



MYKOLO ROMERIO  
UNIVERSITETAS



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA



LITHUANIAN  
DEVELOPMENT  
COOPERATION

I N T E R N A T I O N A L C O N F E R E N C E

# 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: *europeisation* 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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