMEs and start-ups in advanced technologies.** Innovation is often driven by emerging business environments, placing start-ups and SMEs at the core of European innovation efforts. Focusing on these actors, alongside more established companies, enables discussions not only on skills mismatches but also on financing and procurement challenges linked to public policies and administrative frameworks.
- **Investors interested in advanced technology enterprises.** Investors may identify investment opportunities through the brokerage event, while also contributing valuable insights into financing needs, investment gaps, and requirements for seed and early-stage funding.

## Format

The event will deliberately balance policy clarity, technical realism, and business incentives to avoid remaining purely declarative.

**Stage 1 – Context and Objectives of the Event.** The event will be opened by Gintaras Vilda (CEO of Manufacturing Innovation Valley) with a clear, evidence-based presentation of Lithuania’s current position in 5G deployment versus industrial adoption and skills readiness. Mr. Vilda will explicitly state the purpose of the event: to accelerate real industrial use cases, improve education–industry alignment, and remove regulatory and coordination barriers. This stage will include concise data, not marketing narratives, to create urgency and a shared problem definition among vocational institutions, universities, businesses, scientists, and policymakers. A well-framed opening will be critical to prevent fragmented expectations and superficial networking.

**Stage 2 – Regulatory Framework (National Regulatory Authority).** In this stage, the representative of Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania (RRT) Šarūnas Oberauskas will present the regulatory framework for private 5G networks, spectrum access, and future policy directions. The focus will be practical: what is already permitted, what is planned, and what barriers

still exist for industrial deployment in Lithuania. This session will also clarify experimental licenses. A transparent regulatory message will aim to reduce uncertainty for industry and research stakeholders.

**Stage 3 – Expert Panel Discussion.** A moderated panel of visionary and industry leader Mr. Gintaras Vilda, regulatory authority representative Mr. Šarūnas Oberauskas, lifelong learning policy implementation manager Mr. Julius Jakučinskas, vocational training services provider Mr. Mindaugas Černius, competency assessment expert Mr. Robertas Encius will critically debate Lithuania’s real readiness for 5G-enabled Industry 4.0. The discussion will move beyond success stories and openly address skills gaps, SME adoption barriers, and weak cross-sector coordination. Audience interaction (live questions or polling) will be welcomed to surface practical concerns from companies and training providers. The outcome of this stage will be a short list of priority action areas agreed by stakeholders.

**Stage 4 – Structured Networking and Brokerage.** This will be the operational core of the event, where pre-matched B2B and B2Academia meetings take place.

**Stage 5 – Summary and Conclusions.** The event will be closed with a synthesis of key insights, identified cooperation tracks, and announced next steps.

Properly designed, this five-stage brokerage format will directly address Lithuania’s core challenge: strong 5G supply but insufficient industrial absorption and skills alignment. The emphasis on regulatory clarity, critical expert debate, and structured matchmaking will make this format particularly suitable for catalysing real Industry 4.0 progress in the Lithuanian manufacturing sector.

## About the speakers

### Speakers:



**Gintaras Vilda**, CEO of Manufacturing Innovation Valley. Business and industrial innovation expert with over 20 years of experience across manufacturing, energy, and innovation policy. He currently leads the Manufacturing Innovation Valley, where he works on industrial digitalisation, technological innovation, and strengthening collaboration between business and research institutions. Previously, he served as Vice Minister of the Economy and Innovation of Lithuania, headed the Lithuanian Engineering and Technology Industries Association (LINPRA), and held senior management roles in the private sector. His professional focus includes advanced manufacturing, innovation ecosystems, and the competitiveness of Lithuanian industry.



**Šarūnas Oberauskas**, Senior Adviser at Electronic Communications Resource Management at the Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania (RRT). He provides expert guidance on regulatory issues related to the allocation and use of electronic communications resources, including mobile network compliance with international standards and spectrum management. His work supports efficient and secure deployment of advanced communications technologies in Lithuania’s telecom ecosystem.

## Roundtable:



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**Tadas Tamošiūnas**, Director of the Qualifications and Vocational Training Development Centre. Tadas' duties include leading the educational support institution implementing the state policy for the development of vocational training and lifelong learning systems to meet the needs of the economy and national and international initiatives. The Qualifications and Vocational Training Development Centre also provides information, expert, consulting and qualification development assistance to education providers, educational support institutions and education management entities.



**Mindaugas Černius**, Director of TECHIN (Vilnius Vocational Education and Training Centre of Technology and Engineering). He has extensive experience in vocational education and training, education management, and skills development, with a strong focus on aligning education systems with labour market and industry needs. As Director of TECHIN, he leads strategic development initiatives aimed at strengthening technological competencies, modernising vocational training, and supporting the preparation of a future-ready workforce for Lithuania's industry and innovation sectors.



**Robertas Encius** is a Lithuanian construction sector professional known for his work with the Lithuanian Builders Association, where he serves as the head of the Competence Evaluation Department. He is actively involved in advancing professional standards and competency assessment within Lithuania's construction industry. In his role at the association, he participates in key sector initiatives, including collaborations to improve worker safety, training, and industry qualifications. Robertas also represents the association on national committees related to construction education and skills evaluation. Outside of the association, he has been involved in promoting professional standards and discussions on workforce development within the broader construction community in Lithuania.

## Moderator:



**Marius Ablačinskis** is a Lithuanian expert in vocational education and training (VET), innovation policy, and strategic development. He currently serves as Head of the Innovation Development Department at Vilnius Vocational College of Technology and Engineering (TECHIN), where he leads international cooperation, strategic partnerships, and innovation initiatives. He is also a Management Board Member of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP), contributing to European VET policy discussions. Over more than two decades, he has held senior advisory and analytical roles within Lithuanian ministries and public institutions, focusing on education reform, skills systems, and industry digitization. He has led numerous national and international research and development projects related to qualifications systems, adult learning, and workforce competitiveness.

## Summary/Invitation/Comms

5G-DiGITs is an Erasmus+ project that aims to foster innovation, entrepreneurial mindset and knowledge exchange in order to fill the gap between the rapid ongoing digital transformation and the skills and knowledge required for the workforce in the deployment of 5G technologies.

In the scope of the project's activities, a Brokerage Event will take place on **April 28th, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, at TECHIN Vilnius, Lithuania**. The event will bring together students, educators, tech industry professionals, and investors, in order to foster mutual understandings of the 5G advancements in Europe and how to improve discussions about its application and reach to citizens, but also to identify opportunities for business and collaboration opportunities.

## THE AGENDA OF THE EVENT

<b>Tuesday 28/4/2026, 10:00 to 13:00</b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
<b>10:00-10:10</b>	Opening: 5G-DiGITs project	Eirini / Marius
<b>10:10-10:50</b>	<b>Presentations / keynotes:</b>	
	<b><i>How 5G is Transforming Industry?</i></b>  <i>About 5G use in industry/manufacturing (TBC)</i>	<b>Gintaras Vilda</b> CEO of Manufacturing Innovation Valley (former deputy minister of Economy and Innovations of the Republic of Lithuania)
	<b><i>Private 5G Networks in Lithuania: Regulatory framework</i></b>  <i>About frequency management, licencing and registration</i>	<b>Šarūnas Oberauskas</b> Senior Adviser at Electronic Communications Resource Management Group at the Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania (RRT)
<b>10:50-12:00</b>	<b>5G in Lithuania: Future Perspectives</b> <b><i>Roundtable / Panel discussion</i></b> on the opportunities created by 5G and the related demand and supply of specialists (VET/HE)	Moderator: <b>Marius Ablačinskas</b>
	<b>Panelists:</b> <b>1. Gintaras Vilda.</b> CEO of Manufacturing Innovation Valley (former deputy minister of Economy and Innovations of the Republic of Lithuania) <b>2. Šarūnas Oberauskas.</b> Senior Adviser at Electronic Communications Resource Management Group at the Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania (RRT) <b>3. Tadas Tamošiūnas.</b> Director of the Qualifications and Vocational Training Development Centre <b>4. Mindaugas Černius.</b> Director, TECHIN <b>5. Robertas Encius.</b> Head of the Competency Assessment ( <a href="#">STATREG</a> ) Department of the Lithuanian Builders' Association	
<b>12:00-12:55</b>	<b>Networking session</b> Attendees will be divided in groups based on their expertise (industry, education, investor, student)	
<b>12:55 - 13:00</b>	<b>Closing session</b>	