



## Alytus District

### Culture and Resilience Action Plan summary

The Alytus District Municipality, nestled in the picturesque Dzūkija region of southern Lithuania, encircles the vibrant city of Alytus, which is not part of the municipality itself. Home to approximately 26,000 residents, the district encompasses two towns—Daugai and Simnas—and 41 charming villages, spread across 1,410 km<sup>2</sup>. This diverse landscape is divided into 11 administrative units (seniūnijos—elderships) on both banks of the majestic Nemunas River.

Alytus District is on a transformative journey to become a BSR Cultural Pearl, addressing the unique challenges faced by its communities. Our primary goal is to build a stronger, more united community that reduces social exclusion and enhances resilience. By promoting cultural activities and nurturing a shared identity, we aim to improve the emotional and physical well-being of our residents.

We are committed to increasing community engagement, preserving local traditions, and fostering social cohesion. Our initiatives will empower residents to take an active role in shaping their cultural landscape, leading to a more vibrant and inclusive community. Key to our approach is the organization of a variety of cultural events, art projects, and the establishment of a community choir dedicated to performing traditional Dzūkija songs. The year 2025 will be declared the Year of Dzūkija Songs, and our choir will not only serve as a musical ensemble but also as a symbol of our rich cultural identity.

As a crucial partner in these initiatives, our NGO will work closely with local residents, artists, cultural organizations, and municipal institutions. By collaborating with diverse stakeholders, we aim to harness collective creativity and resources to cultivate a rich cultural environment.

In the short term, we anticipate a surge in participation in cultural activities and improved communication among different communities. Medium-term outcomes include a significant reduction in social exclusion and enhanced social resilience—crucial for fostering a sense of belonging and unity among residents.

A highlight of our efforts will be the "Eldership Community Festivals," designed to bring together community members from each Eldership through collective activities that unify and celebrate our shared heritage.



With 2025 designated as the Year of Lithuanian Folk Songs, one of our exciting features will be the performance of authentic Dzūkija folk songs in the Dzūkian dialect, as supported by the Lithuanian Ethnic Culture Protection Council.

Through these vibrant cultural initiatives, we strive to create a resilient community that celebrates its heritage while adapting to contemporary challenges. This is essential not only for preserving our cultural identity but also for nurturing a strong, interconnected community that thrives together. Join us on this journey as we embrace our rich traditions and build a brighter future for the Alytus District!