5th Northern European Annual Conference

**Trust, Cooperation and Resilience in the Nordic-Baltic Region**

January 18, 2019, Office of Nordic Council of Ministers, Didžioji g. 5 (4th floor)

**Organisers and Contributors:** Vytautas Magnus University, Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Lithuania*,* Embassies of Iceland, Finland, Norway and Sweden in Lithuania

The aim of the fifth annual conference is to convene policy makers and experts from Lithuania and the Nordic states and to discuss the role of trust, resilience and cooperation in building security in the Nordic and Baltic societies. The Baltic and the Nordic states have managed to take into consideration each other’s concerns about the surrounding milieu to great extent. Policies often rely on certain norms, where trust is among the most relevant values. It helps to build cooperation and interactions. What is the role of trust for security and cooperation in broad sense in the ‘New Hanseatic League’? The Nordic and the Baltic countries also play an important role in accomplishing the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Resilience of institutions, societies, media and societal actors also deserve proper evaluation in the face of contemporary geopolitical events.

**The conference is held in English under the Chatham House Rule**

Participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed

8.30-9.00 **Registration/Coffee**

9:00-9.15 **Opening remarks (PLEASE BE AWARE OF THE CHANGE IN OPENING TIME!)**

* Director of Nordic Council of Minister Office in Lithuania, **Helén Nilsson**
* Rector of Vytautas Magnus University, **Juozas Augutis**

9:15-9:30 Keynote address: H.E. **Linas Linkevičius**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lithuania

9.30-12.00 **Panel 1: Opportunities and Challenges for Trust and Cooperation in the Nordic-Baltic area: Political Views**

* Trust as societal gold
* Democracy, rule of law and tolerance
* Far-left and far-right parties
* Trust and Eastern neighbours

Moderator – Dr. **Mindaugas Jurkynas**, Professor, Faculty of Political Science and Diplomacy, Vytautas Magnus University

* **Vytautas Bakas**, Chairperson, National Security and Defence Committee, Lithuanian Parliament
* **Guðjón S. Brjánsson**, 1st Deputy Speaker of the Icelandic Parliament
* **Rasa Juknevičienė**, Deputy Chairperson, National Security and Defence Committee, Lithuanian Parliament
* **Gintautas Paluckas**, Chairperson of Lithuanian Social Democratic Party, Deputy mayor of Vilnius
* **Michael Tetzschner**, First Vice Chair of the standing committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, Norwegian Parliament

12.00-13.00**Lunch** *(for registered participants only)*

13.00-15.30 **Panel 2:  Sustainable development, Institutions and Resilience: Expert View**

* Similarities and differences in Northern Europe
* Institutions and networks of cooperation in the Nordic-Baltic region
* Psychological defence
* Relevance of soft security

Moderator – Dr. **Šarūnas Liekis**, Dean, Faculty of Political Science and Diplomacy, Professor at Vytautas Magnus University

* Dr. **Jakub M. Godzimirski**, Research Professor, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Norway
* Prof. Dr. **Algis Krupavičius**, Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania
* Dr. **Mikko Majander**,MAGMA think tank,Finland
* Dr. **Niklas H. Rossbach**, Senior Researcher, Swedish Defence Research Agency, Sweden

15.30-16.00Coffee and Snacks

***Registration:*** *Please register at* *info@norden.lt* *until 16th of January 2019*