



MYKOLO ROMERIO
UNIVERSITETAS



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA



LITHUANIAN
DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

THE DILEMMA OF BELARUSIAN CONSTITUTIONAL IDENTITY

Mykolas Romeris University, LAB building
Didlaukio str. 55, Auditorium L-102

11 OCTOBER 2021, VILNIUS

9.30 – 10.00 **Registration, welcome coffee**

10:00 – 10:15 **Welcome speeches**

Prof. Dr. Inga Žalėnienė, *Rector of Mykolas Romeris University*
Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, *Leader of the Belarusian civic society*
Dr. Mantas Adomėnas, *Vice-minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Lithuania*
Andrius Kubilius, *Member of the European Parliament*

10:15 – 11:00 **Keynote speeches**

The “Unknown” Constitution of Belarus of 11 October 1918 and the beginning of the constitutional process

Mihail Pliska, *Law historian, politologist*

The transformation of Belarusian identity after the collapse of the Soviet Union. A Look from the Side

Prof. Dr. Hab. Alvydas Nikžentaitis, *Head of the Lithuanian Institute of History and President of Lithuanian National Committee of Historians*

The Concept of Constitutional Identity and its Expression in the Constitution

Prof. Dr. Toma Birmontienė, *Professor at Law School of Mykolas Romeris University, former justice of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Lithuania*

Language as an Element of National and Constitutional Identity

Alexandru Tănase, *Former President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova*

11:00 – 11:15 **Coffee Break**

11:15 – 12:00 **Belarusian National Identity: Which Part of Europe Does Belarus Identify Itself With?**

The Position of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania within the Belarusian identity
Hienadz Sahanovič, *Belarusian historian*

Nationwide discussion of the USSR Constitution of 1936: from mobilization strategies to mass repression

Prof. Dr. Iryna Ramanava, *Professor of the Academic Department of Humanities and Arts, Coordinator of the Center for Belarus and Regional Studies, European Humanities University*

The Peculiarities of Lukashenko's history policy

Prof. Dr. Hab. Wojciech Śleszyński, *Director of the Sybir Memorial Museum, Head of the Department of Eastern Studies at the University of Białystok*

- The concept of the Belarus nation
- The main historical factors for the development of the Belarus nation
- Language as one of key factors of development of the Belarus nation: should the people of Belarus speak one Language? If so, which one?
- What impact does the language factor (the acknowledgment of two official languages, the general use of the Russian/Belarusian language) have on the development of the state?

12:00 – 13:15 **Belarusian Constitutional Identity: Between Heritage of Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Belarusian People's Republic and Belarusian SSR**

Anatoliy Lebedka, *Initiator of the "People's Constitution" (2020–2021), Representative for the Constitutional Reform, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya Office*

Lev Margolin, *Coordinator of the group on the Belarusian Constitution*

Valery Zhurakovsky, *Member of the working group on Constitutional Reform*

Prof. Dr. Alexander Vashkevich, *Professor of the Academic Department of Social Sciences, European Humanities University, former judge of the Constitutional Court of Belarus*

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Liudmila Ulyashyna, *Associate professor of the Academic Department of Social Sciences, Coordinator of the Center for Constitutionalism and Human Rights, European Humanities University*

Elena Jeskova, *Lawyer of the Belarusian Congress of Democratic Trade Unions*

- Significance of the Lithuanian Statutes of the XVIth century
- Is the Constitution of 3rd May 1791 relevant to the constitutional legacy and identity in Belarus? Should it somehow be reflected in further constitutional developments?
- Founding acts of the Belarus People's Republic vs. the constitutions of the Belarus SSR
- The Constitution of the New Belarus vs. "constitutional amendments" of the regime: *europisation vs. euroasiation?*

13:15 – 13.30 **Closing remarks**

Moderators of the event:

Prof. Dr. Dainius Žalimas, *Professor at Law School of Mykolas Romeris University, Director of the Law and Democracy Center/Justice Hub for Belarus, former President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Lithuania*

Prof. Dr. Hab. Alvydas Nikžentaitis, *Head of the Lithuanian Institute of History, President of Lithuanian National Historians Committee*

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