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Ambasada Republicii Lituania
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Asociația Română pentru
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PARTENER



ROMANIA AND LITHUANIA IN THE INTERWAR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS:

BONDS, INTERSECTIONS AND ENCOUNTERS

ROMÂNIA ȘI LITUANIA ÎN RELAȚIILE INTERNAȚIONALE INTERBELICE:

LEGĂTURI, CONFLUENȚE ȘI ÎNTÂLNIRI

PRIMA CONFERINȚĂ INTERNAȚIONALĂ ASUPRA STUDIILOR BALTICE ȘI NORDICE ÎN ROMÂNIA 19-21 MAI 2010

Deschiderea lucrărilor va avea loc la Centrul Internațional de Conferințe al Universității
„Valahia” din Târgoviște, Miercuri, 19 mai 2010

Cu participarea Ambasadorului Extraordinar și Plenipotențiar al Republicii Lituania în România,
E.S. DL Vladimir Jarmolenko

Lucrările vor fi precedate de vernisajul expoziției de lucrări fotografice „Râscrucea / Sankirta”
a artiștilor lituanieni Artūras Skučas și Danielius Sodlika

19 mai 2010, ora 10⁰⁰
Complexul Național Muzeal „Curtea Domnească” Târgoviște
Muzeul de Istorie, Calăa Domnească nr. 189

First International Conference on Nordic and Baltic Studies in Romania:

Romania and Lithuania in the Interwar International Relations: Bonds, Intersections and Encounters

Valahia University of Târgoviste, Romania, May 19-21, 2010

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Practical information

Venue

The exhibition is organized at the Museum of History of the “Royal Court” National Museal Complex of Târgoviște (Calea Domneasca, no. 181).

All sessions take place at the International Centre for Conferences of Valahia University of Târgoviște (Ion Alexandrescu St., No. 39 – see map). Opening session takes place in Auditorium (ground floor). Sessions 1, 2 and 3 are held in the Green Room which is located at the first floor. The roundtable and projects discussion are organized in the White Room located at the first floor.

Conference office opening hours

The Conference office is open for registration and information at the International Centre for Conferences as follows:

Wednesday, 19 May 12.30-18.00

Thursday, 20 May 09.30-16.15

Practical information can be acquired from + 004 0722402020 and e-mail: asociatie@arsbn.ro

Website of the conference: <http://www.arsbn.ro/conferences.htm>

Accommodation

Accommodation is organized at the City Hall Guests House (Calea Câmpulung St.), Hotel Tolea (Liniștii St.) and Hotel Dâmbovița (Libertății Ave., No. 1), all situated close to the city center and between 10 to 15 minutes to the Museum of History and the International Centre for Conferences.

Lunch, dinner and refreshments

The lunch and dinner are organized for the participants at Restaurant Hotel Tolea (Liniștii St.), Restaurant “Casa Domnească” (Arsenalului St., No. 2 – at the crossroads Ion Alexandrescu St. and Mircea cel Bătrân Ave.) and Terrace Restaurant Hotel Valahia (Libertății Ave., No. 7).

Coffee will be served during breaks. A refreshments room is located at the ground floor of the International Centre for Conferences.

Shopping

Supermarkets are normally situated in the city centre. We recommend you Supermarket Kaufland (open 7.30 AM to 10 PM) situated on Locotenent. Stancu Ion, No. 2C.

Emergencies

Pharmacies are normally open from 9 AM to 5 PM, but some pharmacies are open during nighttime as well. There are quite many pharmacies in the city center on the Mircea cel Bătrân Ave., Independenței Ave.

More information can be acquired from the hotel and from the organizers.

In case of emergency, please call the organizers at + 004 0722402020 or + 004 0724403094.



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Aims of the Conference:

The seventy years passed from the incorporation of the Baltic States, Eastern Finland and Bessarabia into Soviet Union as a result of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact offers us the occasion to look back into the sea of opportunities and failures of the interwar international relations when hopes of ending all wars were nurtured from the perspectives of small and mid-sized states situated in the Black and Baltic rim areas. The conference envisages, on the one hand, to reassess the Romanian-Lithuanian interwar relations from the perspective of the archival findings and, on the other hand, to draw parallels and to promote critical evaluations and theoretical discussions regarding the attitudes and politics of the two states regarding the main developments in the interwar international relations and compare their perspectives on the interwar international relations.

Themes of the conference:

- Bonds across Borders: Political, diplomatic, cultural, and economic exchanges, contacts and cooperation between Romania and Lithuania;
- Romania and Lithuania in the interwar international relations: perspectives, intersections and encounters (roundtable)

Organizers:

- The Lithuanian Embassy in Bucharest;
- The Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies;
- Valahia University of Târgoviste;
- Vilnius University;
- The Târgoviste City Hall;
- The Prefecture of Dâmbovița County;

Tuesday, 18 May 2010

16.00-19.00: The arrival of the participants;

19.00-20.00: Dinner offered by the City Hall of Târgoviște;

Wednesday, 19 May 2010

10.00-12.00: The opening ceremony of the photo exhibition of artist and architect Artūras Antanas Skučas and Danielius Sodlika;

The Exhibition Hall of the “Royal Court” National Museal Complex of Târgoviște;

Official greetings and salutes:

Chair: Dr. Ovidiu Cârstina, The Director of the “Royal Court” National Museal Complex of Târgoviște;

- Mr. Iancu Caracota, The Prefect of the Dâmbovița County;
- Mr. Gabriel Boriga, The Mayor of Târgoviște;
- Mr. Vladimir Jarmolenko, The Ambassador of Lithuania to Bucharest;
- Dr. Dumitru Preda, Minister-Counsellor, The Romanian Ministry for Foreign Affairs;

Introduction to the exhibition:

- Mr. Artūras Antanas Skučas, artist;
- Mrs. Tatiana Drăguțan, The Lithuanian Embassy in Bucharest;

Reception organized by the Lithuanian Embassy;

12.00-12.30: Break

12.30-14.15: The registration of the participants;

13.00-14.00: The opening of the First ARSBN Annual Conference: ROMANIA AND LITHUANIA IN THE INTERWAR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: BONDS, INTERSECTIONS AND ENCOUNTERS

The Auditorium of the International Centre for Conferences, Valahia University of Târgoviște

Speakers:

Chair: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Silviu Miloiu, The President of the Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies;

- Professor Dr. Ion Cucui, The Rector of Valahia University of Târgoviște;
- Mr. Iancu Caracota, The Prefect of the Dâmbovița County;
- Mr. Gabriel Boriga, The Mayor of Târgoviște;
- Mr. Vladimir Jarmolenko, The Ambassador of Lithuania to Bucharest;
- Dumitru Preda, Minister-Counsellor, The Romanian Ministry for Foreign Affairs;
- Assoc. Prof. Dr.Doc. Saulius Kaubrys, Vilnius University;

14.00-14.15: The signing by Mr. Vladimir Jarmolenko, The Ambassador of Lithuania to Bucharest, and Professor Dr. Ion Cucui, The Rector of Valahia University of Târgoviște, of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Embassy of Lithuania and the Valahia University;

14.15-14.30: Coffee Break

The Reception Hall of the International Centre for Conferences

14.30-16.00: Session 1

The Green Room of the International Centre for Conferences

BONDS ACROSS BORDERS: THE POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN INTERWAR ROMANIA AND LITHUANIA

Chair: Ramojus Kraujelis, *The Lithuanian National Archives*;

- Florin Anghel, *“Ovidius” University of Constanța*:
 - ***Forging a Lithuanian view in Bucharest: about a puzzled divorce (1918-1926)***
- Dalia Bukelevičiūtė, *Vilnius University*:
 - ***The political and diplomatic relations between Lithuania and Romania between 1935-1940***
- Silviu Miloiu, *Valahia University of Târgoviste*:
 - ***Nicolae Titulescu’s new Eastern Policy and the upgrading of Romania’s diplomatic and political ties with Lithuania***

16.00-16.15: Coffee Break

16.15-18.00: Session 2

The Green Room of the International Centre for Conferences

ROMANIA AND LITHUANIA: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ENCOUNTERS AND PARALLELS

Chair: Bogdan Schipor, „A.D. Xenopol” Institute of the Romanian Academy in Iași;

■ Saulius Kaubrys, *Vilnius University*:

- ***Ethnic minorities in Lithuania and Romania: in search of parallels (1918-1940)***

■ Elena Dragomir, *University of Helsinki*:

- ***Development characteristics of interwar European periphery: the cases of Romania and Lithuania***

■ Nerijus Babinskas, *Vilnius University*:

- ***Henri H. Stahl's conception of historical sociology and the Bucharest school of sociology***

19.00-21.00: Conference Dinner offered by the Prefecture of the Dâmbovița County;

Thursday, 20 May 2010

09.00-10.00: The registration of the participants;

09.30-11.15: Session 3

The Green Room of the International Centre for Conferences

ROMANIA AND LITHUANIA: INTERWAR AND WORLD WAR II PERCEPTIONS AND SIMILARITIES

Chair: Dalia Bukelevičiūtė, *Vilnius University*;

■ Bogdan Schipor, „A.D. Xenopol” Institute of the Romanian Academy in Iași:

- ***The Polish-Lithuanian Crisis of March 1938. Some Romanian and Western Reactions***

■ Ioana Cazacu, "Al.I. Cuza" University of Iași:

- ***The Second Corps of Romanian Volunteers in Russia***

■ Ramojus Kraujelis, *The Lithuanian National Archives*:

- ***The Status and the Future of Baltic States and Romania in the Strategy of Western Allies in the Early Years of The Second World War: A Comparative View***

11.15-11.30: Coffee Break

The Reception Hall of the International Centre for Conferences

11.30-13.15: Roundtable

ROMANIA AND LITHUANIA IN THE INTERWAR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: PERSPECTIVES, INTERSECTIONS AND ENCOUNTERS

Chairs: Florin Anghel, *“Ovidius” University of Constanța* and Alexandru Ghișă, *The Romanian Ministry for Foreign Affairs*;

Registered Participants:

- Mioara Anton, *“Nicolae Iorga” Institute of History of the Romanian Academy*;
- Nerijus Babinskas, *Vilnius University*;
- Alexandru Botez, *The Romanian Ministry for Foreign Affairs*;
- Dalia Bukelevičiūtė, *Vilnius University*;
- Ioana Cazacu, *“Al. I. Cuza” University of Iași*;
- Elena Dragomir, *University of Helsinki*;
- Raluca Glăvan, *Mykolas Romeris University of Vilnius*;
- Roxana Ioniță, *The Romanian Parliament*;
- Saulius Kaubrys, *Vilnius University*;
- Ramojus Kraujelis, *The Lithuanian National Archives*;
- Oana Popescu, *The Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies*;
- Silviu Miloiu, *The Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies*;
- Cosmin Popa, *“Nicolae Iorga” Institute of History of the Romanian Academy*;
- Dumitru Preda, *The Romanian Ministry for Foreign Affairs*;
- Bogdan Schipor, *„A.D. Xenopol” Institute of the Romanian Academy in Iași*;
- Artūras Antanas Skučas, *Lithuania*;

**13.30-14.30: Conference Lunch offered by Valahia University of
Târgoviște;**

14.45-15.30: Projects discussion

**BONDS, ENCOUNTERS, NETWORKS AND PARALLELS BETWEEN THE
BALTIC AND THE BLACK SEA RIM REGIONS DURING THE
NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURIES (within Seventh
Framework Program of the European Union);**

**ROMANIAN-LITHUANIAN RELATIONS: DIPLOMATIC DOCUMENTS
(1920-1947)**

Registered Participants:

- Florin Anghel, *“Ovidius” University of Constanța*;
- Mioara Anton, *“Nicolae Iorga” Institute of History of the Romanian Academy*;
- Nerijus Babinskas, *Vilnius University*;
- Dalia Bukelevičiūtė, *Vilnius University*;
- Ioana Cazacu, *“Al. I. Cuza” University of Iasi*;
- Elena Dragomir, *University of Helsinki*;
- Raluca Glăvan, *Mykolas Romeris University of Vilnius*;
- Roxana Ioniță, *The Romanian Parliament*;
- Saulius Kaubrys, *Vilnius University*;
- Ramojus Kraujelis, *The Lithuanian National Archives*;
- Oana Popescu, *The Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies*;
- Silviu Miloiu, *The Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies*;
- Cosmin Popa, *“Nicolae Iorga” Institute of History of the Romanian Academy*;
- Dumitru Preda, *The Romanian Ministry for Foreign Affairs*;
- Bogdan Schipor, *„A.D. Xenopol” Institute of the Romanian Academy in Iași*;

15.30-15.45: Coffee Break

The Reception Hall of the International Centre for Conferences

15.45-16.15: Closing Session

The Aula of the International Centre for Conferences, Valahia University of Târgoviște

Chair: Oana Popescu, The Secretary of the Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies;

Speakers:

- Alexandru Ghișa, *The Romanian Ministry for Foreign Affairs*;
- Nerijus Babinskas, *Vilnius University*;
- Silviu Miloiu, *The President of the Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies*;

16.30-18.00: Visit of the medieval city of Târgoviște (a former capital of Valahia for a few centuries) and its surroundings;

18.30-21.00: Conference Dinner offered by Valahia University of Târgoviște;

Friday, 21 May 2010

09.00-19.30: Visit of the participants to Sinaia (The Peleş Castle and the “George Enescu” Museum), Braşov (Visit of the Old Town) and Bran (The Bran Castle) and return to Târgovişte;

Offered by the City Hall of Târgovişte;

13.00-14.00: Conference Lunch by the City Hall of Târgovişte;

20.00-21.00: Conference Dinner offered by the City Hall of Târgovişte;

Organizing Committee:

■ Vladimir Jarmolenko, <i>The Lithuanian Embassy to Bucharest;</i>
○ Honorary Chair of the Organizing Committee;
■ Silviu Miloiu, <i>The Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies:</i>
○ Chair of the Organizing Committee;
■ Zenonas Butkus, <i>Vilnius University;</i>
○ Honorary Member of the Organizing Committee;
■ Elena Dragomir, <i>University of Helsinki:</i>
○ Member of the Organizing Committee;
■ Oana Popescu, <i>The Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies;</i>
○ Member of the Organizing Committee;
■ Nerijus Babinskas, <i>Vilnius University:</i>
○ Member of the Organizing Committee;
■ Contact: asociatie@arsbn.ro, silviu.miloiu@arsbn.ro;

The webpage of the conference: <http://www.arsbn.ro/conferences.htm>

Papers abstracts

1. Paper title: *Forging a Lithuanian view in Bucharest: about a puzzled divorce (1918-1926)*
Presenter: Florin Anghel, "Ovidius" University of Helsinki and the Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies

Summary:

Romania and Lithuania in 1918- 1929, between the Acts of Union and, respectively, of Independence, had no strategic interests or common regional politics. Bucharest diplomacy insistently asked Warsaw to debate its Baltic policy and, at the end, Romanian- Polish anti-Soviet alliance became one of the most important piece of so- called "*cordon sanitaire*" geopolitics, which included Baltic and Black Seas regions countries, but no Lithuania. Both states settled in a very interesting, but also cold, relations: no contacts and no recognition (until August 1924) because regional politics but contrary to common interests. Diplomatic relations, officially opened in August 1924, had no impact in a common sense of a normal evolution. The Kaunas *coup d'état* of December 1926 had no political and media impacts in Bucharest and, in rarely definitions of Antanas Smetona new nationalist régime, most of Romanians condemned it (contrary with the impact of same *coup d'état* of Warsaw in May 1926). Just in the last half of the '30's, between Bucharest and Kaunas it seems more comfortable situation in bilateral relations, as impact of fortunate decision of Nicolae Titulescu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, in 1934, to create a Romanian Legation situated in Lithuanian capital.

2. Paper title: *Henri H. Stahl's conception of historical sociology and the Bucharest school of sociology*

Presenter: Nerijus Babinskas, University of Vilnius

Summary:

The Romanian school of sociology founded by Dimitrie Gusti had various and considerable consequences not only for academic but also for the social and political life of Romania especially at the interwar period. Since within limits of the current paper I am going to focus exceptionally on the academic aspects I can add that from this point of view consequences were even more long-termed. In this context the Bucharest school of sociology could be treated as a favorable medium of formulating and elaborating theoretic ideas: it became a cradle for at least two prominent theoreticians (Henri H. Stahl, Traian Herseni) whose conceptions are worth of attention not only for sociologists but for at least theoretically minded historians too. We should keep in our mind that according to the methodologic attitudes of the Bucharest school field researches were highly encouraged. It means that any generalisations, theoretic suggestions or entire conceptions produced by the followers of Gusti were well-based by empirical data. This statement fits very well towards the theoretic conception of Stahl. The Romanian sociologist started to elaborate his conception of tributalism in 1960s. Exactly at this period the international discussion about so called *Asiatic mode of production* was revived so Stahl's theoretic ideas was well-timed. Stahl was not the only Romanian scholar who got involved in the discussion (there were at least several more: Ion Banu, Iosif Natansohn, Natalia Simion). The main advantage of Stahl's contribution was that his conception was more original: according to him, tributalism should be treated as something different from Oriental despotism although there were some evident similarities between them. Despite the fact that the majority of Romanian historian community ignored the inovative conception of Stahl there were some attempts in Romania as well as abroad to elaborate (Daniel Chirot) or at least to popularize (Miron Constantinescu, Constantin Daniel) his ideas.

3. Paper title: *The political and diplomatic relations between Lithuania and Romania between 1935-1940*

Presenter: Dalia Bukeleviciute, University of Vilnius, Faculty of History

Summary:

The first contacts between Lithuanian and Romanian representatives began after the World War I, when Lithuania was looking for the protection of its inhabitants still refugees in Russia. As Russia became entrenched with Bolsheviks, the Lithuanians were evacuated through

Rumanian territory from South Ukraine and Crimea. In November 1919 Lithuania officially applied to Romanian government for transit possibilities and in the autumn of 1920 Rumania's Prime Minister Averescu promised assistance to Lithuanian representative Lisauskas.

Prague was an important center for Lithuanian diplomacy in the development of the relations between Lithuania and Romania during the interwar period. Lithuania and Czechoslovakia established diplomatic relations in December 1919. In March 1920 Donatas Malinauskas was appointed Charge d'Affaires, and the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs directed him to seek for Romanian *de jure* recognition of Lithuania. The Lithuanian government was interested in setting up warm contacts with Romania because this country was a member of Little Entente. The Lithuanian government was interested in Romanian relations with Poland as well, as far as Lithuanian-Poland conflict was the most important question in Lithuanian foreign policy. Unfortunately, D. Malinauskas didn't advance in making contacts with Romanian representatives and didn't strive to mediate foreign policy questions between Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Romania. Lithuania has shown much more interest in Romanian policy after Dovas Zaunius was appointed as an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Czechoslovakia in 1923.

Romania recognized Lithuanian *de jure* and *de facto* on August 21st, 1924, when diplomatic relations between two states were established as well. In August 1924 D. Zaunius visited Bucharest and in November was appointed to the position of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary with his residence in Prague (till 11 February 1925). Romania expressed its intention to establish a position of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary for Lithuania in Warsaw residence, but Lithuania did not agree (same as in 1927).

Throughout the period 1925-1935 political or diplomatic contacts between Lithuania and Romania did not exist. The Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs was interested in appointing an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Romania in 1933, but real steps to this end were made only in 1935 in different European circumstances marked by the growing influence of Germany, Soviet Union and Little Entente on the international arena. On August 27th, 1935 Edvardas Turauskas was appointed as an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Romania residing in Prague (until the Soviet occupation of Lithuania). E. Turauskas visited Bucharest, met the King of Romania, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, diplomats, and was required to visit Bucharest every year. At the end of 1935 Romania appointed Valimarescu for the position of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Lithuania residing in Riga. In March 1939, after Prague was occupied by Nazi Germany, E. Turauskas returned to Lithuania, but still held his position of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Bucharest. In Lithuania he established contacts with Romanian diplomats. During the year of 1940, Lithuanian representatives entered into contacts with Romanian representatives in Bern, Paris, London and other capital cities.

On July 21, 1940 Lithuania was occupied by Soviet Union and Lithuanian envoys as well as other representatives decided to present notes of protest against the illegal act of occupation. E. Turauskas moved to Bern on July 4th, 1940 and on July 25th he officially visited Romania's legation and presented a note of protest in this respect. It was the last contact with Romania's representatives for E. Turauskas as an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Romania. Romania did not acknowledge Lithuanian occupation and annexation.

5. Paper title: *The Second Corps of Romanian Volunteers in Russia*

Presenter: Ioana Cazacu, "Al.I. Cuza" University of Iași

Summary:

The situation of Romanian POWs has aggravated with the Bolshevik assuming of power. Following the Kiev occupation by Bolsheviks, the First Romanian Volunteers Corps has been disbanded and a great number of POWs has remained on Russian territory with little possibilities to return to their native land. In these circumstances, the Romanians volunteers have decided to depart for Moscow from where they hoped to leave for their country with the Romanian consul's support. However, the German authorities have refused to allow their crossing through the Ukraine and the volunteers had to cope with their staying in Russia. They set up a body of all officers in order to represent the Romanian cause both in Russia and in France: the Second Corps of Romanian Volunteers in Russia. This occasioned them to encounter

other political-military forces acting in the Russian chaotic situation, a Lithuanian army corps included. The Romanians will continue their odyssey on their attempt to get evacuated through Vladivostok, they successfully fought the Bolsheviks and finally return to Romania. This paper elaborates with the fate of the Second Corps of Romanian Volunteers in Russia and their encounters with their Lithuanian, other Baltic and Czechoslovak fellows.

5. Paper title: *Development characteristics of interwar European periphery: the cases of Romania and Lithuania*

Presenter: Elena Dragomir, University of Helsinki, Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Social Science History

Summary:

The history of the interwar Europe emphasizes either the social, economic, political or ethnic conflicts that lead to the devastations of the war and to Europe's post-war dividing, or the numerous positive elements of the period: social reforms, democratization, women and workers' rights, expansion of leisure time, scientific innovation or cultural development. Despite important progresses, Romania and Lithuania continued to face deep social and economic problems during the interwar period, and consequently, have been placed by some scholars within interwar 'Europe's third world'. ¹[1] This paper presents a concise comparison of the social, economic, and cultural developments in interwar Romania and Lithuania, and concludes that, despite their shortcomings, compared with the previous period, the progresses are nevertheless spectacular.

6. Paper title: *Ethnic minorities in Lithuania and Romania: in search of parallels (1918-1940)*

Presenter: Saulius Kaubrys, University of Vilnius

Summary:

The two countries came to post-Versailles Europe with a different experience of statehood (Romania had already existed as a sovereign state before the First World War, whereas Lithuania declared independence only in 1918) and with very different territorial and demographic sizes (for example, Romania was the second largest state in Eastern Europe, whilst Lithuania still belonged to the group of small countries). They also differed in terms of the prevailing proportions of the majority of population and ethnic minorities (the Romanians constituted two thirds of the population and the ethnic groups accounted for one third of the population in Romania, whereas in Lithuania the Lithuanians accounted for 82-84% and non-Lithuanians constituted 16-18%). It is a paradox that before the First World War ethnic minorities had accounted for as little as 3% in Romania, that is, their problems emerged only during the inter-war period, while in Lithuania the Lithuanians formed the vast majority with political rights. During the inter-war period the development of ethnic minorities in Romania, unlike that in Lithuania, was influenced to a great degree by regional differences. The factor of regional differences in Lithuania was minimal because there was only one larger region – Klaipeda region. It is assumed that the governments of both countries, having taken on international commitments on the protection of the rights of ethnic minorities (Romania - in 1919, Lithuania - in 1922), faced different conditions of their application that determined different practice in fulfilling these commitments. For example, the essential difference in the case of the development of the Jewish communities in both countries was an experiment of the Jewish national autonomy in Lithuania in 1920-1925. The Lithuanian Jews, unlike those in Romania, tried to achieve victory in the parliamentary elections with the help of national lists (they did not co-operate with other parties). Manifestations of anti-Semitism were relatively weak in Lithuania, though there were also some similar signs (for example, the anti-Semitic attitude of students). The German minority played a more important role in the development of ideology in Romania in the fourth decade, whereas in Lithuania it was more successfully in Klaipeda region, while in Lithuania Major its influence was much less significant. The German minority was regarded as a relatively loyal minority in Lithuania. The origin of complaints of

ethnic minorities that reached the League of Nations (about 200 from Romania and 34 from Lithuania) was quite similar.

7. Paper title: The Status and the Future of Baltic States and Romania in the Strategy of Western Allies in the Early Years of The Second World War: A Comparative View
Presenter: (Assoc. Prof. Dr.) Ramojus Kraujelis, Faculty of History, Department Of Modern History, Vilnius University
E-mail: Ramojus.Kraujelis@if.vu.lt

Summary:

The fate of Lithuania and Romania, as well as future of whole Central and Eastern European region was determined in the years of the Second World War by the traditional power balance and geopolitical arguments. The common origin on the tragic and painful history was The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact – secret deal between Soviet Union and Nazi Germany, which ended interwar peace period and proceeded to divide Central and Eastern Europe between two totalitarian regimes. In June 1940 the three Baltic States as well as Eastern and Northern Romania were directly occupied and annexed by the Soviet Union.

The main objective of this paper is to analyze the attitudes of the United States and Great Britain - those Western powers that represented point of view of Western democracy and discussed the postwar future, identify and compare aspects related to annexation of the Baltic states and territory Romania. During the early years of the Second World War (1940-1942) there were few interesting international discussions about possible postwar arrangement plans. It must be mentioned that the future of Baltic States and Romania were seen and discussed in the same common scenario. Analysis of the Western attitude would enable to give answers to certain questions: What could have been done by the Western states for the benefit of the Central and East European region; what have they, in fact, done and what did they avoid doing?

The year 1943 witnessed the consolidation of the Western attitude with regard Soviet Union's western borders, which resulted in the following clear and express fundamental attitude: the Soviet Union did not intend to retract its interests in Baltic States, Eastern Poland, North Bukovina and Bessarabia while the West did not intend to fight for these territories. Considering that in the Teheran conference (1943) Western states accorded turn of the Baltic states to Soviet interest sphere, the United States and Britain entered the Yalta conference (1945) with no illusions to the fate of Central and East Europe in general.

8. Paper title: *Nicolae Titulescu's new Eastern Policy and the upgrading of Romania's diplomatic ties with Lithuania*

Presenter: Silviu Miloiu, Valahia University of Târgoviste, Faculty of Humanities, Department of History and Literature and The Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies

Summary:

In 1933 Nicolae Titulescu, widely regarded as the main driving force behind Romania's decisions in the field of foreign affairs for a decade and a half, started to ponder about the idea of opening a diplomatic representation of Romania in Kaunas. Reasons such as the necessity of advancing Romania and the Little Entente's interests in the area, the usefulness of gaining access to information about Soviet Union circulating in the area and the importance of the geopolitical location of Lithuania at the intersection of Soviet, German and Polish interests were offered by the Romanian envoy to Riga to convince Titulescu. Yet, only in late 1935 and early 1936 was the decision being implemented and Constantin Vallimarescu was appointed to represent his country in Lithuania's temporary capital. This paper analysis these new evolutions in the Romanian-Lithuanian relations and the reasons behind them and also approaches the diplomatic relations between the two countries in the second half of the 1930s.

9. Paper title: *The Polish-Lithuanian Crisis of March 1938: Some Romanian and Western Reactions*

Presenter: Bogdan Schipor, "A.D. Xenopol" Institute of the Romanian Academy

Summary:

In March 1938, when the eyes of the entire Europe were trained on the events in Austria that culminated with the *Anschluss*, there was another conflict on the European continent that bothered the Western powers, and not only. On March 17, 1938 the Polish minister at Tallin handed to the Lithuanian minister in the capital of Estonia a notification through which Warsaw asked Lithuania to establish immediate diplomatic relations without prior conditions. The Polish government considered this the only way to solve the problems related to the border between the two states without jeopardizing the peace. Lithuania had 48 hours after the delivery of the notification to accept the proposal without any debate or negotiation. Its rejection would have given Warsaw the right to ensure its objectives and interests by any means it deemed necessary. Great Britain and France reacted cautiously to this new crisis, hoping for a peaceful solution, in order to avoid the involvement of the League of Nations or the escalation of the events towards an open conflict between the two states. In its turn, Romania, as an ally of Poland, refrained from a possible involvement or condemnation of Warsaw's actions, a fact for which the Polish diplomats expressed their gratitude. But even if Lithuania conceded and the crisis died out, the Western countries, as well as Romania, had certain anxieties raised by the Polish-Lithuanian crisis which were to come true a year later. Poland's actions in March 1938 had created a precedent that other powers did not hesitate to follow and the country that, in the end, would lose everything was Poland itself.

Project abstract:

Call selected : ERC-2010-AdG_20100407

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Title: Bonds, encounters, networks and parallels between the Baltic and the Black Sea rim regions during the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

Acronym: Baltic&Nordic

Review Panel(s): SH6: The study of the human past

Abstract: The aim of this research is to investigate the encounters between the Baltic and the Black Sea region societies during the past two centuries. The goal is to unearth the complexity of these bonds not only at state level, but also the encounters and networks which are beyond or besides the state relations and are presumably not only richer, but more interesting and challenging for a researcher as well. Additionally, the parallels between the two regions will be also assessed as two buffer regions situated in-between the great empires or great powers of modernity.

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