

**THE EUROPEAN UNION'S EASTERN NEIGHBORHOOD:
CHANCES AND PERSPECTIVES**

The Belarus office of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation hosts the first conference "The European Union's Eastern Neighborhood: Chances and Perspectives", organized within the framework of the KAS regional project Eastern Partnership School of Excellency. The project aims to foster the European idea and democratic values through the facilitation of a new generation of elite leaders and young talents from countries of the Eastern Partnership and the Russian Federation.

Date: 8 - 12 December 2016
Venue: ARTIS hotel, (Totorių g. 23, Vilnius)
Accommodation: ARTIS Hotel, Totorių str. 23, Vilnius 01120,
Holiday Inn Hotel, Šeimyniškių str. 1, Vilnius 09312,
Hotel Novotel Vilnius Center, Gedimino ave. 16, Vilnius 01103
Moderators: Norbert Beckmann-Dierkes (Acting director of KAS Republic of Moldova country office), Dr. Wolfgang Sender (Country director KAS Belarus office), Alexander Filippov (Professor at Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts), Linas Kojala (Director of Eastern Europe Studies Center), Andrei Avram (KAS Romania office), Ana Severin (KAS Moldova country office), Laura Tatarėlytė (KAS Belarus country office).

Goals and Objectives

- Systematic and substantial intermediation of knowledge and expertise within the focal themes of European values and their realization in the democratic constitutional political system, international relations and security policies as well as economic systems and policies in Europe;
- Identification and promotion of excellent junior talent who are well suited to be propagators for the European idea and democratic values and who share the values of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung;
- Development of a stable network of European-minded up-and-coming talent in the countries of the Eastern Partnership and Russia who communicate among one another, hold on to the best practices and exchange information with each other when compiling analyses and projects and when designing and implementing reform proposals.

Participants

More than 80 up-and-coming politicians, experts from non-government organizations and think tanks, as well as young academics from politics, law, media, economy from the Eastern Partnership countries and Russia.

Language

The working language of the conference is English.

8 December 2016, Thursday

- 14.00-17.00** Arrival and check-in of participants
- Hotel Artis, Totorių str. 23, Vilnius 01120,
Hotel Holiday Inn, Šeimyniškių str. 1, Vilnius 09312,
Hotel Novotel Vilnius Center, Gedimino ave. 16, Vilnius 01103
- 17.00-18:00** **Registration at Hotel Artis, Conference hall AIDA**
- 18.00-18.30** **Welcoming remarks**
- Norbert Beckmann-Dierkes, Acting director of KAS Republic of Moldova country office
- 18.30-18.45** Introduction to the agenda of the conference
- Laura Tatarėlytė, KAS Belarus country office
- 18.45-20.00** Keynote speech
- Eastern Partnership: Challenges and Achievements**
- Laurynas Kasčiūnas, Member of the Lithuanian Parliament
- 20.00** Networking and reception in the hotel

9 December 2016, Friday

Joint session "Introduction: Political Context and Key Challenges in EaP Countries"

Conference Hall: Carmen

- 8.30-10.00** Lecture
- The Role of the Lithuanian Constitutional Court in Defending Democracy and the Western Geopolitical Orientation**
- Speaker** Prof. dr. Dainius Žalimas, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Lithuania, Head of the Institute of International and European Union Law (Faculty of Law, Vilnius University)
- Moderator** Andrei Avram, KAS Romania country office
- 10.00-10.30** Coffee break
- 10.30-12.00** Debate
- Between the European Union and the Eurasian Economic Union**
- Inga Stanytė-Toločkienė, Deputy Director, Eastern Neighborhood Policy Department of the MFA of the Republic of Lithuania
- Dr. Nerijus Maliukevičius, Vilnius University, Institute of International Relations and Political Science
- Dr. Duro Duric, Institute for European Law, University of Saarland, Germany
- Moderator** Ana Severin, KAS Moldova office
- 12.00-13.00** Lunch
- 13.00-13.45** Keynote speech

The Future of Eastern Partnership: Between Reform Capacity and New Security Challenges

Speaker Dr. Ivars Ījabs, University of Latvia

13.45-15.00 **Working session I:** Presentation of status-quo reports of individual countries: key issues, achievements and failures of democratic development in each of the countries within the EaP policy framework

Moderator Alexander Filippov, Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts

15.00-15.30 Coffee break

Conference Hall: Aida

15.30-16.30 **Working session II:** Presentation of status-quo reports of individual countries: key issues, achievements and failures of democratic development in each of the countries within the EaP policy framework

Moderator Alexander Filippov, Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts

18:00 Dinner in hotel Artis

19.00 KAS Movie night

Baltic poker. What is Putin's game? (Poland, 2016)

Film screening and the discussion with the author of the scenario Sandra Użule-Fons

10 December 2016, Saturday

Group work session

	European Values and Their Realization in the Democratic Constitutional Political System	International Relations and Security Policy	Economic Systems and Policies in Europe
	Moderator: Adrian Balutel	Moderator: Dr. Wolfgang Sender	Moderator: Andrei Avram
HALL	<i>Carmen</i>	<i>Mikado</i>	<i>Tosca</i>
8.30-10.00	Current Challenges of Institutional Structure of the European Union Speaker: Dr. Andrej Horvat, Head of GIZ project Support for Serbia	Introduction: Facing the Challenges of the World Order Speaker: Iulian Groza, Executive Director of the Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE)	What Makes Social Market Economy Successful? Speaker: Dr. Hans Reckers, Permanent Secretary of Berlin Senate (Government) Department of Economics, Technology and Research
10.00-10.30	Coffee break		
10.30-12.00	Towards European values: the Baltic Perspective	The Foreign Policy of the EU in a Geopolitical Context	Coping with Financial Crisis in Europe: Causes and Responses

	Speaker: Juulia Barthel, German Council on Foreign Relations	Speaker: Žaneta Ozoliņa, Professor in the Department of Political Science, University of Latvia and Vice-Chair of the Latvian Transatlantic Organization	Speaker: Dr. Christian Bluth, Project Manager, Bertelsmann Foundation, Berlin
12.00-13.00	Lunch		
13.00-14.30	The Association Agreement with the EU – Coordination, Implementation and Challenges Speaker: Ulrich Kleppmann, Head of Cooperation, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of Moldova	The return of NATO: Waking up to realities. Perceptions, Identity and the Future Speaker: Vaidas Saldžiūnas, Defence and foreign affairs journalist, DELFI Lithuania	The Institutional Dimension of Economic Integration Speaker: Dr. Christopher Hartwell, President of Center for Social and Economic Research
14.30-15.00	Coffee break		
15.00-16.30	Flip-chart brainstorm on the current challenges in the domain of democratic values in each country	Flip-chart brainstorm on the current security challenges and international relations issues in each country	Flip-chart brainstorm on the current economic challenges in each country

19.00 Dinner, La Boheme, šv. Ignoto str. 4/3, Vilnius

11 December 2016, Sunday

Panel discussion day

Conference hall: Aida

8.30-10.00 Panel discussion

Approach towards the European Union: Resemblances and Differences in EaP Countries

Reporting back from the group sessions

Moderator Wolfgang Sender, Country director KAS Belarus country office

10.00-10.30 Coffee break

10.30-12.00 Panel discussion

Key Points for Making the Eastern Partnership Program Successful

Moderator Linas Kojala, Director of Eastern Europe Studies Center

Panelists Klaudijus Maniokas, Chairman of the board of the consulting firm European Social, Legal, and Economic Projects (ESTEP)

Petras Auštrevičius, Member of the European Parliament, former Chief Negotiator for Lithuania's Membership of the European Union

Salome Samadashvili, Member of the Parliament of Georgia, former Head of Georgia's Mission to the European Union

12.00-13.00 Lunch

13.00-14.30 Panel discussion

Addressing the Challenges in the Region: Civil Society as a Driving Force

Moderator Alexander Filippov, Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts

Panelists Vytis Jurkonis, Director, Freedom House in Vilnius

Dr. Andrej Horvat, Head of GIZ project Support for Serbia

Dr. Lucian Dirdala, Lecturer, Mihail Kogalniceanu University, Iasi (Romania),
Associated Lecturer, Al. I. Cuza University, Iasi

Venue: Sky Bar, Radisson Blu Hotel, Konstitucijos ave. 20, Vilnius

18.00-19.30 Evening discussion

European Union's Eastern Neighborhood in 2030: Vision and Action

Moderator Dr. Wolfgang Sender

Panelists Arnoldas Pranckevičius, Head of the Representation of the European Commission in the Republic of Lithuania, former diplomatic adviser to the President of the European Parliament

Žygimantas Pavilionis, Member of the Lithuanian Parliament

From 19:30 **Dinner and discussions**

12 December 2016, Monday

Round-up event

Conference hall: Aida

9.00-10.00 **Feedback sessions in groups**

Moderators Dr. Wolfgang Sender, Laura Tatarėlytė, Norbert Beckmann-Dierkes

10.00-11.30 Closing remarks

11.30 Departure of participants