



Total Defence Concept: A United Future for Lithuania

Centre for the Study of New Generation Warfare

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Agenda

Introductory Brief

- What is Total Defence?
- Lithuania's Current Posture
- Best Practices and Key Lessons
- Total Defence Critical Capabilities
- Critical Capabilities and Emerging Priorities

Panel Discussion and Questions

What is a Total Defence Concept?

Deterrence through Unity: Countries with mature Total Defence models demonstrate that integrating civilian resilience with military readiness creates a credible, multi-layered deterrent. They signal to adversaries that they cannot be easily destabilized or coerced.

Whole-of-Society Alignment: A Total Defence concept unifies government, private sector, and citizens around a shared national purpose, strengthening identity, preparedness, and the collective will to resist both conventional and hybrid threats.

Full-Spectrum National Security: Effective Total Defence enhances all dimensions of power—diplomatic, informational, military, and economic—ensuring coordinated responses to crises and reducing vulnerabilities across critical systems.

Given the overwhelming threat to Lithuania, it is the right time in history to invest in national resiliency and make a Total Defense implementation plan for the future.

Lithuania's current posture

Military

- Defence spending 5.38% of GDP (2026 budget)
- Armed Forces and Initial Service formation
- National Defence Volunteer Forces
- Komendantūros (regional)
- German 45th Panzer Brigade
- NATO rapid-response force integration

Civilian Institutions

- National Crisis Mgmt Center
- Riflemen's Union
- Civil resistance doctrine
- Mandatory defence education in schools

Societal Base **

- Civic empowerment index: 41/100
- Emergency preparedness: 52%
- Willingness to fight: 52% (2025)
- 70% zero civic participation

****** *The **Societal Base** is a weak link and an unstudied dimension. Total Defence assumes a population that can integrate and perform — and that assumption remains untested.*

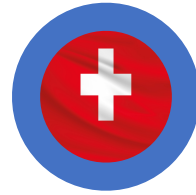
In Good company



Finland



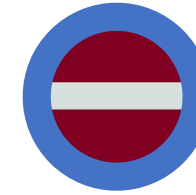
Sweden



Switzerland



Estonia



Latvia



The Republic
of Korea



Singapore



Israel



Ukraine



Lithuania

Comparative analysis of leading nations reveals actionable “gold standard” approaches that Lithuania can adapt to build a resilient, integrated defence framework that safeguards long-term sovereignty and independence.

Selected Total Defence Concept Contributions

Finland	83% will to defend (2022), dense civic networks and supply
Sweden	Inclusion of psychological defence and distributed resilience
Estonia	Conscription advancements, reserve size, and counterintelligence
Switzerland	Constitutional civil-protection mandate
Singapore	Digital Defence
Israel	Rapid mobilization and Home Front Command
Republic of Korea	Civil-Defence legal framework and clear crisis jurisdiction
Ukraine	Territorial Defence Forces and a decisive societal will

For a full societal analysis of Lithuania's defence foundation in depth, NGWC is compiling a comparative analysis.

Total Defence Concept Critical Capabilities

1

**Armed Defence
& Mobilization**

2

**Governance
& Continuity**

3

**Internal Security
& Rule of Law**

4

**Civil Defence &
Population
Protection**

5

**Economic
Resilience
& Supply Security**

6

**Societal Resilience
& Civil Resistance**

7

**Information &
Psychological
Defence**

8

**International &
Alliance
Integration**

Each critical capability requires assessment and transformation. Moreover, numerous interdependencies exist that need further inquiry and strengthening.

1 Armed Defence and Mobilization

Capability Criticality

Modern wars are decided by a nation's ability to generate combat power rapidly and sustain it over time. Mobilization is no longer an administrative process - it is a strategic combat capability that determines whether a nation gains or loses the initiative in the opening days of war.

Emerging Priorities to Explore

1. Accelerate universal conscription participation and introduce civic-service track options.
2. Address challenges to the will to serve.
3. Build and integrate one integrated national defence architecture, not parallel structures

2 Governance Continuity

Capability Criticality

Future adversaries will seek to disrupt decision-making and state functionality as much as military forces. Government continuity, decentralized authority, and resilient command structures are essential to ensure the state continues to function under attack.

Emerging Priorities to Explore

1. Establish civilian-led coordination across multiple phases of conflict.
2. Define and exercise decentralized governance protocols through pre-designated regional authority chains.
3. Develop authorities for hybrid responses below the martial-law threshold, with parliamentary oversight.

3 Internal Security and Rule of Law

Capability Criticality

The next conflict begins long before conventional military operations. Hybrid attacks, sabotage, cyber disruption, and influence operations require seamless integration between military, intelligence, police, and internal security organizations.

Emerging Priorities to Explore

1. Develop integrated internal-security and military protocols across relevant stakeholders.
2. Strengthen counter-sabotage capabilities at critical-infrastructure nodes.
3. Establish a rapid legal-authority escalation framework.

4 Civil Defence and Population Protection

Capability Criticality

Population protection is no longer a humanitarian function alone - it is a combat multiplier. A protected and prepared population enables the military to maintain freedom of action while preserving national morale and continuity.

Emerging Priorities to Explore

1. Exercise civilian preparedness at scale by running annual national exercises across municipalities, hospitals, schools, and infrastructure operators.
2. Explore diverse requirements for preparedness needs (e.g. shelter, water, energy..).

5 Economic Resilience and Security of Supply

Capability Criticality

In future wars, economies will be targeted as military objectives. Energy systems, transportation networks, supply chains, financial institutions, and critical industries must be prepared to operate under sustained attack and disruption.

Emerging Priorities to Explore

1. Explore strategic stockpiling strategies and set targets for food, fuel, pharmaceutical, and critical-material reserves for 90 days of disrupted supply.
2. Address the potential for a dedicated agency managing wartime supply agreements that supports all critical capability functions.

6 Societal Resilience and Civil Resistance

Capability Criticality

National resilience is a form of strategic combat power. The willingness of citizens to endure hardship, support national efforts, and continue functioning under pressure often determines whether a nation can sustain a prolonged conflict.

Emerging Priorities to Explore

1. Roadmap the institutional development of societal resilience, to include the definition of measurable targets and integrated exercise opportunities.
2. Design and build a civic activation structure and communications measures.
3. Identify interdependencies with other critical capabilities.

7 Information and Psychological Defence

Capability Criticality

Modern warfare is increasingly a competition for perception, trust, and decision-making. Protecting the information environment and maintaining public confidence are as important as protecting physical infrastructure.

Emerging Priorities to Explore

1. Review requirements, roles and institutional responsibilities for information defense needs and media literacy.
2. Design and integrate information equities across the whole of society, to include Cyber defence, physical security, communications, and information situational awareness and response.
3. Explore the defense of groups vulnerable to information operations.

8 International and Alliance Integration

Capability Criticality

For frontline states, alliances provide critical reinforcement, but national survival depends on the ability to resist from day one. Effective integration with NATO and regional partners must be planned, exercised, and synchronized long before a crisis begins.

Emerging Priorities to Explore

1. Design a strategy for tiered alliance relationships, to include bilateral, regional (Baltic), and international (NATO) alliances.
2. Align all eight critical capabilities with NATO resilience requirements.
3. Define alliance goals and requirements across phases of conflict.

Next Steps

Total Defence Deep Dive

Simulation

Implementation Plan

