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LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS PREZIDENTAS
GITANAS NAUSĖDA



European
Commission

IDEA OF

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2024 04 26
PE
FORUM

Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania

We are living in an era when global challenges like climate change, migration and war in Ukraine are posing new questions and demanding new answers from European leaders and ordinary citizens.

The Idea of Europe Forum is a place where the brightest minds of Europe and the world meet regularly to discuss the most important challenges facing Europe at this moment in history and to look for solutions together. The Forum gathers heads of state, politicians, intellectuals, researchers, and thinkers to exchange ideas, insights and best practices that will shape the European future.

The first Forum took place in November 2022 and brought together the presidents of Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine, Latvia, and Romania, along with intellectuals from all across Europe. The Schuman Declaration, the precursor of the European Union, proclaims: "Europe will not be created at once." Drawing on the idea that the creation of Europe is a continuous task, the Forum will become a regular event to ask what Europe is and what its place and role in the world are.

On the occasion of Lithuania joining the European Union 20 years ago, the three main thematic issues for the next Forum will be the enlargement of European Union and associated challenges, migration, and Europe's global competitiveness in the foreseeable future.

14:15-15:00 | EXPERT PANEL ON THE EU AND ITS POSSIBLE FUTURES (VMU Great Hall)

Introductory speech by VMU Vice-Rector for Communication **Vilma Bijeikienė**

Lars Danielsson, former Permanent Representative of Sweden to the European Union (2016-2023)

Mykola Trofymenko, Rector of Mariupol State University, Ukraine

Gundars Bērziņš, Rector of the University of Latvia

Tomasz Pietrzykowski, Vice-Rector for International and Domestic Cooperation, the University of Silesia Poland

Agnė Kazlauskaitė, Acting Head of the European Commission's Representation in Lithuania

Moderated by Emilija Pundziūtė-Gallois, research fellow, Vytautas Magnus University

15:00-16:00 | PRESIDENTIAL PANEL (VMU Great Hall)

Welcome speech by VMU Rector **Juozas Augutis**

H.E. Gitanas Nausėda, President of the Republic of Lithuania

H.E. Andrzej Duda, President of the Republic of Poland

Moderated by Šarūnas Liekis, Dean of the Faculty of Political Science and Diplomacy, Vytautas Magnus University