

The Wheel of Dhamma Rotates Around the World - East Europe

Lithuania

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Venue of a Vipassana course in Lithuania in 2012.

The attempts to spread Vipassana in Lithuania originate from 1992, the year of the first group sitting in this East European country. That year a few people went to meditate at the French and English Vipassana centres but only on individual basis.

From 2001, the spread of Dhamma became more organized with people sitting courses at Dhamma Geha in Germany and the beginning of weekly group sittings. By 2004, a group of ten active meditators were able to organize the first 10-day Vipassana course in Lithuania, in the town of Troskunai, approximately an hour away from the capital Vilnius. 45 students participated in this course.

The participants on this first course were mostly Lithuanians, with one student from Russia and two from Ukraine. The rented site was a Catholic seminary, which offered a very suitable facility. Donations for this first course came from the French, Spanish and English Vipassana Trusts as well as from individual students from different countries.

After the first course in 2004 one Vipassana course was conducted in Lithuania every year. In several years time there was a rapid growth of demand in the country and since 2011 two 10-day courses and one 3-day course is being conducted every year.

In year 2012 Dhamma workers and trustees were successful to find a venue for a large course: around 130 students and 15 servers could take part in the course in September, 2012. Although such a large course was conducted in Lithuania for the first time, it all went well and was very successful.

Even with two annual courses and increased number of students, the waiting lists for courses are long. The interest in meditation is rapidly increasing in Lithuania.