



VYTAUTO
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Lietuvos
universitetui
1922–2022

EHU
European Humanities
University



Constitutionalism in Europe: Current Challenges and Prospects for the Future

25 November 2022, 09:30 – 18:00 EET

VMU Small Hall (S. Daukanto g. 28, Kaunas) and online (Zoom)

AGENDA

Event Date & Location

25 November 2022, 09:30 – 18:00 EET, VMU Small Hall (S. Daukanto g. 28, Kaunas) and online (Zoom)

Context

Vytautas Magnus University, in collaboration with International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) and the Academic Department of Social Sciences of the European Humanities University, is organising the International Scientific Conference titled *Constitutionalism in Europe: Current Challenges and Prospects for the Future*.

The conference will mark three significant occasions: the 30th anniversary of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, adopted on the 25th of October 1992, the 100th anniversary of the 1922 Constitution of the State of Lithuania, as well as the 100th anniversary of the University of Lithuania – the predecessor of Vytautas Magnus University.

The conference seeks to bring together leading researchers and practitioners to discuss the contemporary challenges to the European constitutional order, and the concepts and values of constitutionalism and assess national and supranational responses to these challenges. In doing so, the conference aims to contribute to identifying approaches for the prevention of the erosion of constitutionalism and securing its future in Europe and globally.

Over the past years, countries in Europe and worldwide have faced new and diverse political, social, economic, and legal challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic, terrorism, migration, populism, illiberal democracy, authoritarianism, hybrid war, and other challenges continue to affect constitutionalism and the commitments to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. To cope with current and future challenges, a review of comparative experiences at national levels is critically important for the development of a thorough understanding of the threats faced by constitutionalism, avoid constitutional backsliding and, instead, help ensure the expansion of the ideas and practices which sustain constitutionalism.

The topic of the conference will be addressed in three sessions by prominent speakers who are professors of constitutionalism and constitutional law, former constitutional justices, and practitioners. The first session will be dedicated to challenges that countries across Europe and worldwide have faced recently, and the relevant legal and institutional responses to them. The second session will focus on the opportunities and strategies for countering the erosion of democratic constitutionalism and fostering its future resilience in countries where democracies have undergone democratic backsliding. The third session will cover insights into the future of constitutionalism in Europe and worldwide. As a result, the conference will provide a unique opportunity to assess the state of constitutionalism in Europe and share a common vision for its future.

PROGRAMME

25 NOVEMBER 2022

09:30–10:00 (Kaunas)	Registration of the Participants
08:30–09:00 (Brussels)	Welcome coffee
10:00–10:30 (Kaunas)	Opening Session
09:00–09:30 (Brussels)	<p>Ms. Ewelina Dobrowolska, <i>Minister of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania</i></p> <p>Dr. Juozas Augutis, <i>Rector, Vytautas Magnus University (Lithuania)</i></p> <p>Dr. Massimo Tommasoli, <i>Director of Global Programmes and Permanent Observer for International IDEA to the United Nations, International IDEA</i></p> <p>Dr. Sergei Ignatov, <i>Rector, European Humanities University (Lithuania)</i></p>

Session I – Contemporary challenges to constitutionalism

10:30–11:30 (Kaunas)	<p>Key Speakers:</p> <p>Dr. Hanna Suchocka, <i>Professor at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Honorary President of the “European Commission for Democracy through Law” (Venice Commission), Former Prime Minister and Minister of Justice of Poland - in person</i></p> <p>Dr. Cesare Pinelli, <i>Full Professor of Constitutional Law and of Public Law and Director of the Doctorate in Public Law, University of Rome Sapienza (Italy), Member of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) - in person</i></p> <p>Dr. Wen-Chen Chang, <i>Distinguished Professor, National Taiwan University College of Law, Joint Appointment Professor, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University School of Law – online</i></p>
09:30–10:30 (Brussels)	
11:30–12:30 (Kaunas)	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <p>Grainne McMorrow, <i>Senior Counsel, Professor of Law (Adjunct), University of Galway (Ireland), Independent Expert Adviser to the Venice Commission - in person</i></p> <p>Dr. Jānis Pleps, <i>Assistant Professor at the University of Latvia, Judge of the Supreme Court of Latvia - in person</i></p> <p>Dr. Vytautas Sinkevičius, <i>Professor Emeritus at Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania), Former Justice of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Lithuania – in person</i></p> <p>Q&A Session</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Dainius Žalimas, <i>Dean of the Faculty of Law, Professor at Vytautas Magnus University (Lithuania), Member of the Venice Commission, Head of the Law and Democracy Center – in person</i></p>
10:30–11:30 (Brussels)	
12:30–13:30 (Kaunas)	<p>Lunch</p>
11:30–12:30 (Brussels)	

Session II – Current Challenges in Rebuilding Constitutionalism

13:30–14:30 (Kaunas)	<p>Key Speakers:</p> <p>Dr. Adam Bodnar, <i>Professor of Law and Dean of the Law Faculty of the SWPS University in Warsaw, Visiting Professor of the University of Cologne, Senior Fellow of the Democracy Institute of the Central European University in Budapest, Former Ombudsman of the Republic of Poland, Member of Advisory Boards of International IDEA, World Organization Against Torture, Liberties and World Justice Project, Columnist of „Gazeta Wyborcza” daily - online</i></p> <p>Dr. Renáta Uitz, <i>Professor, Department of Legal Studies, Central European University (Vienna), Co-director at Democracy Institute, Central European University (Budapest) - online</i></p> <p>Dr. Joelle Grogan, <i>Senior Researcher (Research Fellow) at UK in a Changing Europe, Research Fellow at the CEU Democracy Institute Budapest, Co-Director of The Good Lobby Profs, and Creator of Sticky Tricky Law - online</i></p>
12:30–13:30 (Brussels)	

<p>14:30–15:30 (Kaunas) 13:30–14:30 (Brussels)</p>	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <p>Dr. Alexander Vashkevich, Professor at the Department of Social Sciences, European Humanities University (Lithuania), Former Justice of the Constitutional Court of Belarus – in person</p> <p>Dr. Saniia Toktogazieva, Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Human Rights programme at the American University of Central Asia in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) – online</p> <p>Dr. Anahit Manasyan, Associate Professor at the Department of Constitutional Law, Yerevan State University (Armenia), Deputy Prosecutor General of the Republic of Armenia - in person</p> <p>Dr. Iurii Barabash, Professor of Constitutional Law, Vice-rector for Scientific-and-Pedagogical Affairs and Strategic Development, Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University (Ukraine), Corresponding Member of the National Academy of Legal Sciences of Ukraine – online</p> <p>Zaza Tavadze, Professor at Grigol Robakidze University (Georgia), Former Judge and President of the Constitutional Court of Georgia – in person</p> <p>Q&A Session</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Lina Strupinskienė, Deputy Director for Studies, Associate Professor at the Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University (Lithuania) – in person</p>
<p>15:30–16:00 (Kaunas) 14:30–15:00 (Brussels)</p>	<p>Coffee Break</p>
<p>Session III – Future of Constitutionalism</p>	
<p>16:00–17:00 (Kaunas) 15:00–16:00 (Brussels)</p>	<p>Key Speakers:</p> <p>Dr. Lauri Mälksoo, Professor of International Law at the University of Tartu (Estonia), Head of the Public Law Department at the Law School, Member of the Venice Commission - in person</p> <p>Dr. Sumit Bisarya, Head of Constitution-Building Programme, International IDEA - online</p> <p>Dr. Yen-Tu Su, Research Professor at Institutum Iurisprudentiae, Academia Sinica (IIAS), Deputy Director of the Center for Empirical Legal Studies at IIAS (Taiwan) - in person</p>
<p>17:00 – 18:00 (Kaunas) 16:00–17:00 (Brussels)</p>	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <p>Dr. Katharina Pabel, Full professor of Public Law and International Law at the University of Economics and Business in Vienna (Austria), Substitute Member of the Venice Commission - in person</p> <p>Dr. Ingrida Danėlienė, Head of Academic Social Sciences Department, Associate Professor at European Humanities University (EHU), Senior Research Fellow at the Faculty of Political Science and Diplomacy of Vytautas Magnus University (Kaunas, Lithuania) – in person</p> <p>Dr. Serhiy Riznyk, Vice-Rector for Research, Teaching and International Cooperation, Professor at Ivan Franko National University of Lviv (Ukraine) – in person</p> <p>Q&A Session</p> <p>Moderator: Prof. Dr. Justinas Žilinskas, Professor at the Institute of International and European Union Law, Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania)</p>
<p>18:00 (Kaunas) 17:00 (Brussels)</p>	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Dr. Dainius Žalimas, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Professor at Vytautas Magnus University (Lithuania), Member of the Venice Commission, Head of the Law and Democracy Center (Lithuania)</p> <p>Dr. Massimo Tommasoli, Director of Global Programmes and Permanent Observer for International IDEA to the United Nations, International IDEA</p> <p>Dr. Ingrida Danėlienė, Head of Academic Social Sciences Department, Associate Professor at European Humanities University (EHU), Senior Research Fellow at the Faculty of Political Science and Diplomacy of Vytautas Magnus University (Kaunas, Lithuania)</p>