



EU2013.LT

Civil Society Conference, 27-29 November 2013 Vilnius

PROGRAMME

Venue: Merchants Club, 35 Gedimino Ave., Vilnius

27 November, Wednesday

All day Arrival and Accommodation

19.00 – 21.00 **Welcome Reception hosted by Lithuanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Linas Linkevičius**
Venue: *Vilnius City Hall*, Didžioji str. 31, Vilnius

The Conference participants will be invited to enjoy a performance by Vilnius University Song and Dance ensemble led by the artistic director Eugenijus Ciplys. The ensemble has been the highlight of Lithuanian folklore for more than 70 years. The laureate at many international musical competitions, the ensemble is essential to the World Lithuanian Song and Dance festival as well as the international Student Festival Gaudeamus.

The ensemble plays traditional Lithuanian instruments like kankles, folk harps, birbyne, which, is a type of folk wind instrument and many others.

21.00 – 23.00 **On the Eve of the Eastern Partnership Summit: A Mission Accomplished, Mounting Tasks Ahead?**

Private off-the-record late evening session for distinguished Conference guests. Upon individual invitations only.

28 November, Thursday

08.30 – 09.30 Registration & Morning Coffee

09.30 – 10.30 **OPENING PANEL: STATE OF THE HOUSE OF EUROPE – WHY THE EAST MATTERS?**
Moderator: *Kristina Vaičiūnaitė*, Director of the EESC, Lithuania

Distinguished guests:

Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of the Republic of Lithuania

Štefan Füle, European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood

Aleksander Kwaśniewski, Former President of the Republic of Poland

Patrick Cox, 21st President of the European Parliament

10.30 – 12.00 **STATE OF DEMOCRACY IN THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP: FROM INDIVIDUAL TO PUBLIC INTEREST**

Free and fair elections, government accountability, democratic and effective institutions, and a vibrant civil society are the attributes of sustainable and successful democratic societies. Since their independence, each of the countries have had their ups and downs facing individual challenges on democratic development, therein proving that the road to democracy is a bumpy one. But how are the important features of democracy, such as pluralism, political awareness, participation and accountability, actually doing in the region? What lessons learnt from the individual countries could potentially be applied to the region as whole? What is the contribution

of the government, businesses, and civil society into these developments? How is the EaP policy contributing to this process?

Moderator: *Leonidas Donskis*, Member of European Parliament, Lithuania

Panellists:

Andrius Kubilius, Leader of the Opposition of the Parliament, Former Prime Minister of Lithuania

Bruce Jackson, President, Project on Transitional Democracies, USA

Nadia M. Diuk, Vice President, Programs – Africa, Central Europe, NED, USA

István Gyarmati, Ambassador, President, ICDT, Hungary

Ghia Nodia, Director of the International School of Caucasus Studies, Ilia State University, Georgia

Alyona Getmanchuk, Director, Institute of World politics, Ukraine

12.00 – 12.30 Coffee Break

TAKING STOCK OF THE EAP: LESSONS LEARNED AND THE FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION

Two panels will be focusing on taking stock of the Eastern Partnership policy from Warsaw to Vilnius as well as beyond Vilnius. The Key guiding questions are as follows: is there more EU in Eastern Europe? What are the achievements of the EaP Initiative? What are the shortcomings? Are European standards and values in the region on the rise? How do partner countries see their own interest and ambitions vis-à-vis the EaP? For the time being, is integration without membership sufficient for the partner countries? What is the public sentiment towards Europe? How do EU member states see the EaP? What is behind Russia's zero sum position? How can we embark on the current state of affairs and move with the policy from Vilnius to Riga and beyond? What to expect from the Association Agreements in real terms?

12.30 – 14.00 **EASTERN PARTNERSHIP POLICY: FROM WARSAW TO VILNIUS**

Moderator: *Arkady Moshes*, Director of the EU Eastern Neighbourhood and Russia Research Programme, FIIA, Finland

Panellists:

Radosław Sikorski, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Poland

Carl Bildt, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sweden

Michael Köhler, Director for the Neighbourhood, DG DEVCO, European Commission

Ian Bond, Director of Foreign Policy, CER, UK

Cornelius Ochmann, Director and Board Member, Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation, Germany

Andrew Wilson, Senior Policy Fellow, ECFR, UK

Victor Chirila, Executive Director, Foreign Policy Association, Moldova

14.00 – 15.00 Lunch

15.00 – 16.30 **FROM VILNIUS TO RIGA: VISION AND ACTION**

Moderator: *Andris Sprūds*, Director, Latvian Institute of International Affairs, Latvia

Panellists:

Linas Linkevičius, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lithuania

Edgars Rinkēvičs, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Latvia (tbc)

Vladimir Socor, Political Analyst, Jamestown Foundation, USA

Alexander Duleba, Director of the Research Centre, Slovak Foreign Policy Association, Slovakia

Elena Korosteleva, Director, Global Europe Centre, University of Kent, UK

Wojciech Konończuk, Head of the Department for Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova, CES, Poland

Hrant Kostanyan, Associate Research Fellow, CEPS, Belgium

16.30 – 17.00 Coffee Break

EMPOWERING NON-GOVERNMENTAL POLICY MAKERS IN EASTERN EUROPE

Active and vibrant civil society plays a prominent role in the development of sustainable democracy. It contributes to the creation of pluralism, greater political awareness, participation and accountability. Civil society groups in

the Eastern Partnership countries are considered the main drivers of reform, but in a number of countries they are under pressure, being considered as foreign agents. In some they play a partisan role, whilst in others they are expected to do the government's job. In the West civil society's role is considered essential however; the region-wide characteristic among local people in the EaP countries is to question the legitimacy of civil society groups lacking understanding and awareness of their role. What needs to be done for different civil society groups not only to become influential opinion leaders in their societies, but also stepping stones for reform and sustainable development? Panellists will also discuss what political role civil society can play and whether they can, and if so, how to increase the political weight of civil society in EaP countries as well as outline the future civic vision and action.

17.00 – 18.30 **ROLE AND STATE OF CIVIL SOCIETY: GLASS HALF FULL OR HALF EMPTY?**

Moderator: *Boris Navasardian*, Yerevan Press Club, President, Armenia

Panellists:

Petr Mareš, Ambassador-at-Large on Eastern Partnership, Czech Republic

Krzysztof Bobiński, Chairman of the Steering Committee, Civil Society Forum

Manana Kochladze, Regional Coordinator, CEE Bankwatch Network, Georgia

Yaryna Borenko, Programme Director, European Dialogue, Ukraine

Ulad Vialichka, Chairperson, EuroBelarus, Belarus

Leyla Aliyeva, Chairwoman, Center for National and International Studies, Azerbaijan

Anna Golubovska-Onisimova, Chairman of the Coordinating Council, Mama-86, Ukraine

20.00 – 23.00 **Culture Club – Eastern Partnership goes Music!**

Gala Dinner with an Exclusive Concert of the Folk-Jazz Band composed of the artists from the EaP countries exceptionally on the occasion of the Conference (Tamsta Club, 11A Subačiaus Str., Vilnius).

29 November, Friday

08.00 – 09.00 Registration & Morning Coffee

ASSISTANCE AMIDST DEMOCRATIC BACKLASH: WHAT ROLE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY?

Authoritarian tendencies and pressure on civil society has become a reality in many countries in the past few years. The Eastern Partnership region comprises of democratic countries, hybrid regimes and consolidated autocracies. Exactly what makes the region more than worthwhile to look at as a case study of how to address democratic backlash. At the same time the Arab Spring and its dramatic aftermath has, once again, made democracy assistance a buzzword used by governments and institutions around the world. The European Union has also started to devote greater attention and resources to such assistance. Given there are two decades of experience with civil society development in the Eastern Partnership the two panels, featuring distinguished representatives of the international donor community, practitioners as well as researchers, will analyse these new tendencies, discuss what to expect further and look for answers as to what might work. The first session of the panel will deal with new restrictions against civil society in the region as the democracy-autocracy mix becomes firmly embedded and regimes' more astute in the tactics they use. The second session will focus on the donor community work and its future potential.

09.00 – 10.30 **HYBRID REGIMES AND NEW CHALLENGES FOR CIVIL SOCIETY**

Moderator: *Richard Youngs*, Senior Associate, Carnegie Endowment, Belgium

Panellists:

Marie Mendras, Research fellow with the CNRS and CERI, Professor at Sciences Po University, France

Mikhail Minakov, President, Foundation for Good Politics, Ukraine

Orysia Lutsevich, Non-resident Fellow, Chatham House, UK

Dzianis Melyantsou, Senior Analyst, BISS, Belarus

Kateryna Pishchikova, Visiting Scholar, CIES, USA

Vera Rihackova, EU Coordinator, The Steering Committee of the Civil Society Forum, Czech Republic

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.30 **IMPLICATIONS FOR EXTERNAL DEMOCRACY SUPPORT**

Moderator: *Rodger Potocki*, Senior Director for Europe, National Endowment for Democracy, USA

Panellists:

David Anderson, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada

Jerzy Pomianowski, Executive Director, EED, Belgium

Karla Wursterova, Executive Director, Visegrad Fund, Slovakia

Mirja Peterson, Head of the Eastern Europe Unit, SIDA, Sweden

Balázs Jarábik, Senior Fellow, CEPI and FRIDE, Project Director, Pact

Luis Navarro, Senior Country Representative in Georgia, NDI, USA

Jeff Lovitt, Executive Director, PASOS, Czech Republic

12.30 – 12.40 **Closing of the Conference**

Kristina Vaičiūnaitė, Director of the EESC, Lithuania

12.40 – 13.30 Lunch

PARALLEL SIDE-EVENTS

13.00 - 14.45 **UKRAINE AS EU's (NON)ASSOCIATED COUNTRY: POSSIBILITIES AND CHALLENGES**

Venue: Merchants Club, 35 Gedimino Ave., Vilnius

Ukraine after (non)signing of the Association agreement: future scenarios. Why Ukraine was pushed into 'zero-sum' game? Ukraine – Russia relations after (non)signing of the Association agreement: what is the Kremlin's strategy towards Ukraine? Ukraine and Eurasian Customs Union: how attractive for the Ukrainian business community is the Eurasian integration under the leadership of Russia? Ukraine and the up-coming presidential elections: strategies and challenges. The role of the Ukrainian democratic opposition after (non)signing the Association agreement: new challenges ahead?

Moderator: *Audronius Ažubalis*, Deputy Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lithuania

Panellists:

Aleksander Kwaśniewski, Former President of the Republic of Poland

Vitali Klitschko, Leader of UDAR, Ukraine

Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Leader of the Parliamentary Faction of "Batkivshchyna", Ukraine

Oleh Tyahnybok, Leader of Political Party "Svoboda", Ukraine (tbc)

Petro Poroshenko, Member of Ukrainian Parliament, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ukraine

Eugene Czolij, President of the Ukrainian World Congress

13.30 – 15.30 **HUMAN RIGHTS IN BELARUS AND EASTERN PARTNERSHIP**

Venue: Novotel Hotel, 16 Gedimino Ave., Vilnius

Belarus's full-scale participation in the Eastern Partnership is hampered by the existence of political prisoners, lack of democratic reforms and lack of willingness to bring itself closer to shared universal values. Belarusian authorities lobby for a more pragmatic approach for the Eastern Partnership, focusing on economy rather than values and human rights, an approach causing concern among human rights defenders. EaP and the specifically designed European Dialogue on Modernization are slowly making some traction in the Belarusian society, but have become effective instruments to steer authorities toward democratization and increased respect for human rights.

The side event will focus on the current human rights situation in the country, present results of a recent public opinion poll on what Belarusians think and know about human rights, spark discussion about how to improve acceptance and influence for human rights agenda in the

country and offer insights on human rights defenders' expectations from the Eastern Partnership policy after the Vilnius Summit.

Moderator: *Maria Sadovskaya-Komlach*, Senior Project Coordinator, European Radio for Belarus, Poland

Panellists:

Aleh Hulak, Chairman, Belarusian Helsinki Committee, Belarus

Tatsiana Reviaka, President, The Barys Zvozkau Belarusian Human Rights House and Human Rights Centre Viasna, Belarus

Elena Tonkacheva, Head, Legal Transformation Centre, Belarus

Belarus' finest civic activists are inviting to the Bÿ-ROOM for an informal gathering, and important round table discussions on 28, 29 November 2013 at Novotel Hotel, 16 Gedimino Ave., Vilnius.

14.30-16.30

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICE DELIVERY AT LOCAL LEVEL: OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION

Venue: Radisson Blu Hotel, 20 Konstitucijos Ave., Vilnius

You are kindly invited to an engaging [discussion](#) amongst an experienced and prominent group of panellists, organised by EPAN and in cooperation with ALDA. How to build effective relationships between Civil Society Organisations and Local & Regional Authorities? Sharing best practices and recommending successful pilot activities to enhance the LRA & CSO cooperation in Eastern partnership countries.

Moderator: *Valery Pandzharov*, Chair of Enlargement Pre-Accession and Neighbourhood (EPAN) Working Group of CONCORD

Panellists:

Mamuka Abuladze, Co-Chair, Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership – CORLEAP, Georgia (tbc)

Andris Gobins, Member of CORLEAP European Economic and Social Committee – EESC, Latvia (tbc)

Antonella Valmorbida, Director, Association of Local Democracy Agencies - ALDA, Italy

Peter Kuzniacou, Director, Establishment "Center of Regional Development" - Homel Democracy Forum, Belarus

Misha Mindadze, President and Founder, SSK Georgia, Georgia

Gediminas Paviržis, Council Member of Vilnius District Municipality, Lithuania

Audronė Vareikytė, Adviser on Social Issues, Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania, Lithuania

15.00-16.30

GEORGIA AND THE EU AFTER VILNIUS: STRATEGIES, CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES

Venue: Merchants Club, 35 Gedimino Ave., Vilnius

The Presidential election held in Georgia on the 27th of October was, as all observers agree, remarkably calm and transparent. Is this the sign of a profound and irrevocable democratic transformation, or a unique and passing achievement? What path and strategy will the new President and Government choose in terms of European integration? Can integration into the EU facilitate the reintegration of the occupied territories back into Georgia? Will the European integration process help to guarantee human rights and to consolidate democratic achievements in Georgia? What instruments should the EU develop in order to aid Georgia in its democratic progress and European integration?