



Norwegian Embassy



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## 25 YEARS OF TRUST BUILDING IN THE FACE OF GLOBAL CHALLENGES:

### COMMEMORATION OF RESTORATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES AND LITHUANIA

#### Programme

16<sup>th</sup> of December 2016,

Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University,  
Vokiečių str., 10, Vilnius

The ultimate fall of the Iron Curtain in 1991 has launched a new era of diplomatic relations between Lithuania and the Nordic countries. For Lithuania, the support of the Nordic countries has been of vital importance for re-building the nation-state and integrating into the institutional structures of the West. A vigorous development of the diplomatic ties has led into creation of the Nordic-Baltic area based on the basic values of democracy, human rights, and rule of law. The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this special bond gives a unique opportunity to reflect current challenges for democracy in our societies and beyond them. In the wake of democratic discontent accompanied by strengthening of centrifugal and isolationist forces in Europe and globally, one is in acute need to reconsider what should be done to sustain citizens' trust both in democratic institutions and international structures that embody their core values.

9.00 – 9.30	<p>Welcome speeches and greetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Video message from H.E. Dalia Grybauskaitė, the President of Lithuania</li> <li>• Video message from H.E. Guðni Th. Jóhannesson, the President of Iceland</li> <li>• H.E. Dag M. Halvorsen, the Ambassador of Norway</li> <li>• Prof. Ramūnas Vilpišauskas, the Director of the IIRPS VU</li> </ul>
9.30 – 11.00	<p>Round table discussion</p> <p><b>Confidence in democratic institutions at the time of flux</b></p> <p>The Nordic countries have been concerned about the future of democracy and thus have carried regular audits of their political systems for quite a long time. Being among the most established democracies in the world, they have been arguably in the best position to assess the changing role of the nation-state in the contemporary globalised world as well as to consider necessary conditions for sustaining its trustworthiness. What is the role for the nation-state in the contemporary globalised world, and what are the necessary conditions for boosting its trustworthiness? What are the lessons that can be learnt from the Nordic countries in this respect?</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">Speakers:</p> <p><b>Erik Albæk</b> - Professor at University of Southern Denmark, Department of Political Science and Public Management  <b>Liutauras Gudžinskas</b> – Lithuanian political scientist, associate professor at Vilnius University  <b>Stig-Björn Ljunggren</b>- Swedish political scientist and columnist  <b>Inga Vinogradnaitė</b> – Lithuanian political scientist, associate professor at Vilnius University  <b>Rūta Žiliukaitė</b> - Lithuanian sociologist, associate professor at Vilnius University</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator:</p> <p><b>Mindaugas Jurkynas</b> - Lithuanian political scientist, professor at Vytautas Magnus University</p>
11.00-11:30	Coffee break
	<p style="text-align: center;">Open talk</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Building social trust under growing diversity</b></p> <p>Despite the tangible achievements of the open society based on the principles of equality of opportunities and freedom of movement, tensions remain. Political extremism is rising across the Western world, and the refugee crisis has eventually appeared to be a direct challenge to Europe and its unity. What tools should we employ to prevent worst manifestation of xenophobia in an increasingly diverse society?</p>
11.30-13.00	<p style="text-align: center;">Speakers:</p> <p><b>Sigrídur Thorgeirsdóttir</b> – professor of Philosophy at the University of Iceland  <b>Jakub Godzimirski</b> – professor at Norwegian Institute for International Affairs  <b>Maria Bäck</b> – Finnish political scientist, lecturer at School of Management at Tampere University  <b>Irmina Matonytė</b> – Lithuanian political scientist, professor at University of Management and Economics, ISM  <b>Nerijus Maliukevičius</b> - Lithuanian political scientist, lecturer at Vilnius University</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator:</p> <p><b>Kešutis Girnius</b> - Lithuanian political scientist, associate professor at Vilnius University</p>

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