



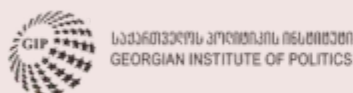
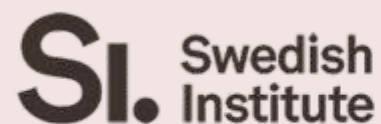
ACTIVITIES REPORT

Eastern Europe Studies Centre 2019-2020



Eastern Europe Studies Centre
Est. 2006

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS



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EESC building



DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD



It is an honor to lead Eastern Europe studies center, a project-based think-tank that proves its worth domestically and on international scene since 2006. During that time, we managed to build an extensive international network of partners, implement a broad range of projects, publish analysis on variety of topics concerning international affairs and security; all of this enables us to be an effective and a trustworthy institution.

2019 was another noteworthy year. We grew as an institution by adding bright young experts to our team; we implemented high-level projects with partners such as European Commission, NATO, National Endowment for Democracy and others; we remained the most important platform for a debate on Lithuanian foreign and security policy; our analysts were active in discussing issues of importance on the national and international media; a significant part of our activities were implemented around Lithuania, which increased our outreach. Some of the outcomes are highlighted on the following pages of this report.

I am especially proud of our annual *Foreign Policy Conference, commemorating Lithuanian Diplomatic Chief S. Lozoraitis, and Lithuanian Foreign Policy Review*, an annual publication dedicated to discussing relevant geopolitical challenges for the Baltic states. These are trademark examples of our work, which gained notice both domestically and internationally.

The ambition that we have is to ensure that the center has an even better future than its rich past. Therefore, we will grow by adding more expertise and increasing the scope of our activities in 2020 and beyond.

I have no doubt that the team we have is able to do just that.

Linas Kojala

Director of Eastern Europe studies centre

 @Linaskojala

 @Linaskojala

INTRODUCING THE ORGANIZATION

Eastern Europe Studies Centre (EESC) is an independent, non-partisan and non-profit think-tank, which aims to analyse issues in the field of international affairs, security and economic cooperation, promote democracy and human rights and strengthen civil society. The organization was established by the Vilnius University and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania in 2006. The Centre fulfils this mission by providing high-quality independent analysis on social, political and economic development cooperation projects in countries such as Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, the U.S., Germany, Poland and other, as well as by expanding its partnership network in Germany, Sweden, United Kingdom, Finland and others.

EESC presentation by Justinas Kulys during the meeting with students from the IIRPS Students' corporation "RePublica" project **Junior political analysts' school** .(2019)



187. Belfer Center for Science and International Relations (United States)
188. Inter American Dialogue (United States)
189. Wilson Center (United States)
190. Center for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies (CEWFS) (Turkey)
191. Global Relations Forum (Turkey)
192. Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies (IOCF) (China)
193. Center for Economic, Political and Strategic Research (TEGAM) (Turkey)
194. Centre Multi International (C.M.I.) (Italy)
195. Chatham House (United Kingdom)
196. Karlowe Institute (KIC) (Bulgaria)
197. Fundacion Global Democracia y Desarrollo (FUNDODD) (Dominican Republic)
198. Gateway House: Indian Council on Global Relations (India)
199. Center for China and Globalization (CCG) (China)
200. Institute of Europe of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IEBAS) (Russia)
201. International Center for Policy Studies (ICPS) (Ghana)
202. Brussels Marshall Fund of the United States (BMF) (Belgium)
203. Wagon Center for Strategic Studies (WCSS) (Netherlands)

Visit to Alytus with a delegation from Moldova. Learning about success in implementing participatory budgeting. (2019)

The EESC took 116th place in the Foreign Policy and International Affairs Think Tanks table of the latest (2018) University of Pennsylvania Global Go To Think Tank Index Report. The EESC took the highest place among the Baltic think-tanks in this field.

MAIN AREAS OF ACTIVITY

1

Implementation of projects strengthening human rights, democracy and the Development of civil society.



2

Organizing conferences, discussions, seminars, public and closed events.



3

Monitoring of Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Processes in Europe and beyond.



4

Applied and Academic Research on political, economic, security issues.



5

Policy recommendations for decision-makers.



RESEARCH

The EESC is the leading Lithuanian think tank which provides insights and policy recommendations to decision makers in Lithuania, the EU and Eastern Partnership Countries.

EESC scholars regularly monitor and analyse political, economic, social and cultural processes in Eastern Partnership countries. Commissioned and independent analyses of EESC contribute to Lithuanian and EU policymaking towards a safe, stable economically strong and pro-European Eastern Europe, engages political scholars in neighboring countries and intensifies dialogue between the academic and practical arenas.

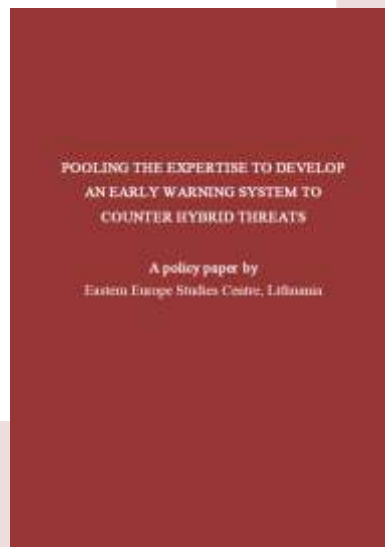
The EESC together with the Ministry of National Defense Republic of the Lithuania published the analytical study **"Impact of disinformation on Lithuanian society" (2018)** by Linas Kojala, Andrius Prochorenko, Vytautas Keršanskas and Šarūnas Legatas. The study adds new data to the monograph about Russian disinformation effort in the region that was published by EESC in 2017.



Scenarios of Russia's Development: Implications for the Lithuanian and Regional Security. Monograph by Vilius Ivanauskas, Tomas Janeliūnas, Gražvydas Jasutis, Laurynas Jonavičius, Laurynas Kasčiūnas, Vytautas Keršanskas and Linas Kojala. (2017)



Impact of disinformation on Lithuania society. An analytical study by Linas Kojala, Andrius Prochorenko, Vytautas Keršanskas and Šarūnas Legatas. (2018)



Pooling the Expertise to Develop an Early Warning System to Counter Hybrid Threats by Andrius Prochorenko and Justinas Kulys. (2019)



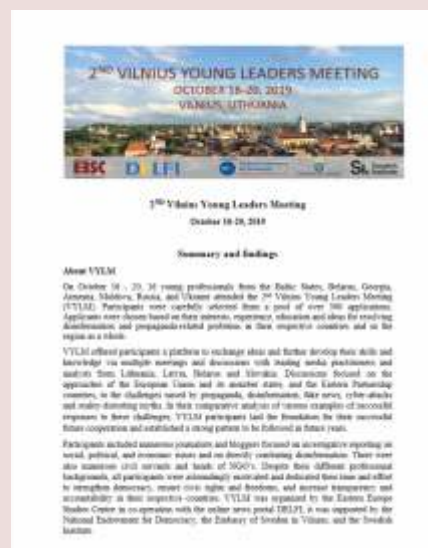
Contribution to the review of EaP policy: ways of strengthening and supporting integration of DCFTA countries into the single market of the European Union by Darius Žeruolis, Dovilė Jakniūnaitė, Dovilė Šukytė and Linas Kojala. (2019)



15 years of Lithuania in NATO by Simonas Klimanskis, Justinas Kulys, Andrius Prochorenko and Vladimiras Laučius. (2019)



Georgia on European Way: Creation of Effective Model for DCFTA and SME Strategy Implementation project report of the project led by Dovilė Šukytė. (2019)



2nd Young Leaders Meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania by Andrius Prochorenko. (2019)



The Dragon and the Knight: China's Growing Presence in Lithuania by Konstantinas Andrijauskas. (2019)

Since 2014, the Eastern Europe Studies Center in cooperation with the DELFI news portal regularly publishes the article series **"Vladimir Putin's Russia"**; the authors seek to take a closer look at Russia's power structure and key decision makers.

2014



V. Putino Rusija. J. Primakovo spąstai Vakarams, arba šis tas apie V. Putino taikos planą (139)

Mr Primakov's trap for the West, or something about Putin's peace plan
by Marius Laurinavičius EESC. (2014)

2015



V. Putino Rusija. Kremliaus planas Europai: pakiša Nr. 1 (839)

The Kremlin's Plan for Europebribe Nr. 1 by Marius Laurinavičius EESC. (2015)

2016



V. Putino Rusija. Pažeidžiamiausia Vakarų vieta – galbūt visai ne ten, kur jos ieškoma (307)

The most vulnerable part of the West – looking in the wrong direction by Marius Laurinavičius EESC. (2016)

2017



DELFI / V. Putino Rusija. Po „Zapad 2017“ – penkios žinutės Vakarams ir Lietuvai

After "Zapad 2017" – five messages to the West and Lithuania by Dr. Vilius Ivanauskas and Vytautas Keršanskas EESC. (2017)

2018



DELFI / Rusijos oligarchų žaidimai – pasirodymas naujam Kremliaus režimo etapui

Russian Oligarchs' games – Preparing for a new phase of the Kremlin regime by Šarūnas Legatas EESC. (2018)

2019



DELFI / AUTORIS: VLADIMIRAS LAUČIUS / Vladimiras Pozneris: jie galvoja, kad Rusija gali putli. Iš kur tokios mintys?

Vladimir Pozner: They think that Russia could attack. Where do these thoughts come from? By Vladimiras Laučius EESC. (2019)

The ongoing project with the DELFI and RU.DELFI news portals "**Promoting Quality Russian Language Media Content**" received almost over 400 000 readers, commenters and Facebook shares this year. The main aim of the project is to produce and disseminate information and analysis in the Russian language that challenges disinformation and anti-democratic narrative.



American expert in Lithuania: urgently send the president to Washington
by Natalja Frolova.



Konstantin Eggert. They walk around Moscow and do not stand for the price
by Konstantin Eggert.



A change of course or a double game: why a deputy from IAPL-SHS opposed Russia in PACE
by Denis Paraskevich-Kishinevsky.



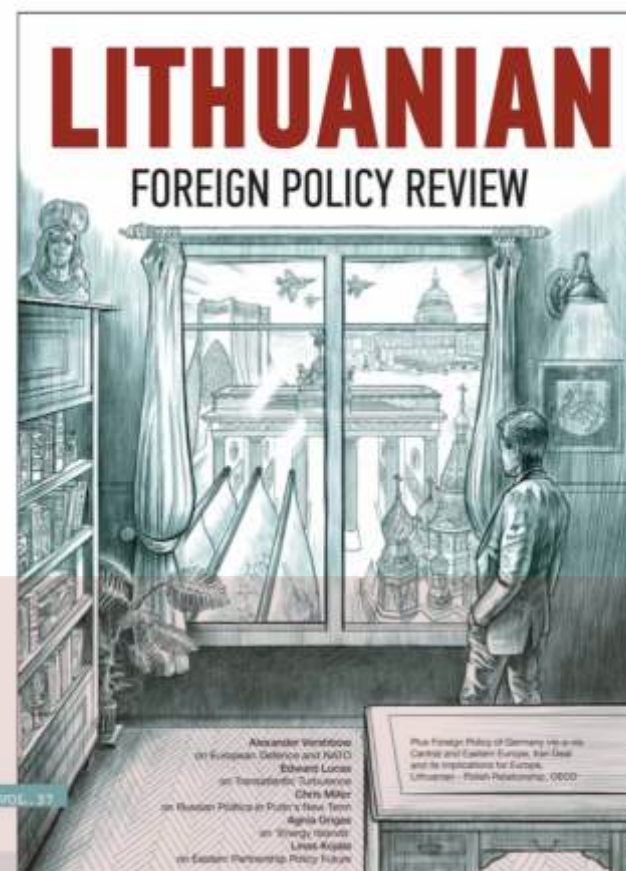
Lithuanian phenomenon of Eastern Europe: Gariūnai of the 90's and a business park of the 21st century
by Vladimir Skripov.

CONFERENCES

The EESC has earned an excellent reputation for the organization of many conferences on political, economic, security, and civil society issues of Eastern Europe. The Center has become an acknowledged meeting place for open discussion.

In December 2018, the Annual **Foreign Policy Conference, commemorating Lithuanian Diplomatic Chief S. Lozoraitis** attracted over 250 participants and more than 11 thousand people watched its live broadcast online. The conference had two parts, the first one was dedicated to a Presidential debate for the 2019 election cycle, while the second part to a panel discussion about Lithuania's European policy.

During the annual conference analytical journal "**Lithuanian Foreign Policy review**" (**LFPR**) was introduced. The journal was established in 1998 as a publication discussing challenges and problems of mostly Lithuanian foreign policy. In 2018, for the first time it was published by the EESC, and the journal's concept changed from academic to an analytical publication. LFPR is full of well-known names and globally recognized experts: *Chris Miller, Alexander Vershbow, Agnia Grigas, Edward Lucas, Jacob Wollenstein, Tobias Ruttenshoff, Wolfgang von Setten, Andžej Pukšto* and Editor-in-Chief EESC Director *Linas Kojala*. In 2019, the LFPR once again focuses on security and foreign policy issues of the countries in Central and Eastern Europe.



The EESC conference received a significant news media attention. EESC Director Linas Kojala together with LRT reporter Ugnė Galadauskaitė-Siparė. (2018)



Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Linas Linkevičius at EESC Conference 2018.



Panel discussion about Lithuania's European policy with Raimundas Karoblis, Arnoldas Pranckevičius, Vytautas Landsbergis and Alvydas Jokubaitis at annual EESC conference 2018.

In April, 2019, the international two-day conference “Pooling the expertise to develop an early warning system to counter hybrid threats” brought experts from all around Europe to discuss and identify modern hybrid threat early warning signals, and to discuss the best possible responses to each individual case of malign activity.



Later this year, 16 young professionals from the Baltic States, Belarus, Georgia, Armenia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine attended the **2nd Vilnius Young Leaders Meeting (VYLM)**. Participants were carefully selected from a pool of over 300 applications. Discussions focused on the approaches of the European Union and its member states, and the Eastern Partnership countries, to the challenges raised by propaganda, disinformation, fake news, cyber-attacks and reality-distorting myths.



In March 20-22, 2019, the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania **International conference "Vilnius Security Forum"** which has the main aim to keep constant international attention to the Baltic region and to strengthen cooperation between NATO allies.



In October 24, 2019, the annual Vilnius Model United Nations covering this year's topic "Global Warming as a security issue" brought together 40 students to turn into country leaders for one day, where they employed their diplomatic skills and knowledge towards formulating a solution for stabilizing international conflict zones.



On April 24, 2019 the EESC together with Vilnius University Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Ministry of National Defence of Lithuania and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung fund organized conference "15 years of Lithuania in NATO".



Minister of National Defence of Lithuania Raimundas Karoblis at the EESC conference "**15 years of Lithuania in NATO**".



NATO Commander in Lithuania Lt Col P. Papenbroock at the EESC conference "**15 years of Lithuania in NATO**".

An ongoing project in cooperation with the Ministry of National Defence brought together EU Eastern Partnership security analysts and defence authorities to discuss this year's topic: "The Security Domain of Eastern Partnership: building today and looking into the future", the meeting lasted two days in Vilnius, Lithuania, its most important – the night-owl session.



DISCUSSIONS, SEMINARS & ROUNDTABLES

The EESC regularly organizes discussions, seminars and roundtables, it's another important part of organization activities and provides a forum for open discussions on the most significant and sometimes very specific East European issues. Such events allow EESC experts to present their research findings as well as to bring together fellow experts to discuss the latest events and developments.



Discussion **"Donald Trump's US and Baltic states security"** with Minister National Defence Raimundas Karoblis, Audronius Ažubalis, Vygaudas Ušackas, Algirdas Saudargas and Antanas Valionis. (2019)



Round table discussion **"Changes in US Security Policy: The Role of the Baltic States"** with Matthew Kroening from Atlantic Council".



Discussion about **the Baltic Security situation and NATO cohesion** with Lt Gen (Ret) Ben Hodges, former Commander of the United States Army Europe. (2019)



Discussion with the speaker for the Riksdag
Dr. Andreas Norlén. (2019)



Discussion about Ukrainian parliamentary elections
with Minister of Foreign Affairs Linas Linkevičius and
Vytautas Bruveris.(2019)



Discussion with Brian Whitmore, director of the Center
for European Policy Analysis(CEPA). (2019)



Discussion about European Parliament Elections. (2019)



Presentation of new Chinese program with
Konstantinas Andrijauskas, Raimundas Karoblis
and Linas Kojala. (2019)



EESC Season closing event. (2019)

2019 - Election year in Lithuania, during this intense period, the EESC started a discussion cycle with Lithuanian presidential election candidates for the post of President of Lithuania. All candidates had a chance to present and discuss their visions of foreign and security policy together with Lithuanian experts.



Prime Minister of Lithuania Saulius Skvernelis.



Gitanas Nausėda, elected as a President in 2019



Lithuanian presidential candidate Vytenis Andriukaitis.



Lithuanian presidential candidate Ingrida Šimonytė

Discussions with presidential candidates were covered extensively by the media.



DELFI

Nausėda pristatė užsienio politikos programą: 10 svarbiausių citatų (175)

Kandidatas į prezidentus **Gitanas Nausėda** penktadienį Vilniuje pristatė savo užsienio politikos prioritetus.

Užsienio politikos gaires pristačiusi Šimonytė: jau nesame tik saugumo klientai 145

Modesta Gaučaitė, LRT.lt
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EESC INTERNATIONAL



EESC Director meets Congressman John Shimkus (R-III.) in Washington DC



Dovile Šukyte participating at The Joint Baltic American National Committee 13th Baltic Conference, Washington, DC.



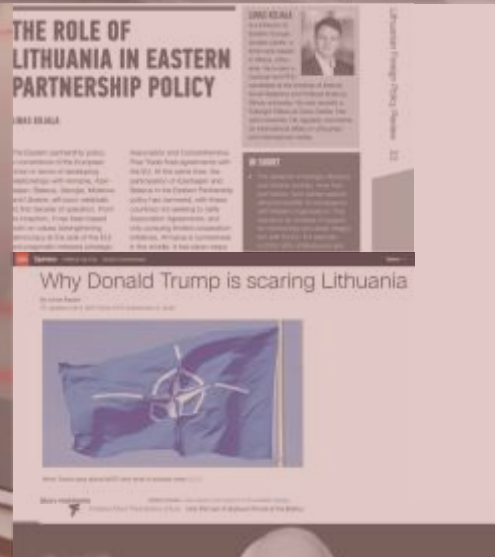
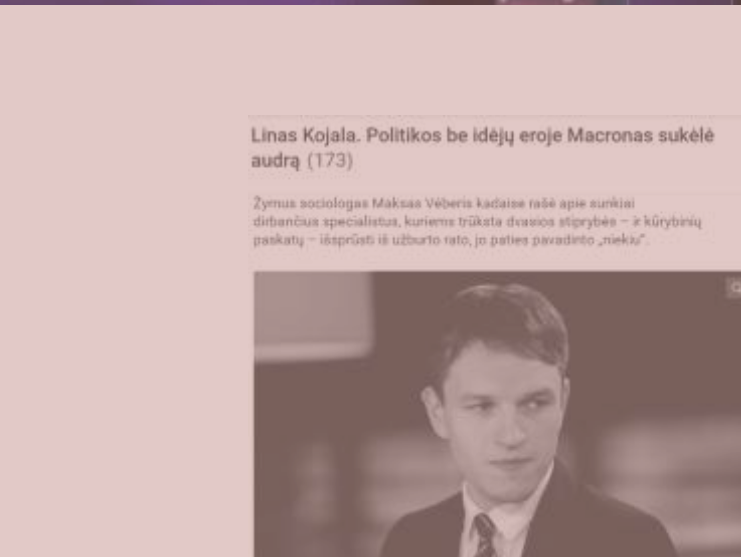
Dovile Šukyte participating at "Briefing: Lessons learned from Baltic elections. Looking ahead to 2020." U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Washington D.C.



EESC Director Linas Kojala with Retired Col. Richard Hooker, Director for Research and Strategic Support at the National Defence University, Washington DC.



Conference "DCFTA Implementation: Partnerships, Push-backs and Potential" in Tbilisi opened by Dovilė Šukytė, EESC Policy Analyst & Principal Project Coordinator.



EESC and the media

EESC team actively shares their insights about foreign and local politics on national television and the press.





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