

OVERVIEW OF THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY TARGETS

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SUMMARY

In accordance with its 2025 activity plan, the National Audit Office conducted a preliminary study of the achievement of energy efficiency targets, which assessed whether the progress, pace, and scope of the implementation of energy reduction measures in the period 2021–2024 would enable the achievement of energy saving targets in 2030.

In implementing the objectives set out in the Directive¹, Lithuania has committed to increasing energy efficiency and ensuring that by 2030:

- ✓ would save at least 39.3 TWh of final energy;
- ✓ Lithuania's annual primary energy consumption would not exceed 63.3 TWh;
- ✓ annual final energy consumption would not exceed 51.0 TWh.

During the preliminary study, data on the achievements of energy saving measures for the period 2021–2024 were analysed, provided by the Ministry of Energy, the Lithuanian Energy Agency and other entities implementing energy efficiency measures (the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, and the Environmental Project Management Agency).

The results of the study show that the system for planning and monitoring energy efficiency improvement measures is inadequate and poses a systemic risk that, even if energy savings are successfully calculated and declared, there is no guarantee that

¹ Directive 2012/27/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on energy efficiency, amending Directives 2009/125/EC and 2010/30/EU and repealing Directives 2004/8/EC and 2006/32/EC, as amended.

primary and final energy consumption will decrease and the 2030 targets will be achieved. Increasing energy consumption shows that the energy efficiency measures being implemented are not offsetting the growing demand for energy as the economy grows, and this poses a risk to the adequacy of these measures and the achievement of the directive's objectives.

After analysing the implementation and achievements of energy saving measures for 2021–2024, we present the following key observations:

- ✓ **More than half of the 39.3 TWh in calculated savings required by 2030 was achieved in the first four years.**

Taking into account the savings calculated using the methodology agreed with the EC for the measures to be implemented in 2021–2024 and the fact that new measures should be added from 2025 onwards, which would allow energy savings to be maintained or increased, the target of 39.3 TWh of energy savings in 2030 will be achieved.

- ✓ **Calculated energy savings are increasing, but annual energy consumption is not decreasing.**

Lithuania has committed to reducing energy consumption and ensuring that by 2030, energy consumption does not exceed the projected 63.3 TWh of primary energy and 51 TWh of final energy. As energy consumption in Lithuania is not decreasing, the annual energy consumption targets for 2030 will not be achieved.

In order to reduce energy consumption in Lithuania, energy efficiency measures must be planned and implemented that would not only achieve the expected savings but also reduce actual energy consumption.

- ✓ **There are no known specific causes why energy consumption in Lithuania is not decreasing despite the calculated energy savings.**

The Lithuanian Energy Agency monitors the implementation of energy efficiency measures and collects and analyses data on the energy savings achieved through these measures. However, no institution has been tasked with conducting a detailed analysis of why, despite the measures implemented and the calculated savings, energy consumption is not decreasing..

- ✓ **The system for planning and monitoring energy efficiency increasing measures should be improved**

In order to identify the root causes why energy consumption in Lithuania is not decreasing, an analysis should be carried out to assess not only the theoretically calculated energy savings of energy efficiency measures, but also their real impact on actual energy consumption as demand increases.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO INCREASE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Increasing energy efficiency is one of the most important commitments of the EU and its Member States. By increasing energy efficiency, available energy resources are used more efficiently and greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere are reduced. This increases

the security of the national energy system, reduces dependence on fossil fuel imports, and reduces the country's vulnerability to geopolitical events and energy price fluctuations. Increasing energy efficiency is particularly relevant for Lithuania, which is still dependent on fossil fuel and energy imports².

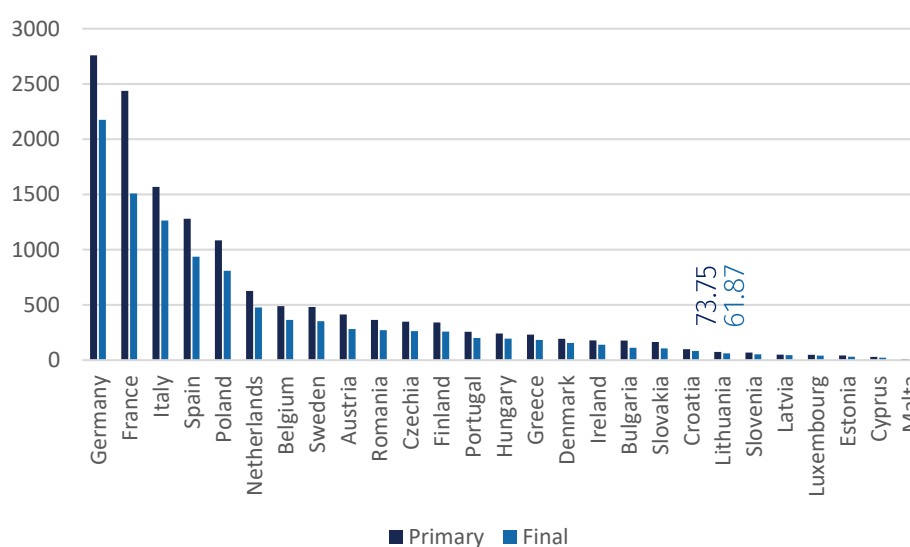
In order to achieve the EU's energy efficiency targets and reduce the EU's dependence on fossil fuel imports, a new directive³ on energy efficiency was reviewed and adopted by the European Parliament and the Council. It enshrines the key principle of EU energy policy: "energy efficiency first."

In 2023, EU countries consumed a total of 14,055 TWh of primary energy and 10,393.5 TWh of final energy. The directive aims to ensure that total annual energy consumption in the EU in 2030 does not exceed 11,542.8 TWh of primary energy and 8,873.7 TWh of final energy.

The directive stipulates that Member States must set indicative national contributions that would help achieve the EU's overall target of significantly reducing energy consumption by 2030. In order to achieve the overall EU target for reducing energy consumption, each Member State's contribution is determined on the basis of its annual energy consumption (Fig. 1).

Taking into account the total primary and final energy consumption of EU Member States, the European Commission guidelines⁴ state that Lithuania's annual primary energy consumption in 2030 must not exceed 63.3 TWh, and final energy consumption must not exceed 51 TWh.

Fig. 1. Annual primary and final energy consumption in EU countries in 2023, TWh



Source: National Audit Office based on Eurostat data

² Explanatory note to the draft law amending Law No. XII-2702 on the improvement of energy efficiency and related draft laws.

³ Directive (EU) 2023/1791 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September 2023, on energy efficiency, amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 (recast).

⁴ Commission Recommendation (EU) 2024/1722 of 17 June 2024 establishing guidelines for the interpretation of Article 4 of Directive (EU) 2023/1791 of the European Parliament and of the Council on energy efficiency targets and national contributions, Table 13

In implementing the EU targets set for Lithuania, the Law⁵ of the Improvement of Energy Efficiency provides for savings of at least 39.3 TWh of final energy by 2030 through selected measures and ensures that the country's annual primary energy consumption does not exceed 63.3 TWh and final energy consumption does not exceed 51.0 TWh.

⁵ Energijos vartojimo efektyvumo didinimo įstatymas, 2016-11-03 Nr. XII-2702 (aktuali redakcija nuo 2025-10-01) Law on the Improvement of Energy Efficiency, 03/11/2016 No. XII-2702 (current version effective from 01/10/2025).