

Independence

The day of Re-Establishment of Independence of Lithuania is celebrated on 11 March. The state of Lithuania, which had been suffering Russian oppression for many years, tried to re-establish its independence in all effort. The Reform Movement of Lithuania, established in 1988, contributed to re-establishment of independence. Its goal was to seek the return of independent status for Lithuania and struggle against Soviet occupation. On 23 August 1989, hundreds of people showed their aspiration for freedom by joining their hands from Vilnius to Tallinn. It showed the solidarity and striving for independence of the three Baltic States to the rest world.

On 11 March 1990 the Supreme Council of the Republic signed the Act of Re-Establishment of Independence of Lithuania. It stated that Lithuania had become an independent state from then. The Act was signed by the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania Vytautas Landsbergis and other members of the Council.

However, Lithuanian had to survive the Soviet Union's response: economic blockade of Lithuania, an attempt to carry out an armed takeover with the help of local collaborators. On 13 January the Soviets occupied Lithuanian radio and television buildings. The most terrible thing is that unarmed people spilled their blood fighting for the right to live in a free country by fighting against the armed Soviets and their tanks. During the bloody events of 13 January 14 people were killed, many were injured.

After regaining independence, in the 21st century Lithuania has strengthened democracy, created a civil society, and taken care of culture and heritage. Lithuania joined international organizations such as the European Union (2004), NATO (2004), and has enhanced the hope for a safe future and a stable life in Lithuania (Source: 10 most important events of January 1991 you must know, 15min.lt).