

“ EASTERN PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCY”:
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM OF KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG

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 Tatarélytė (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

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| 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 <u>Conference hall AIDA</u> |
| 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 <i>Eastern Partnership: Challenges and Achievements</i> 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

- 08.30-10.00 **LECTURE: The Role of the Lithuanian Constitutional Court in Defending Democracy and the Western Geopolitical Orientation**
 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 country office
- 12.00-13.00 Lunch
- 13.00-13.45 **KEYNOTE SPEECH: The Future of Eastern Partnership: Between Reform Capacity and New Security Challenges**
 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 |
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| Moderator | Adrian Balutel | Dr. Wolfgang Sender | Andrei Avram |
| Hall | Carmen | Mikado | Tosca |
| 08.30-10.00 | Current Challenges of Institutional Structure of the European Union Dr. Andrej Horvat, Head of GIZ project Support for Serbia | Introduction: Facing the Challenges of the World Order Iulian Groza, Executive Director of the Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE) | What Makes Social Market Economy Successful? Dr. Hans Reckers, Permanent Secretary of Berlin Senate (Government) Department of Economics, Technology and Research |
| 10.00 | Coffee break | | |
| 10.30-12.00 | Towards European values: the Baltic Perspective Juulia Barthel, German Council on Foreign Relations | The Foreign Policy of the EU in a Geopolitical Context Žaneta Ozoliņa, Professor in the Department of Political Science, University of Latvia and Vice-Chair of the Latvian Transatlantic Organization | Coping with Financial Crisis in Europe: Causes and Responses Dr. Christian Bluth, Project Manager, Bertelsmann Foundation, Berlin |
| 12.00 | Lunch | | |
| 13.00-14.30 | The Association Agreement with the EU – Coordination, Implementation and Challenges 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 Vaidas Saldžiūnas, Defence and foreign affairs journalist, DELFI Lithuania | The Institutional Dimension of Economic Integration Dr. Christopher Hartwell, President of Center for Social and Economic Research |
| 14.30 | 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 |
| 17.00-19.00 | Vilnius Night-tour followed | | |
| 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**
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
Moderator: Linas Kojala, Director of Eastern Europe Studies Center
- 12.00-13.00 Lunch
- 13.00-14.30 **PANEL DISCUSSION: Addressing the Challenges in the Region: Civil Society as a Driving Force**
Vytyis 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
Moderator: Alexander Filippov, Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts
- 18.00-19.30 Venue: Sky Bar, Radisson Blu Hotel, Konstitucijos ave. 20, Vilnius
EVENING DISCUSSION: European Union's Eastern Neighborhood in 2030: Vision and Action
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
Moderator: Dr. Wolfgang Sender
- From 19:30 **EaP School of Excellency Festive Evening**
Dinner and discussions with the view of Vilnius rooftops

12 DECEMBER 2016, MONDAY

ROUND-UP EVENT

Conference hall: Aida

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| 9.00-10.00 | Feedback sessions in groups <i>Moderators:</i> Dr. Wolfgang Sender, Laura Tatarélyté, Norbert Beckmann-Dierkes |
| 10.00-11.30 | Closing remarks |
| 11.30 | Departure of participants |