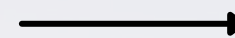


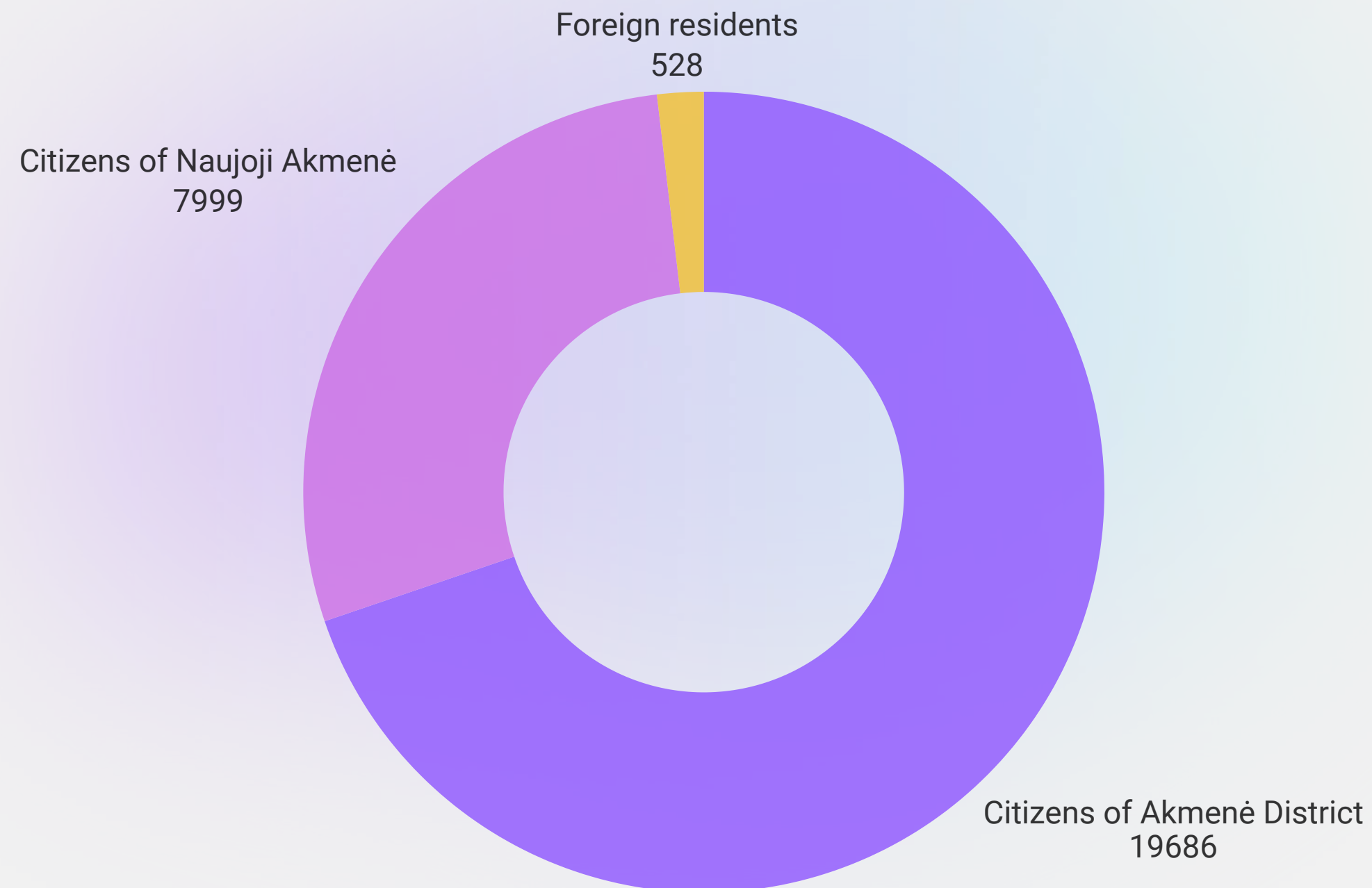
# Culture Connects: The Library's Role in Informal Language Learning for Ukrainian Children

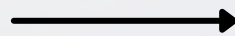
**Lina Lukytė**

Director of Akmenė District Municipality Public Library

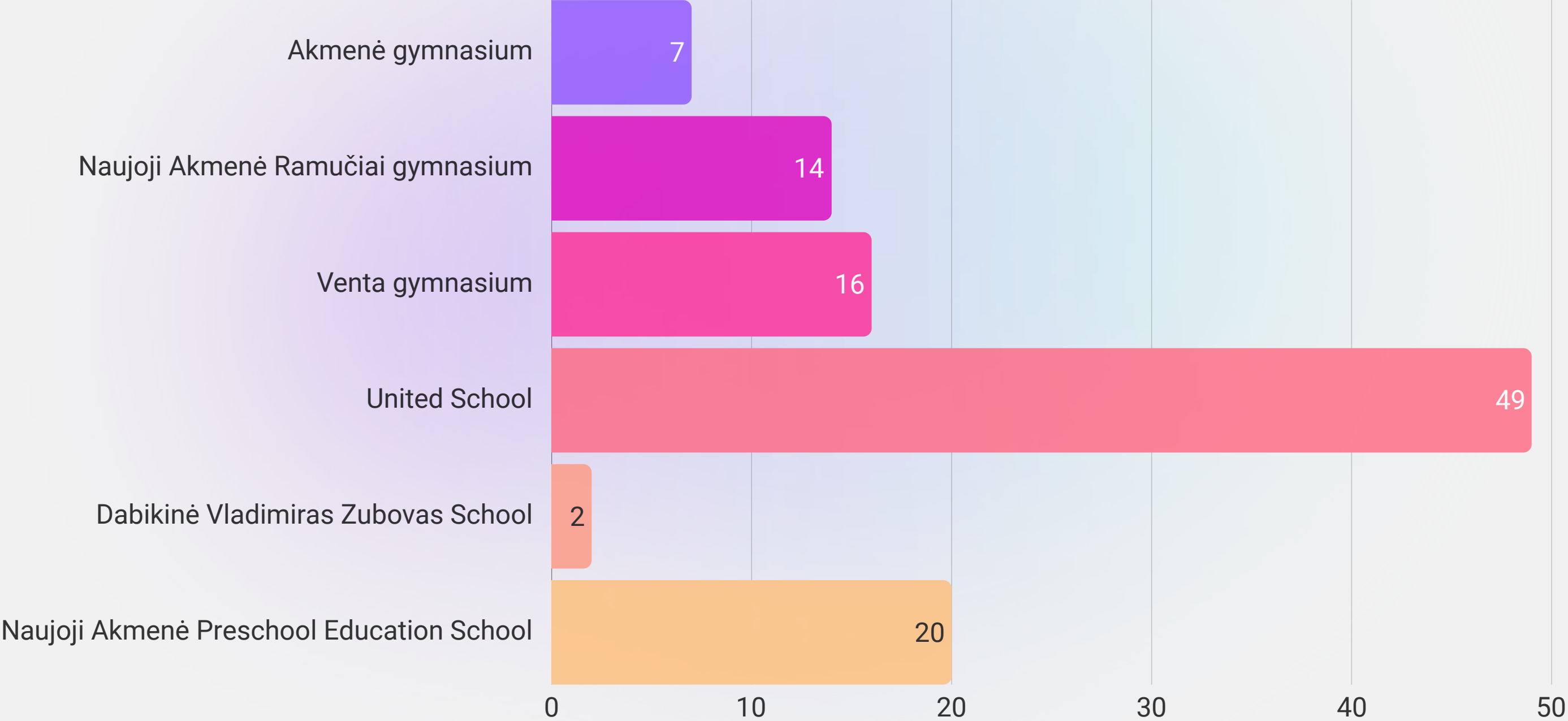


# Population of Akmenė District Municipality (Šiauliai County)





# Ukrainian Children in Schools





# Things to Note

- As soon as the war began, a new position was created at the Akmenė District Municipality Administration – **Chief Specialist responsible for the integration of foreigners**. This specialist helps address legal and practical issues, provides information, coordinates assistance, and acts as a “one-stop-shop” representative, facilitating the adaptation process for both refugees and institutions.
- Currently, **13 doctors** from Ukraine work in the hospital in Akmenė district.
- **A psychologist** who came as a war refugee works at the Public Health Bureau. She has mastered the language and now helps others deal with psychological issues.
- **The biggest challenges** faced by Ukrainian war refugees are the lack of Lithuanian language skills, limited job opportunities, and, for some newcomers, a lack of motivation to work.

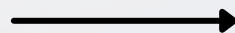






**Central Library + 13 Branches + 1 More Opening in 2026**





**4000+**

USERS



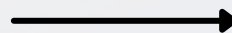
**177 258**

PUBLICATIONS



**61 400**

LOANS



**600+**

EVENTS

Book talks, exhibitions,  
conferences, events, and  
educational programs

**38 000+**

VISITORS

The variety of events  
makes it possible to  
reach everyone



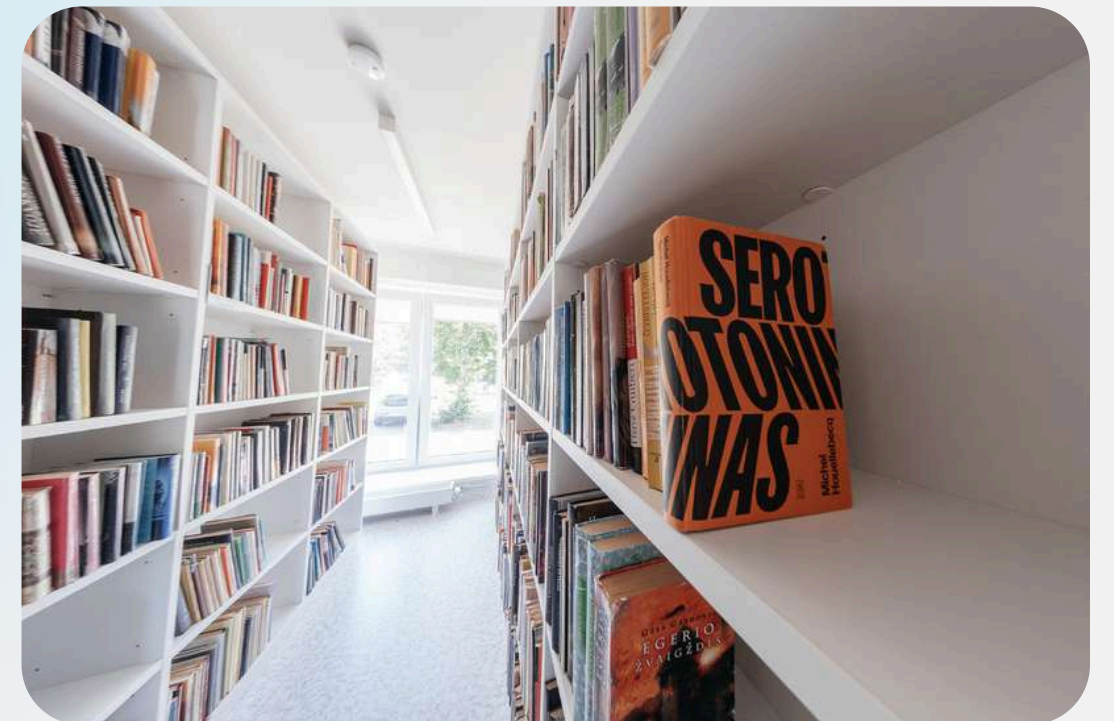
# Transformation of Lithuanian Libraries

## LIBRARIES FOR PEOPLE, NOT JUST BOOKS

Today, libraries are no longer just repositories of books — **they are vibrant community hubs.**

Šaltiniai:

[1] Lietuvos nacionalinė Martyno Mažvydo biblioteka. (2023). Biblioteka ne knygoms, o žmonėms. <https://www.lnb.lt/lt/naujienos/biblioteka-ne-knygoms-o-zmonems>





# MIRKT (wink)

Media and information literacy is a big challenge not only for older adults.

We help everyone develop critical thinking to evaluate information and learn how to protect their digital assets – personal data.



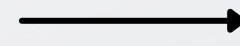
# Library for Everyone

A third of Lithuania's population visits libraries, yet hundreds of thousands still don't feel welcome – due to disabilities, reading difficulties, or other individual needs.

By operating according to universal design principles, libraries become open spaces where everyone feels seen, heard, and welcomed, and various programs help engage each person even more.





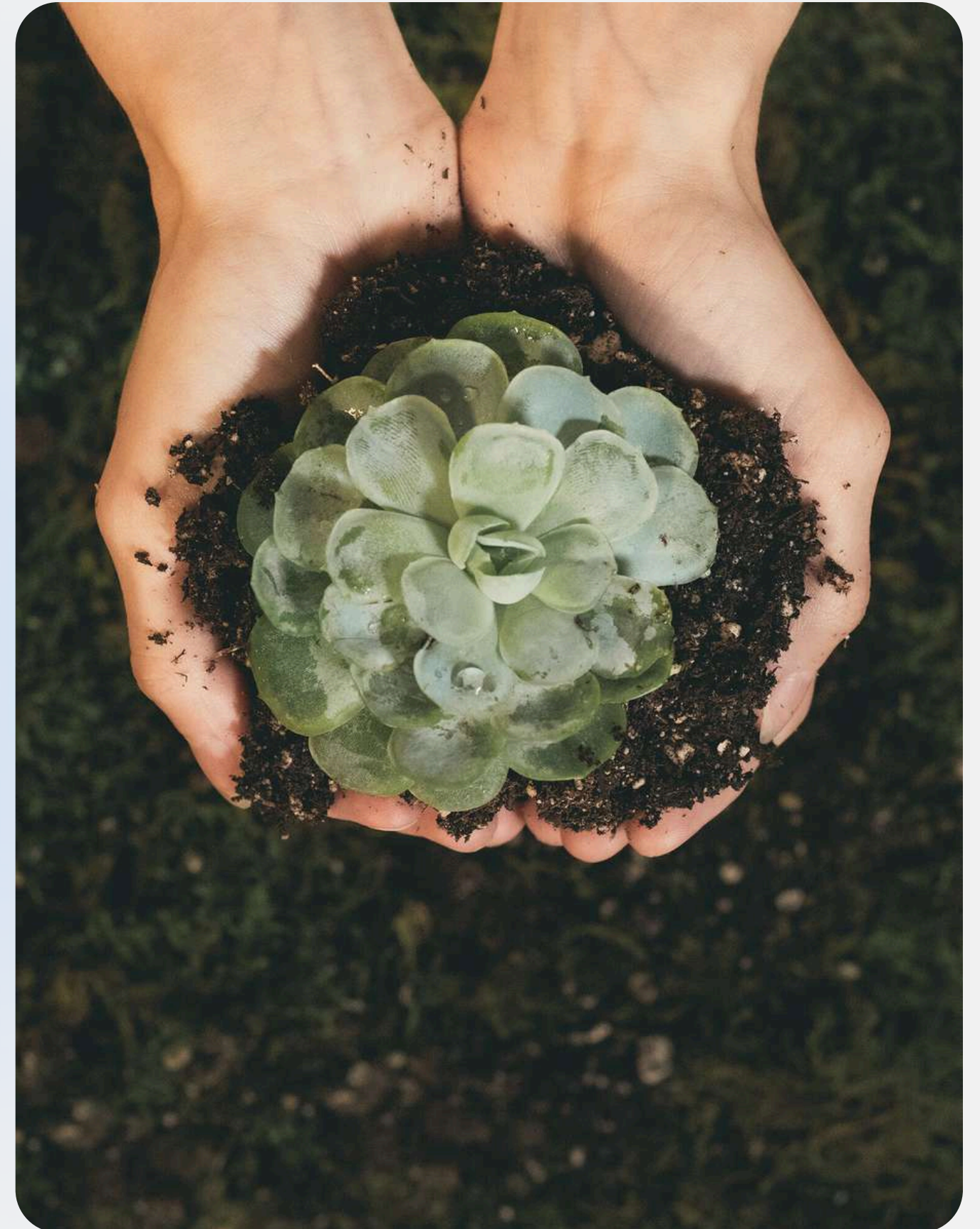


# Towards Sustainability

Public Library of Akmenė District Municipality is the second library in Lithuania to sign the sustainability declaration.

*„Starting with small steps that we first apply to ourselves, we aim to involve the entire library community in achieving sustainability goals. Today, we all share the responsibility of creating an environment we want to leave for future generations. Therefore, we invite everyone to join this journey – incorporating actions in daily and public life that respect and preserve our shared home.“*

Lina Lukytė , Director







## Antroji Lietuvos biblioteka, pasiryžusi svarbiam žingsniui: daugiau dėmesio skirs tvariai plėtr...

delfi.lt • 1 min read



← Delfi

Prenumeruoti D<sup>+</sup> | Prisijungti

2024.07.03 14:00

## Sparčiai populiarėjanti daiktų nuoma parodė, ko iš tiesų reikia lietuviams: ieško būtiniausių dalykų

DELFI.lt



← = 21 tv3.lt

Mano naujienos

Eurobasket 2025

Naujausios

Sį šeštadienį laida „**Atliekų reidas**“ kviečia keliauti į Naująją Akmenę. Miestą, kuriame tvarumo idėjos įgauna vis įvairesnes formas. Nuo bibliotekos, kur skolinamos ne tik knygos, iki pramonės įmonės, kur atliekos virsta ištekliais.

REKLAMA

Pirmoji inspektorės stotelė Akmenės rajono savivaldybės viešoji biblioteka, kuri tapo tikru bendruomenės žaliuoju centru.

delfi.lt

Done

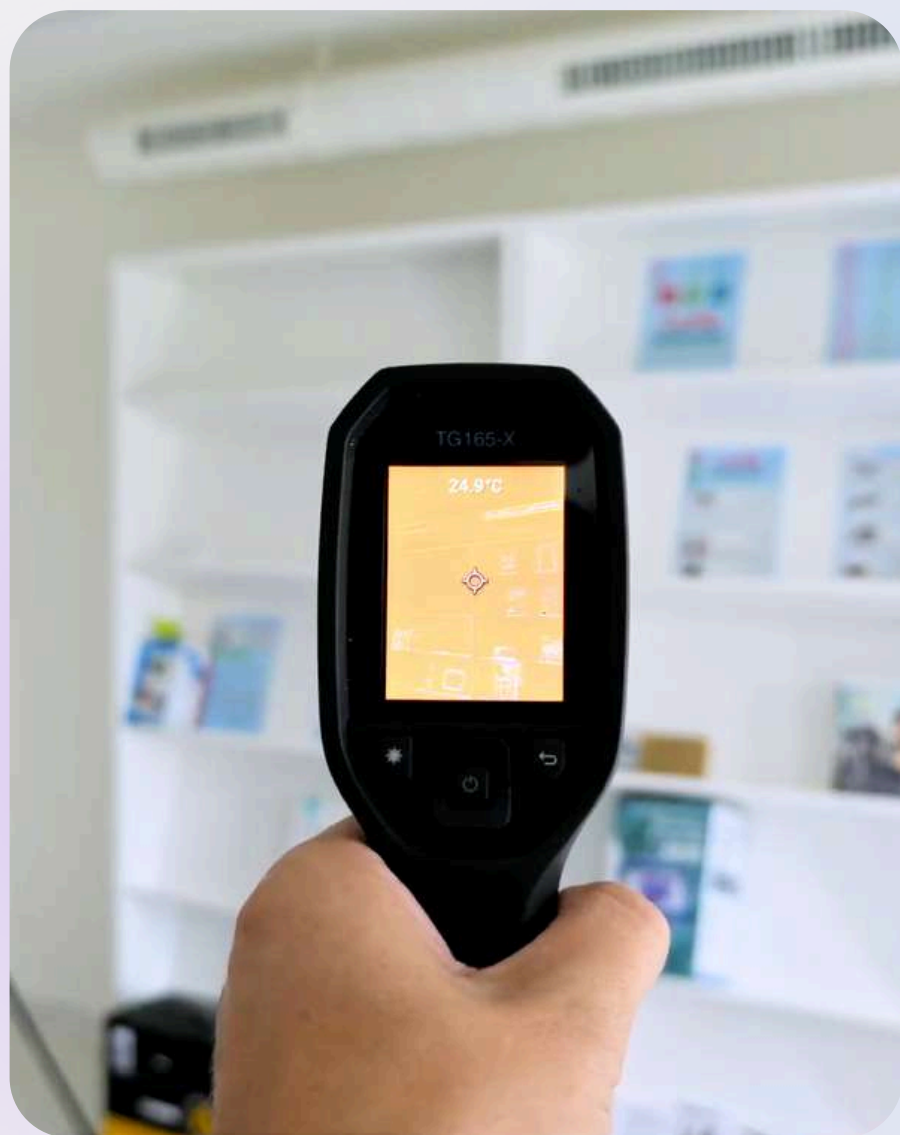
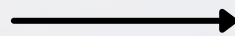
← Delfi

Prenumeruoti D<sup>+</sup> | Prisijungti

veiklą. Turime dar didesnę dėmesį skirti mus supančiai aplinkai, ekologijai“, – sako Akmenės rajono viešosios bibliotekos direktorė Lina Lukytė.

Ji vardija pagrindines daiktų bibliotekos idėjas: skatinti dalijimosi ekonomiką ir tvaresnį vartojimą. Tai padeda mažinti atliekų kiekį ir išteklių naudojimą, prailginant daiktų naudojimo laiką, sudaro sąlygas žmonėms išbandyti naujus daiktus ir pomėgius prieš ką nors nusiperkant. Be to, tai suteikia žmonėms iš įvairių socialinių sluoksnių galimybę naudotis daiktais, kurių jie galbūt negalėtų sau leisti įsigyti.





# Library of Things

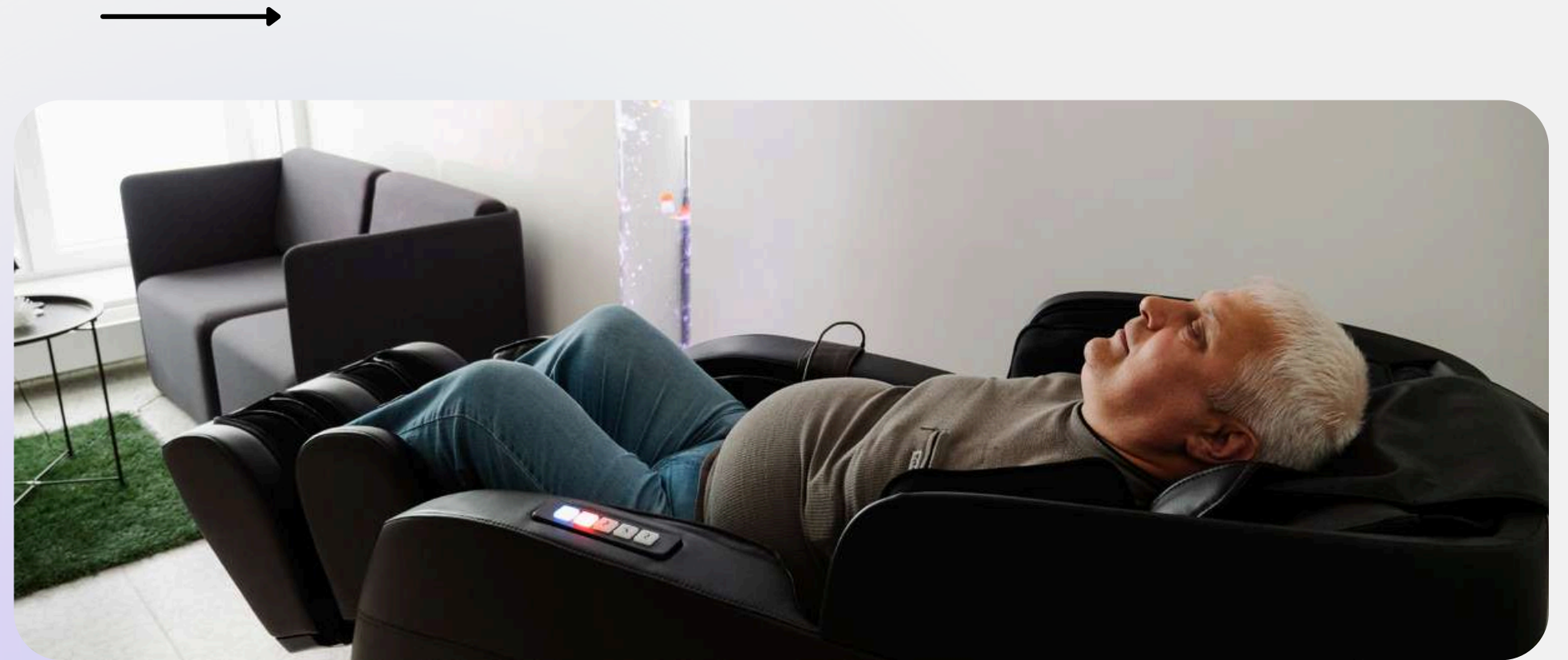
We have **16** different items that you can borrow completely free of charge for two weeks.





# Emotional Health

Bibliotherapy Space – for both emotional and physical well-being. Perfect place to take a break from everyday worries.











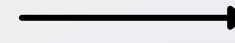
# What We Do for Integration as a Library

2022 - 2025

- For newly arrived Ukrainian children visiting the library, we explained everything in a language they could understand. Children who wanted to play computer games were introduced to Lithuanian letters, and we taught them how to write their first and last names in Lithuanian.
- We organized a „Friends’ Day“ afternoon with children from Ukraine and regular visitors of the children’s area. The event included games, relay races, Lithuanian folk songs and dances, a quiz about Ukraine and Lithuania, and treats featuring both Ukrainian and Lithuanian snacks.
- In all sessions, Ukrainian children, together with Lithuanian children, read Lithuanian books aloud, shared their own stories, completed different tasks, and went on various outings together.







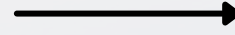
- Older children came to the library to help earn social hours: organizing the library, preparing reading sessions, decorating the library – drawing on the walls, and helping create posters on various topics.
- We held a drawing exhibition titled “Strong Together” and created a poster “We Stand with Ukraine.”





- Checkers and chess games and tournaments were organized for various national holidays, with participation from both Ukrainian and local children.
- There were meetings with different people, outings, competitions, quizzes, and afternoon sessions on sustainability, safe behavior at home, in nature, and on the streets.





# Plans for 2026 spring

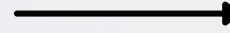
## ART FESTIVAL FOR UKRAINIAN AND LITHUANIAN FAMILIES

[The festival concept is adapted to meet the needs of Ukrainian families]

### **Problem:**

A number of Ukrainian parents are reluctant to let their children leave the house independently, which limits the children's active involvement in library activities.





## THE IDEA

- Community-based art festival engaging Ukrainian, local families and national artists.
- Creative Integration & Informal Language Learning.
- Activities designed to foster creativity, collaboration, and cultural awareness.
- Language learning naturally integrated through creative practices and intercultural exchange.

Art becomes a tool for communication and learning





# Main Activities

- Literary education sessions
- Social art workshops: exploring surroundings and discussing insights through art
- Creative labs: hands-on material exploration and collaborative object-making
- Artist performances blending visual arts, sound, and storytelling
- Culinary art event “Art & Food” — sharing stories and tastes





**Informal learning of the  
Lithuanian language  
happens through  
interaction,  
collaboration, and  
creative expression.**





# Festival Opening with Kakė Makė: Interactive Mini Show & Family Event

- A beloved Lithuanian children's character Kakė Makė invites families and children into a playful world of stories and imagination.
- Through shared storytelling and interactive play, children and parents communicate and create together.
- Encourages spontaneous use of language as children engage in dialogue, questions, and collaborative adventures with the character.







# Literary Workshop & Book Talk

- A session with an author who presents their book and leads an open discussion on its central themes.
- Builds a space for participants to express thoughts, explore shared ideas, and practice articulating emotions and opinions through dialogue.
- Strengthens language and critical thinking skills while fostering a sense of cultural community through literature.





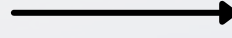
# JAUSMAS — Experiential Creative Workshop in Darkness

Led by Iába studio

## Concept

- Participants immerse in complete darkness, wearing special glasses that block sight.
- They explore language beyond words through touch, sound, and smell, experiencing how meaning emerges without vision.





- **Phase 1** — Sensory Dialogue: noticing how senses transform in darkness, responding through movement, sound, and tactile interaction.
- **Phase 2** — Collective Creation: collaboratively making tactile marks on fabric bags using non-traditional tools (nails, feathers, sponges) — guided by sensations instead of sight.







- Develop a shared sensory language that transcends words and sight.
- Strengthen imagination, sensory awareness, and emotional expression.
- Encourage collaboration and mutual trust between participants.

Result: a collectively created tactile bag — a symbol of connection, understanding, and shared sensory language.

# Social Art Workshop — Exploring the World Through Art



- Led by an experienced art educator, this workshop uses artistic research methods to explore how we perceive our surroundings.
- Participants collaboratively observe, discuss, and visually map their environment, discovering new ways of understanding each other.
- Art becomes a shared language that transcends words, helping participants build empathy, connection, and communication skills.





# Performance Art by a Guest Artist

- An unexpected, non-traditional art form where the artist communicates through movement, gestures, and body language.
- Challenges the audience to interpret meaning beyond words, sparking curiosity and dialogue.
- Creates a collective reflective experience that nurtures non-verbal communication skills and encourages intercultural expression.





# Art & Food – Sensory Culinary Experience



- A unique experience co-led by an artist and a chef, blending colours, textures, and flavours on the plate the same way as on canvas.
- Participants are invited to see food as a form of artistic expression, share impressions, and engage in multisensory dialogue.
- Stimulates storytelling and emotional expression, enhancing informal language learning through taste, aesthetics, shared experiences, and understanding of art.





# Contact Us



abiblioteka.lt



Akmenės rajono savivaldybės viešoji biblioteka



akbiblioteka

info@abiblioteka.lt

+370 425 470 11

V. Kudirkos g. 9, Naujoji Akmenė

www.abiblioteka.lt

# LINA LUKYTE

## DIRECTOR

Akmene District Public Library



+3706 9884563  
+3706 1949190



[direktore@abiblioteka.lt](mailto:direktore@abiblioteka.lt)



V. Kudirkos g. 9, LT-85165 Naujoji  
Akmene, Lithuania



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in LinkedIn

