

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Background data on the project

Project Title.

Design project for the reconstruction of Vokiečių Street in Vilnius. Design proposals

Basis for the design project.

- 1.1. Terms of reference;
- 1.2. Technical specifications, as defined in Annex 22:
 - 1.2.1. No PS20-124, Vilniaus Vandeny, UAB, 2020-01-16;
 - 1.2.2. No 20013, Vilniaus Šilumos Tinklai, AB, 2020-01-24;
 - 1.2.3. No 1-I-0019/20, Telia Lietuva, AB, 2020-01-16;
 - 1.2.4. No 20/014, Grinda, UAB, 2020-01-15;
 - 1.2.5. No 8-20, Vilniaus Apšvietimas, UAB, 2020-01-23;
- 1.3. Solutions outlined in the Vilnius City General Plan until 2015;
- 1.4. The design project was drafted in accordance with legal acts, as well as design specifications and other mandatory documents on the drafting of a design project, including Regulations on the Natural Frame and the Regulation on the protection of the Vilnius Old Town, Cultural monument of Lithuania No UIP.

General data:

Goals of the reconstruction of Vokiečių Street:

- 1.1. Creating a representative, sustainable, user-friendly and exploitable urban public space at all times of the year;
- 1.2. Restoration, renovation of the most valuable elements of public space and street – first of all, historical pavements;
- 1.3. Revealing the multi-layered local history, highlighting the most valuable elements of public space, suggesting ways of commemorating the local history;
- 1.4. Regeneration, renewal and enrichment of the street plantations;
- 1.5. Optimisation and rationalisation of the car, pedestrian, bicycle traffic solutions, resolving conflict traffic situations;
- 1.6. Facilitating the development of service infrastructure in public space and surrounding buildings;
- 1.7. Proposing scenarios for the use of public space at different times of the year, considering the possibility of using this public space for city events, celebrations, commerce, advertising, outdoor cafe installation, etc.

Essential functional requirements for the street space:

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- 1.1. Ensuring safe and comfortable traffic for cars, pedestrians and cyclists, avoid conflicts between them;
- 1.2. Providing opportunities for public recreation and service infrastructure development;
- 1.3. Organising bicycle traffic in a separate cycle path or in a common flow on Vokiečių Street;
- 1.4. Reduction of car traffic in the historical part of Vokiečių Street, leaving access only to residents and service vehicles;
- 1.5. Providing for repairs of the historic Vokiečių street paving by aligning street driveways and sidewalk pavements;
- 1.6. Reducing the number of parking spaces, increasing traffic safety;
- 1.7. Providing possibilities for segregation of traffic flows in the newer part of Vokiečių Street by implementing the project for loop traffic in the Old Town;
- 1.8. Providing charging stations for electric vehicles;
- 1.9. Providing 3 underground waste collection and sorting sites, the installation sites of which can be adjusted by taking into account the proposed solutions for the management of public space but considering the access and availability of houses assigned to the containers and possibility for waste removal (see Annexes to the Terms and Conditions of procurement);
- 1.10. Provide opportunities and ways to organise outdoor cafes activities near the cafes in the buildings and separately from the buildings;
- 1.11. Provide locations for public transport stops, outdoor advertising facilities (possibilities to leave or relocate the existing facilities), cargo loading areas (closer to Rotušės Square), parking payment vending machines and city information system elements, taking into account all existing facilities in the current public space (see Annexes to the Terms and Conditions of procurement);
- 1.12. Provide the possibility to use the public space during different seasons, to offer different scenarios for the warm and cold seasons;
- 1.13. Propose scenarios for integration or relocation of existing decorative elements of the public space – the fountain and the sculpture.
- 1.14. In public space management plans, it is desirable to see the outlines of the buildings (basements) on Vokiečių Street, i.e. reflecting the historical development of the street through architectural or other means. The need, resolution and quantity of the elements of historical memory are chosen at the discretion of the authors.

Other requirements:

- 1.1. When designing public infrastructure objects, consider the boundaries of existing land parcels (https://www.regia.lt/map/vilniaus_m?lang=0);
- 1.2. Design solutions must be rational and efficient both during construction and during operation of buildings;
- 1.3. Ensure accessibility of public infrastructure objects to all members of society when designing in accordance with universal design principles;
- 1.4. Avoid excessive investment in the reconstruction of engineering networks;

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- 1.5. Present solutions for integration and management of current street artistic accents (sculpture, fountain, etc.);
- 1.6. Propose measures to protect the archaeological heritage by providing solutions for street landscaping;
- 1.7. Take into consideration the “Historical Jewish street reconstruction Project” (see annexes to the requirements of the tendering procedure).

Essential requirements for heritage conservation:

- 1.1. Vokiečių Street falls within the areas of cultural heritage sites and location territories:
 - 1.1.1. Territory of the Old Town of Vilnius (code 16073) (<https://kvr.kpd.lt/#/static-heritagedetail/77155A9E-D33A-47CD-A8B7-B15612F2EF91>).
- 1.2. When selecting the solutions, it is necessary to consider their impact on the influence of the above-mentioned territory;
- 1.3. No trees can be planted on the remains of the foundation, basement walls in former Vokiečių Street.

Current status

According to Annex 14 of the Terms and Conditions of participation in the Contest (Assessment of the current status)

Historical material:

- 1.1. Vokiečių Street in the historical plans of Vilnius city;
- 1.2. Vokiečių Street in historical photos and drawings;
- 1.3. Vokiečių Street redevelopment plans for the 20th century;
- 1.4. Archaeological survey;
- 1.5. Protected cultural heritage sites.

Assessment of the current status:

- 1.1. Existing street panoramas;
- 1.2. Drawing of the current condition;
- 1.3. Evaluation of the planting condition;
- 1.4. Assessment of the condition of the street and pathways;
- 1.5. Street inventory evaluation;
- 1.6. Evaluation of the lighting system;
- 1.7. Special plan – management plan for the protection of immovable cultural heritage in Vilnius Old Town (unique code 16073, former code UP1). Excerpts;
- 1.8. Plantation inventory;
- 1.9. Fixation of existing pavements;
- 1.10. Public discussions.

Design solutions:

The vision of the design project: restoring the former building density of the Vokiečių Street by using pavement solutions and sculptural accents featuring the now lost buildings, while also providing for a possibility to exhibit and adapt some parts of the remaining cellars of those no longer existent buildings for use, thus not only creating a representative space in the Old Town, but also providing a stimulus for society to imagine what the former building density of the older part of the Vokiečių Street was like a relatively short time, i.e. 70 years, ago and encouraging discussions on a possibility and the ways to restore the former texture of this part of the city.

When following the World War II the buildings on the eastern side of the Vokiečių Street were tore down, upon constructing a complex of 4-to-5 floor buildings in the heart of the old residential blocks and cutting in two the historical streets running through the Old Town – the Mėsinių (Butchers') Street and the Žydų (Jewish) Street [formerly known as the Sinagogos (Synagogue) Street], an uncommon type of public space was formed in the Old Town of Vilnius – a boulevard with two streets and a pedestrian zone in between them.

The historical pavement to be restored and the sculptural accents that will feature the now lost buildings, together with appropriate lighting, greenery, traffic regulation and other solutions, are to open up the most valuable spaces of the Old Town, i.e. the remaining historical buildings from the 17–19th centuries, the old part of the Vokiečių Street and the prospects from the Vilniaus (Vilnius) Street and the Rotušės (City Hall) Square. In the absence of the buildings that once stood there, new views open up, which would not be possible if those buildings were still there, such as the prospects from the Mėsinių Street and the Šv. Mikalojaus (St. Nicolas) Street and the view of the bell-tower of the Lutheran Church from the newer part of the Vokiečių Street.

In the design project, spatial structures of the old part of the Vokiečių Street are clearly separated from those of the newer one. This boundary is marked by a low standing stone wall. The historical spatial structure of the old part of the street is to be restored and enhanced, and the new part is to be adapted to meet the needs of the transport system, meanwhile, the view of the buildings will be softened and the greenery will be used to shape the background for the old part of the street.

The old pavement (the historical pavement of the Vokiečių Street) is to be restored both on the old and in the newer sections of the street, and the destroyed pavement of the Mėsinių and Žydų streets, which has already been partially restored, will be reconstructed, too. In view of, *inter alia*, the prospective restoration of the Žydų Street, the former Sinagogos Street is to be paved with stone – the same type of material that was used for the current pavement of the Šv. Mikalojaus and Mėsinių streets; the same material will also be used for paving its intersection with the Sinagogos Street. To ensure the integrity of the historical part of the Vokiečių Street, light coloured granite blocks (bricks) have been chosen for the pedestrian

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pavement, as their texture is similar to that of the pavement of the Didžiosios (Great) and Aušros Vartų (Gate of Dawn) streets and the Rotušės Square.

A pedestrian zone with minimum-depth rain water runners is to be created in the old part of the Vokiečių Street. On both sides of the street, low standing lighting fixtures are projected; they are the same as the ones installed on the Aušros Vartų Street. The space once occupied by the no longer existent buildings is to be paved with light coloured grey/white granite blocks, and their boundaries are to be marked with black basalt paving stone. Sculptural accents featuring the now lost buildings are to be used to shape the space in the most important sections of the street, i.e. near Rotušės Square and near Dominikonų (Dominican) Street. The sculptural accent to be built in this spot will serve as a reminder of the hotel Europe that once stood here. Other sculptural accents are to be evenly distributed within the spaces of historical possessions. Those elements, which are to be introduced across the entire space, along the boundaries of the possessions, together with elements of vertical greenery and small architecture, as well as the existent and projected greenery and local lighting are to shape the interior-type of space on the site of the former buildings, which at the same time is to be open for universal use and for different events, fairs, outside cafes and quiet recreation.

The location of the existing sculpture of Barbora Radvilaitė, the Grand Duchess of Lithuania, is to be modified, i.e. the sculpture is to be relocated to the spot near Mėsinių Street. The decorative water feature, currently located on the route of the former Sinagogos Street, is to be dismantled. The projected safe decorative water feature is to be integrated into the pavement near the former Sinagogos Street, at its important intersection with the Vokiečių Street. Although the Gothic cellars lying underneath the now lost buildings were partially destroyed when constructing the heating network, having assessed the archaeological materials provided together with the terms and conditions of the contest and in view of the publicly available findings of the archaeological research carried out between the Rotušės and the Mėsinių streets in the period between 1990 and 1991, also considering the relatively well preserved fragments of the former buildings, it is proposed that at least part of the historical cellars that are located closest to the Rotušės Square are restored, preserved and adapted to the needs of society. The projected sculptural accents, also the sculpture of Barbora Radvilaitė, the former cellars, the planned water features (small fountains) and the internal spaces (the pedestrian zone and the area dedicated to cafes) are to be illuminated using the projected LED spot and strip lights, to be integrated into the low-standing wall alongside the bicycle track, as well as into the pavement, the lawns and the flower parterres.

Marking the boundaries of the site of the now lost buildings using different types of pavement, as well as the sculptural accents featuring the former buildings and uncovering the fragments of the historical layer of the Old Town would help extend the knowledge of both the local community and the guests of the city about its historical layers and would open up the space for prospective solutions.

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The buildings that were erected on the newer part of the Vokiečių Street are clearly too tall and discord with the historical buildings, therefore a gradually descending space towards the old part of the street is to be shaped by using greenery and the existing lighting fixtures of the Vokiečių Street that will be kept and relocated accordingly. The Soviet-era buildings are to be visually reduced and the view of the space is to be softened by planting a continuous line of greenery alongside the buildings.

The traffic is to be directed according to a loop traffic regulation scheme, where vehicle traffic is to be allowed only on the newer eastern part of the Vokiečių Street. In the northern part of the street, this 6-metre wide two-lane road is to be diverted approximately 1.5 metres from the existing buildings. This will allow widening the sidewalk and provide the room for the projected greenery. A 2-metre wide lane is projected, where a public transport stop from the Dominikonų Street is to be moved, also 3 underground waste collection sites are to be constructed and charging stations for electric vehicles are to be installed (or relocated); the number of car parking lots is to be reduced, while providing for a number of parking lots for the disabled. A 2.5-metre two-lane bicycle track is projected, which will be connected to the integrated network of bicycle tracks and lanes; the existing and projected pedestrian crossings are to be adjusted accordingly. The bicycle track is to be separated from the car parking lot with a 1.5-metre wide strip of land which will provide the space for planting greenery, installing other elements of the transport infrastructure (parking payment machines, charging stations for electric vehicles), as well as relocating lighting fixtures.

The existing greenery is to be maintained and managed accordingly. Trees are to be cut down in line with the evaluation of the state of the trees performed. The space between the streets is to be planted with trees which together with the existing greenery are to form part of the carefully arranged groups of plants. Perennial and annual flowers are to be planted in this space, too. A solid line of trees is projected on the eastern side of the newer part of the Vokiečių Street. No trees are to be planted on the remains of the foundation of the now lost buildings. The greenery is to be shaped so as to uncover the historical buildings and to “soften” the view of the Soviet-era buildings.

All the proposed species of plants have been chosen in view of the landscape of the Old Town. The plants are resistant to environmental factors, they are decorative and suitable in terms of the existing growing conditions.

When planting trees, their location is to be modified based on the findings of archaeological research, as well as the boundaries of historical possessions that used to be within the walls or parts of the former inner yards where ceilings of the cellars have not been preserved. The location and the types of trees to be planted are selected in view of the size of their roots.

New greenery may be classified as follows:

- 1) Tall trees that are used to bring the already existing protected trees together;

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- 2) Smaller plants (trees and bushes) that are used to shape a particular space;
- 3) climbers (lianas) that are used for vertical planting;
- 4) perennial and annual flowers that are used as small accents in the overall space.

It is proposed that, in view of the architectural solutions, stationary flower pots are constructed throughout the territory. All the greenery is to be watered using capillary irrigation system. Plants and the types/species of the plants will be selected when drafting the technical design project.

The space between the streets could serve as the venue for the outdoor seating of cafes established in the historical buildings or for individual outdoor cafes; the design project provides for the preliminary location and design solutions for such cafes.

All the surfaces on the planned territory are designed following universal design principles, while ensuring the accessibility of the objects of public infrastructure to all the members of society. The hard paving is long lasting, made of natural stone (stone pavement, light coloured granite blocks (bricks), black basalt, low-standing stone wall), and the sculptural accents are to be made of white reinforced concrete, etc. Glass roofs or glass tables, mounted on top of a metal framework, are to be installed above some of the cellars to be exhibited. It is recommended that, during the cold season, temporary glass-aluminium pavilions are used.

The elements of small architecture, such as benches, litterbins, bicycle stands and information stands, are to be vandal-resistant and adjusted to the climate conditions in Lithuania.

Engineering part

Waters supply. The water supply network is designed in accordance with the terms and conditions No PS20-124, as approved by Vilniaus Vandenyys, UAB, on 16 January 2020, as well as the terms of reference and relevant legal acts. These terms and conditions may be supplemented to provide for a possibility to supply water for watering the greenery, also for the decorative water feature and outdoor cafes/pavilions.

Waste water. The waste water network is designed in accordance with the terms and conditions No PS20-124, as approved by Vilniaus Vandenyys, UAB, on 16 January 2020, as well as the terms of reference and relevant legal acts. These terms and conditions may be supplemented to provide for a possibility to connect the waste water installations of outdoor cafes/pavilions to the waste water network.

Rain water. The rain water drainage network is designed in accordance with the terms and conditions No 20/014, as approved by Grinda, UAB, on 15 January 2020, as well as the terms of reference and relevant legal acts.

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Communications. The telecommunications network is designed in accordance with the terms and conditions No 1-I-0019/20, as approved by Telia Lietuva, AB, on 16 January 2020, as well as the terms of reference and relevant legal acts.

Street lighting. The lighting network is designed in accordance with the terms and conditions No 8-20, as approved by Vilniaus Apšvietimas, UAB, on 23 January 2020, as well as the terms of reference and relevant legal acts. These terms and conditions may be supplemented to provide for the additional relocation of the existing lighting fixtures and the design of the new ones.

Heating network. The supplier does not design the heating network, but takes into consideration the prospective reconstruction of the heating network, in accordance with the technical specifications No 20013, as approved by Vilniaus Šilumos Tinklai, AB, on 24 January 2020. The implementation of the reconstruction project is to commence in June 2020. If some of the cellars are to be uncovered on a small part of the street and this is to lead to the relocation of any section of the heating network, the relevant authorities will be addressed for the specific new terms and conditions, and the design project for the relocation of the section of the network will be drafted.

Gas supply pipeline. The gas supply network, also the reconstruction of any specific section of the network and/or the protective structures of the network are to be designed only if there is need for a such design project. In that case, the relevant authorities will be addressed for specific new terms and conditions.

Drafting of the design project.

The design projects and its components will be drafted in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contest and the legal regulatory provisions and requirements in force at the time of drafting the project.