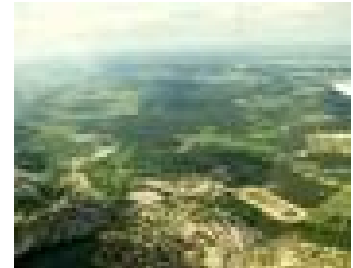


UTENA, LITHUANIA (by Turkish Partners)

About the District

Utena District is an area of heights, hills, thick woods and picturesque lakes situated in the North-western part of the Aukštaičių Highlands of Baltijos group of hills, in the basin of the river Šventoji. Ethnographically it belongs to East Aukštaitija, administratively - to the Utena County. It is surrounded by six administrative areas, i.e. the districts of Rokiškis, Ignalina, Molėtai, Anykščiai, Zarasai and Švenčionys.



The area of the Utena District is 1229 sq.km. It is smaller than the average area of the country's districts (by 2.1%) and covers 1.9% of Lithuania's territory.

History

Utena is one of the oldest places in Lithuania. Its beginning is associated with the Narkūnų mound that is mentioned on numerous occasions in Sword-bearers' chronicles.



Archaeologists believe that a settlement existed here as early as in the II millennium BC King Mindaugas' letter of the year 1261 is the first written source where of a wooden castle on the banks of the Utenėlė rivulet was mentioned.

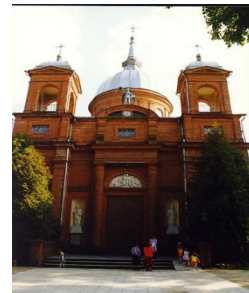
The legend has it that the castle was erected by the legendary duke Utenis.

During the conquests of Lithuania by the Sword-bearers in 1373-1375 Utena and the surrounding areas were severely devastated, the Utena castle was destroyed in 1433. A settlement on what today is the confluence of rivulets started only as late as in the 14th century. In 1416 it already had a church, a manor was established, trade fairs started taking place, merchants moved in and inns were built. During its 700 years of history since the first mention (in 1261) Utena suffered all kinds of disasters. In 1655 the Russian army invaded and badly destroyed the town; the Swedes devastated Utena during the Northern War (1700-1721) and in 1812 it suffered a lot from Napoleon's troops. In 1831 it saw a big battle between the Tsar's troops and the rebels. People of Utena also participated in the rebellion of the year 1863.



Even during the hard times Utena used to rise from ashes, it grew and developed. The Warsaw - St. Petersburg highroad that was built in 1835 was very important for the town. A big post station was erected and the narrow-gauge railway was

constructed. The town developed in a spontaneous manner, houses were jammed together, therefore 3/4 of the town burned down during the fire of 1879.



Before the World War I Utena was merely a rural district centre. After the recovery of Independence Utena became a county centre, in 1924 it was granted the rights of a secondary town and had its own burgomaster. Streets were being built, beds of rivulets were being put in order, bridges and houses were being erected. The industry, however, remained of a local nature: there was a dairy, a printing house, three mills, a sawmill and a small power station. Unfortunately, the development works were interrupted by the World War II.

Before the beginning of the World War II the population of the town had not yet reached 7 000, but in 1941 more than 4 000 were executed by German occupants. It took Utena 20 years to reach the pre-war level. As the industry of Lithuania was being developed, it was decided to turn Utena into a regional centre. The growth of industry in Utena began by erecting the plant of laboratory electric furnaces (completed in 1960), followed by opening of a number of other enterprises specialised in the production of knitwear, beer, meat, milk, etc. Such growth of industry also stimulated the construction of new residential districts such as Vyturių, Dauniškio, Aukštakalnio, Krašunos, also the Ažuolijos community of private homes. Industrial growth also stimulated the growth of the town: what used to be a town with a small population has presently turned into an urban area with nearly 37 thousand inhabitants.



Partisan activity, place of mass execution

During 1945- 1948 a number of Lithuania's partisans were buried in the closed cemetery of the Katlėrių village, including Vytautas Baltušis, Jurgis Cibas, Juozas Juknevičius, Petras Kiškis, Jonas Liutkevičius, Jonas Šireika, Povilas Šireika and Jonas Žilyš. A stone monument to commemorate the partisans buried in the cemetery was erected in 1991 (created by the local artist Vytautas Giedraitis). The rebels of the 1863 rebellion who were tortured to death by gendarmes are also buried in the cemetery.



Dičiūnų cemetery is the place of burial of the partisans who died in 1945: Bronius Gylys, Pranas Gylys, Antanas Gurskis, Anicetas Kecorius and Albinas Tubelis.

After the start of the National Revival a monument and a commemorative board carrying the names of the defenders of the homeland's freedom who perished on May 28th, 1945 in the village of Gudėniškių was erected to commemorate M. Bivainis, B. Budrionis, J. and P. Čižai, J. Sakalys, L. Sinkūnas, A. Trinkūnas, S. Vaišnoras, V. Deveikis, J. Gaidamavičius, B. Raudonis, V. Sirgedas, A. Vaitkevičius, A. Valiulis, K. Vyžinis and K. Žala.



A prominent partisan Antanas Kraujelis who was born in 1928, fought in the H. Ruškulio-Liūto' (Lion's) detachment of Žėručio district and was a member of the regional headquarters was hiding in the estate of Albinas Pinkevičius, a resident of the Papiškių village of the Utena district, since 1960. Until 1965 he lived with his wife and son in a hiding place under the stove that was installed at the time of building the house. He died on March 17th, 1965 when the occupation army surrounded the estate. On May 19th, 1998 President of the Republic of Lithuania issued a decree and post mortem awarded Antanas- Kraujelis- Siaubūnas (the Monster) with the Vytis Cross Order of the 3rd degree.

The flag of Lithuania's Independence has been preserved in the village of Biliakiemio. Anti-Soviet resistance newspapers and proclamations were being printed there during 1944-45. In 1945 and 1947 Stasys Žibėnas, Vytautas Petravičius, Algirdas and Jurgis Katinas as well as other residents and partisans perished.

Prominent partisans:

Vladas Mikulėnas-Liepa Lubinas (Linden Lupine), born in 1917 in the village of Mockėnų. After the Sakalas team was annihilated, on June 15th, 1945 he established the Šarūnas team and became its commander as well as Deputy Commander of the Vytautas military district. He perished on December 1st, 1945 at Juozas Adomaitis' estate in the village of Biliakiemis together with Algirdas and Jurgis Katinas.



Juozas Straižys-Gediminas, born in 1911 in the village of Nemeikščių. Perished on November 1st, 1948 at J. Liulevičius' estate in the Bareišių village.

Stasys Žibėnas- Aušrys, born on April 24th, 1922 in the village of Biliakiemis. During the years of German occupation he joined Kęstutis' High School and contributed to the publishing of the Prošvaistės (Flashes of Hope) newspaper.

After the front moved away, together with other like-minded persons he started an anti-Soviet newspaper *Laisvės kelias* (*On the Roads of Freedom*). On March 1st, 1945 he was on his way to meet the fighters of the *Gediminas* team, was detained in the village *Užpaliai*, attempted to flee and was shot to death.

Nature

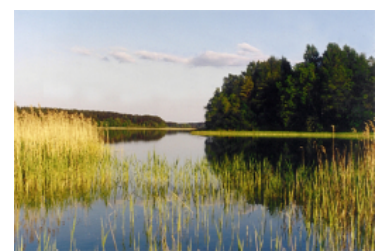
The relief of the Utena District that took shape in the late ice age is characterised by low hills and valleys. They decorate the landscape of the area but interfere a lot with the work of farmers. The highest hills are near *Tauragnai*: the hill of *Taurapilio* is 246 m. above sea level and Lithuania's deepest lake *Tauragnas* (60.5 m. deep) is situated at its foot.



186 lakes of different size and form are scattered in the valleys in between the hills. *Alaušas*, one of the country's biggest lakes, lies to the north of Utena, its area amounts to 1073 hectares. The legendary *Indrajų* lake is only three kilometres away, its size is 300 hectares. The *Utenas* and *Vidinkstas* lakes are big and picturesque, whereas *Utenykštis* and *Aisetas* are among those that have the biggest amount of fish. Numerous lakes and swamps are connected by small meandering rivulets that overflow heavily in spring and go almost dry in summer. Only the rivers of *Alauša*, *Tauragna*, *Vyžuona* and *Šventoji* that loops approximately 30 kms in the Northern part of the District have a more constant depth.



The District is in the area of medium zone mixed forests. Woods cover almost 36 thousand hectares, or 29.3 per cent of the total area of the District. Pinewoods of *Rašės* and *Skaistašilio* grow in the vicinity of Utena, *Vyžuonų* pinewood is situated near the village of *Vyžuonų* and the forests of *Minčios* lie behind *Tauragnai*. Part of the *Ažvinčių* woods is situated on the territory of the District and the *Labanoras* virgin forest looms on the other side of *Sadutiškis*. The variety of kinds of trees is huge. Fir-trees, birch-trees, aspens, linden and other trees grow in the woods alongside with pines. Oak groves have been preserved near the *Pakalnių* village and in the *Ažuolijos* woods in the vicinity of Utena.



Flooded meadows are fertile, although few: they are found only along the banks of *Šventosios* and *Vyžuonos* rivers.

The woods abound in roe-deer, wild boars, grey hares and foxes. There are many beavers in the rivers and lakes; some otters and musk-rats are also found. Pikes, perch, breams and roaches are the fish that fishermen catch most often. Eels can also be caught in the majority of the lakes.

The Utena District is one of the country's areas where temperature fluctuations are very distinct. This is the first place in the country where the snow cover forms, the soil freezes in and the average daily temperature falls below zero. In comparison with other districts, winters are colder here. Summers are not very hot and rather rainy.



EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

There are 38 institutions of education in the town and district of Utena:

2 gymnasiums, 2 secondary schools, 14 basic schools, 1 junior school, 5 primary schools, 4 schools-kindergartens, 3 nurseries-kindergartens, 1 kindergarten-school for children, 5 institutions of additional education and 1 centre of social support and training of children.

The number of pupils attending the institutions of education amounts to 8355, including 6887 in urban areas and 1468 in rural areas. The number of pupils in pre-school institutions amounts to 1298, including 1189 in urban areas and 109 in rural areas. 1001 pedagogues work in the District: 622 senior teachers, 44 teachers, 114 specialists of methodology, 11 expert teachers.

74 headmasters direct the work of the institutions of education. 54 are of the first management category and 11 are of the second.



OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITY

The District has two sports centres where schoolchildren can go in for sports and train in order to achieve better results.

Presently 628 schoolchildren go in for sports in the Centre of Physical Culture and Sports; the staff of the Centre consists of 23 full-time trainers (1 expert, 1 specialist in methodology, 9 senior trainers, 3 trainers, others uncertified). 10 branches of sports are being cultivated.

98 schoolchildren attend the Swimming centre; the staff consists of 3 trainers (1 senior trainer and 2 trainers) and one instructor who teaches swimming.

The Centre of Physical Culture and Sports of Utena is Utena's main sports organisation whose pupils represent the District both at different level competitions in individual branches of sports and at composite sports events. Pupils of the CPCS promote the name of Utena in the country and abroad in European and World championships. Men and women cyclists from Utena participate in the European Cycling Championships and are among the first or the second ten. Baseball players from Utena successfully participate in the competitions of the European Minor Baseball League; they also participated in the competitions of the World Minor Baseball League.



Schoolchildren of the District who go in for handball, athletics, skiing, baseball, cycling, swimming, etc. join the national teams of various age groups. It has already become a tradition that Utena's handball, baseball, skiing, athletics, cycling and swimming teams as well as individual athletes become winners and prize-winners of Lithuanian national championships.

Lessons of physical training for pupils of primary schools and kindergartens take place in the sports hall of the AB Mėsa meat processing enterprise; the sports hall is rented under a contract of use. Pupils are transported to and from the sports hall by the transport of the Education and Sports Department. The average of 200 primary school pupils and children from the kindergarten go in for sports in the hall every week.

The District's schoolchildren can also use a swimming pool. Lessons for the pupils of primary, basic and secondary school are arranged in co-operation with the swimming instructor. The schoolchildren are also transported by the transport of the Education and Sports Department.

Utena sports staff co-operate with sports specialists in the towns of Marijampolė,



Skuodas, Alytus and Anykščiai. During the visits they get acquainted with sports traditions, achievements and novelties in the towns.

The District cherishes its old traditions and develops new ones. Election of five best athletes of the District takes place every year; festive nights for athletes are held where the District's best athletes and their trainers as well as representatives of public organisations are awarded with prizes. Olympic and World champions as well as other prominent athletes and their trainers, and heads of the District and the County are also invited to attend the events.

It has become a tradition to arrange cycling competitions, the Aukštaitija handball competition, competitions in athletics, cross country running, Utena County Giants' competition, basketball competitions of administrative areas, 3 x 3 basketball competitions, football and basketball cup tournaments, Utena Mile (1261 m.) running competition, "Moku plaukti" (I can swim) swimming competition for primary school pupils and other events.

Education and Sports Department of the Utena District Municipality Administration arranges a competition of sports and tourism activity programs of training institutions, clubs and public organisations. The best programs receive funding. Approximately LTL 120 thousand is made available for the purpose from the Municipal budget on an annual basis.



Territory / residents

The number of inhabitants in the Municipality

In the beginning of the year 2001 - 50176

In the beginning of the year 2002 - 50039

Average annual number as of 2001 - 50107

As of 1 July, 2002 (preliminary data) - 49885

In urban areas - 33890

In rural areas - 16286

Natural movement and migration of inhabitants (January - June of 2002)

Born	171
Deceased	333
Natural increase	-162
Arrived	336
Departed	328
Migration balance	8

Natural increase of population

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Natural increase of population	-1052	-1013	-1072	-791	-874
Natural increase per 1000 residents	-5,2	-5,0	-5,3	-3,9	-4,4

Population of the Utena County by sex and age

Age	Total number of residents	Men	Women	No of men per 1000 women
Total	185962	87827	98135	1117
0-4	8374	4293	4081	951
5-9	11373	5856	5517	942
10-14	14799	7614	7185	944
15-19	14088	7305	6783	929
20-24	10020	5316	4704	885
25-29	10820	5548	5272	950
30-34	12501	6238	6263	1004
35-39	14555	7385	7170	971
40-44	14624	7216	7408	1027
45-49	11934	5880	6054	1030
50-54	10445	5075	5370	1058
55-59	10129	4712	5417	1150
60-64	10725	4646	6079	1308



65-69	10077	3988	6089	1527
70-74	9038	3183	5855	1839
75-79	6726	1971	4755	2412
80-84	2944	831	2113	2543
85-89	1708	401	1307	3259
90-94	847	299	548	1833
95-99	174	57	117	2053
100+	45	7	38	5429
Did not specify	16	6	10	1667
0-14	34546	17763	16783	945
Of working age	107553	56076	51477	918
Of retirement age	43847	13982	29865	2136

Population of the Utena District by nationality and age group

Age	Total number	Lithuanians	Russians	Poles	Ukrainians	Belarusians	Latvians	Azerbaijanians	Other	Did not specify
Total population	50111	48169	1230	287	104	58	23	22	70	148
0-4	2298	2261	16	1	1	-	1	2	1	15
5-9	3222	3174	14	8	4	-	1	5	4	12
10-14	3837	3789	28	6	1	-	-	-	4	9
15-19	3735	3629	63	15	11	-	1	-	3	13
20-24	2853	2731	74	16	2	4	3	2	3	18
25-29	3200	3102	57	12	6	1	1	1	3	17
30-34	3756	3644	66	19	5	-	-	4	3	15
35-39	3950	3794	90	22	9	9	1	5	12	8
40-44	3792	3614	105	38	9	9	4	3	4	6
45-49	3195	2988	132	41	14	4	4	-	5	7
50-54	2840	2638	148	26	9	8	2	-	6	3
55-59	2920	2759	105	25	12	5	1	-	7	6
60-64	2703	2565	94	15	10	4	2	-	8	5
65-69	2487	2383	73	15	3	7	-	-	2	4
70-74	2176	2081	68	14	4	3	2	-	3	1
75-79	1665	1591	62	4	3	2	-	-	2	1
80-84	695	674	16	3	1	1	-	-	-	-
85+	781	752	19	7	-	1	-	-	-	2
Did not specify	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6

Population of the Utena District Municipality by religion and age groups

Age groups	Total population	Roman Catholics	Old Believers	Orthodox Believers	Muslims sunites	Evangelists-Lutherans	Other	None	Did not specify
Total	50111	44430	446	399	27	20	88	3060	1641
0-14	9357	8535	28	21	7	-	11	479	276



15-19	3735	3342	25	24	-	2	8	238	96		
20-24	2853	2261	26	21	-	-	3	254	288		
25-29	3200	2668	21	13	1	1	8	270	218		
30-34	3756	3207	25	16	4	1	15	296	192		
35-39	3950	3424	19	24	7	1	10	320	145		
40-44	3792	3276	27	36	1	3	10	355	84		
45-49	3195	2734	41	32	1	4	5	288	90		
50-54	2840	2477	58	42	2	2	-	190	69		
55-59	2920	2638	33	40	1	2	4	131	71		
60-64			2703	2465	38	35	1	1	4	100	59
65-69			2487	2326	25	29	1	1	4	73	28
70-74			2176	2064	28	26	-	2	3	40	13
75-79			1665	1589	28	28	1	-	-	16	3
80-84			695	671	10	8	-	-	2	4	-
85+			781	753	14	4	-	-	1	6	3
Did not specify			6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6



OVERVIEW OF ECONOMIC AND INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT

During the first quarter of 2002 the sales of industrial enterprises of the Utena District amounted to LTL 197.35 million (in effective prices), or the total of 69 per cent of the whole volume of production of the Utena County.

Food products and beverages account for the biggest part of production sales and amount to 56 per cent; they are followed by textile production, sewing of clothing, manufacture of wooden articles, manufacture of construction materials and joinery. The companies operating in the district export 38 per cent of their products; the remaining 62 per cent are sold on the domestic market.

Number of active subjects of econom in the Utena District Municipality by main groups of economic activity as of January 1st, 2001.

Agriculture, forestry and fishery	32
Industry	122
Electricity, gas and water supply	2
Construction	36
Trade	253
Hotels and restaurants	33
Transportation and storage	80
Post and distant communication	1
Financial intermediation	3
Real estate, renting and other business activity	66
Public administration	10
Other kinds of activity	252
Total	890

Gross Domestic Product:

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000*
In million LTL	1611,3	1882,1	2109,0	2063,7	2113,4
Structure, %	5,1	4,9	4,9	4,8	4,7

* preliminary data

Gross Domestic Product per one inhabitant

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000*



In thousand LTL	8,0	9,3	10,5	10,3	10,6
In relation to the national average, %	93,5	90,1	90,3	89,3	86,4

* preliminary data

Number of inhabitants engaged in economic activity

Average annual number, in thousand

	1998	1999	2000
Agriculture, forestry, fishery	29,1	26,1	20,4
Industry	16,3	17,5	16,5
Construction	9,0	6,7	8,0
Services	31,8	35,4	31,4
Total	86,2	85,7	76,3

Level of unemployment (according to the data of the Labour Exchange)

annual average, in per cent

1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
5,9	4,4	6,4	6,9	6,7	7,0	8,2	10,7	12,0

