



VILNIUS DEMOCRACY FORUM

*September 14 -15, 2015
Vilnius, Lithuania*

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS



H.E. DALIA GRYBAUSKAITĖ, President of the Republic of Lithuania

Dalia Grybauskaitė has served as the president of Lithuania since July 12, 2009. She has held many prominent posts in the Lithuanian government.

She was the Minister Plenipotentiary at the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, DC from 1996 - 1999. Previously, Grybauskaitė served as Vice Finance Minister from 1999 to 2000, Vice Foreign Minister from 2000 to 2001, and Finance Minister from 2001 to 2004.

In 2004, Grybauskaitė was appointed EU Commissioner responsible for financial programming and budget. In November 2005 she was elected Commissioner of the Year for her efforts to reform the EU budget.

Grybauskaitė studied at Zdanov University, Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) and earned a doctorate in economics from the Moscow Academy of Public Sciences.



ELISABETH BAUER, Representative of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung offices in Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and for Scandinavia, Representative Baltic Sea Region, Germany

Since March 2015, Elisabeth Bauer serves as a representative of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung offices in Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and for Scandinavia, Representative Baltic Sea Region. Prior to this, she was a Head of the Regional Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation in Westfalia, Germany (2010-2014) and in St. Petersburg, Russia (2005-2010).

Before joining the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation in 1993, Bauer worked at the Frankfurter Allianz-Insurance Company and held different teaching and research positions at the University of Cologne, mainly focused on international relations.

Bauer holds Teaching degree for secondary schools, subjects History and Catholic Theology, from the University of Cologne.



CHARLES DAVIDSON, Executive Director of the Kleptocracy Initiative, Hudson Institute, and Publisher & CEO of The American Interest LLC, United States

He co-founded *The American Interest* magazine with Francis Fukuyama in 2005, along with partners Josef Joffe and Walter Russell Mead. Davidson co-founded the think tank “Global Financial Integrity” in 2006 and is its former Board Chair. He also produced the documentary “We’re Not Broke” that premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2010.

Charles Davidson is a graduate of Bowdoin College and Duke University's Fuqua School of Business.



KAREN DAWISHA, Walter E. Havighurst Professor of Political Science, Miami University, United States

Karen Dawisha is a professor in the Department of Political Science at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio and the director of its Havighurst Center for Russian and Post Soviet Studies. She has served as an advisor to the British House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee and as an International Affairs Fellow of the Council on Foreign Relations. Until the summer of 2000 she was a Professor in the Department of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland and had served as the Director of its Center for the Study of Post-Communist Societies. She was a member of the Policy Planning Staff and the Bureau of Political Military Affairs of the U.S. State Department from 1985-1987.

She has extensive overseas experience, living abroad from 1969-1983 in England, 1990-1991 in Egypt, and having done more than two dozen research trips to Russia, Central and Eastern Europe, and Central Asia, as well as with extensive travel to Europe and the Middle East.

Among several major publications, her most recent book is *Putin's Kleptocracy: Who Owns Russia?* (Simon & Schuster, 2014). She graduated with honors in Russian and Political Science from the University of Lancaster in England and received her Ph.D. from the London School of Economics.



JASON DONOVAN, Director, Office of Multilateral and Global Affairs, Bureau of Democracy, Rights and Labor, United States

Jason Donovan became the State Department's Director for Multilateral and Global Affairs in the summer of 2015. A career diplomat, Jason joined the U.S. Foreign Service in 1999, after working in academia and in the private sector.

Jason served his first tours in Guatemala and in Rome. Upon returning to the State Department, he worked with Secretaries Powell and Rice in the Operations Center and in the Executive Secretariat. From 2007 to 2009, Jason coordinated Regional Security Initiatives in Southeast Asia; then was Deputy Economic Chief in New Delhi. Recalled to Washington in 2012, Jason served on the National Security Council as Director for South Asia and then as the State Department's Deputy Director for Western Europe. Jason studied at Haverford College and at MIT; he has received numerous awards for his innovative diplomacy.



JEFFREY GEDMIN, Senior Fellow, Georgetown University, United States, and Senior Fellow, Institute for Strategic Dialogue, United Kingdom

Jeffrey Gedmin is Co-Director of the Transatlantic Renewal Project at the World Affairs Institute and Journal in Washington, DC. He also serves as Chairman of the Global Politics and Security program at Georgetown University, and as Senior Advisor at Blue Star Strategies, LLC. Additionally, he is a Senior Fellow at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service Masters Program and a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Strategic Dialogue in London.

From 2011 to 2014, Gedmin was President and CEO of the London-based Legatum Institute. Prior to joining the Legatum Institute, Gedmin served for four years as President and CEO of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. He also served as President and CEO of the Aspen Institute in Berlin. He was previously a Resident Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C and Executive Director of the New Atlantic Initiative.

He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the National Endowment for Democracy's Research Council, the Board of Directors for the journal Turkish Policy Quarterly, and a member of the editorial board of the World Affairs Journal. In addition, he is a board member at the Institute for State Effectiveness and the Berkley Center for Entrepreneurship and Development, University of California. He has been an Honorary Professor at the University of Konstanz in Germany and currently serves on the board of the Masters Program of Georgetown University's Foreign Service School.



ANA MARIA GOMES, Member of the European Parliament, Portugal

Ana Maria Gomes has served as a career diplomat since 1980, serving in the Portuguese Missions at the UN in New York and Geneva, and also in the Embassies in Tokyo and London. Between 1999 and 2003, she was Head of Mission and Ambassador in Jakarta, where she played an important role both in the process leading up to the independence of East Timor and in the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Portugal and Indonesia.

Gomes is a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) since 2004, elected as member of the European Socialist Party.

In the European Parliament, her main areas of activity are: human rights, security and defence, international relations, gender issues, and development.



ANDREI ILLARIONOV, Senior Fellow, Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity, Cato Institute, United States

Andrei Illarionov is a senior fellow at the Cato Institute's Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity. From 2000 to December 2005, he was the chief economic adviser of Russian President Vladimir Putin. Illarionov also served as the president's personal representative in the G-8. He is one of Russia's most forceful and articulate advocates of an open society and democratic capitalism.

From 1993 to 1994, Illarionov served as chief economic adviser to the prime minister of the Russian Federation, Viktor Chernomyrdin. He resigned in February 1994 to protest changes in the government's economic policy. In July 1994, Illarionov founded the Institute of Economic Analysis and became its director.

Andrei Illarionov received his PhD from St. Petersburg University in 1987.



LAURA JEWETT, Regional Director for Eurasia, National Democratic Institute, United States

Laura Jewett is NDI's Regional Director for Eurasia. She joined the Institute in 1994 and served as the Eurasia team's Deputy Director for 10 years. In the region, NDI currently conducts programs to strengthen civil society and support multiparty democracy in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

Laura Jewett has traveled extensively in Eurasia, meeting with political, civic and government leaders to assess political conditions and design democracy assistance programs. Before joining NDI, Laura Jewett served in Washington on the staffs of U.S. Representative Bill Ratchford and U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd, both of Connecticut.

Laura Jewett earned her Ph.D. in Political Science from Columbia University, where her research focused on political party development in post-Soviet Russia.



BENEDIKTAS JUODKA, Member & Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

Member of the Lithuanian Parliament since 2012 (Social Democrats). Juodka is biochemist and a former rector of the University of Vilnius from 2002 to 2012.

Juodka is also a Committee member on European Affairs and Deputy Chair, Seimas Delegation to the Assembly of Members of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, the Sejm and Senate of the Republic of Poland, and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

Juodka holds a wide range of academic titles. He is an Honorary Professor of Lomonosov Moscow State University, Member of the European Academy of Arts, Sciences and Humanities in Paris, Member, European Academy of Sciences and Arts in Salzburg, Austria, and Full Member, Lithuanian Academy of Sciences.

Juodka became a Professor of Biochemistry in 1982 at the Moscow University.



LAURYNAS KASČIŪNAS, Acting Director, Eastern Europe Studies Center

Laurynas Kasčiūnas became Acting Director of EESC in April 2015.

Kasčiūnas was previously Director of the Centre for Eastern Geopolitical Studies from 2008 to 2009 and the Head of Strategic Analysis Division at the Strategic Studies Centre from 2005 to 2007. Kasčiūnas was a head of EESC's Policy Analysis and Research Division. From 2009 to 2012, Kasčiūnas served as Foreign Policy Advisor to the Speaker of Lithuanian Parliament.

In 2012, Kasčiūnas received a PhD for a thesis "Implications of EU Integration for External Europeanization: Case Studies of Ukraine and Russia" from the Institute of International Relations and Political Science at the Vilnius University where he currently lectures.



H.E. TINATIN KHIDASHELI, Minister of Defence of Georgia

Tinatin Khidasheli has served as the Minister of Defence of Georgia since May of 2015. In 2012, Khidasheli was elected to the Parliament of Georgia and became Chair of the Committee on European Integration. From 2005 to 2008, she served as Secretary of International Affairs of the Republican Party of Georgia.

Previously, between 1997 and 2004 she participated in various human rights, legal, and anti-corruption programs in Georgia. In 1995-1997 Khidasheli was director of the First Free Legal Aid Center in Georgia (GYLA).

In 2009, she consulted and co-authored the “August Ruins” report on human rights and humanitarian law violations in 2008 Georgia-Russia August War.

Tinatin Khidasheli received B.A. degree in Journalism and M.A. degree in International Law at Tbilisi State University. In 1996 she graduated from Central European University, M.A. in Political Science. Khidasheli participated in a yearlong Human Rights Advocates Program at Washington College of Law.



NERINGA KLUMBYTĖ, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Walter E. Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies, Miami University

A political and economic anthropologist working in Lithuania, the European Union, and Eurasia more broadly, Klumbytė’s wide interests include everyday life in post-Socialist and post-Colonialist countries, states and nationalism, elections, the anthropology of food, marketing and consumption, ethnographic writing and representations.

Dr. Klumbyte received her Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh.



DAVID J. KRAMER, Senior Director for Human Rights and Democracy, McCain Institute, United States

David J. Kramer is Senior Director for Human Rights and Human Freedoms at the McCain Institute. Kramer was previously President of Freedom House from October of 2010 to November of 2014. Prior to joining Freedom House, Kramer was a Senior Transatlantic Fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

Kramer served as Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor from March 2008 to January 2009. He also was a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, responsible for Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus affairs as well as regional non-proliferation issues.

Previously, he worked as a Professional Staff Member in the Secretary of State’s Office of Policy Planning, as Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs, and served as Executive Director of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy in Washington.

Before joining the U.S. Government, Kramer was a Senior Fellow at the Project for the New American Century, Associate Director of the Russian and Eurasian Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and Assistant Director of Russian and Eurasian Studies at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Kramer was a Lecturer in Russian Studies at Clark University in Worcester, MA and a Teaching

Fellow at Harvard University. He also served as an analyst for the Christian Science Monitor Network during the collapse of the Soviet Union.

A native of Massachusetts, Kramer received his M.A. in Soviet studies from Harvard University and his B.A. in Soviet Studies and Political Science from Tufts University.



GABRIELIUS LANDSBERGIS, Member of the European Parliament, Lithuania

Gabrielius Landsbergis was elected to the European Parliament in 2014. Landsbergis is a member of the Homeland Union-Lithuanian Christian Democrats.

As a professional diplomat, Gabrielius Landsbergis has worked in various positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania since 2002. In 2007, was delegated to the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania to the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. He was Head of the Regions and National Minorities Unit in the Government of the Republic of Lithuania from 2011-2013.

His core interests are strategic cooperation with the United States, regional development, Lithuania's energy and cyber security, knowledge development, and innovation.



MARIUS LAURINAVIČIUS, Fellow-in-Residence, Center for European Policy Analysis & BAF Security Research Fellow, United States & Senior Policy Analyst, Eastern Europe Studies Centre, Lithuania

Before recently joining CEPA in Washington, DC, Marius Laurinavičius lead an investigative research project "Putin's Russia" at the Eastern Europe Studies Centre, Lithuania.

Prior to this, Laurinavičius spent over twenty years as a journalist at the largest Lithuanian media group "Lietuvos Rytas." During that time, he gained a well-deserved reputation as the key foreign affairs expert of the Lithuanian media. The foremost areas of his interest include developments in Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine.

Laurinavičius is an alumnus of the Institute of International Relations and Political Science at Vilnius University.



MARIA LEISSNER, Secretary General, Community of Democracies

Maria Leissner was elected Secretary General in April 2012, as the first Secretary General of the Community of Democracies (CD). In June 2014, she was re-elected to a second term. Previously, she served as Sweden's Ambassador at Large for Democracy, and led the CD Working Group on Governance that proposed the recent reforms of the CD.

Leissner has been Member of Parliament in Sweden from 1985 – 1991, after having led the Swedish Liberal Youth organisation both as Secretary General and as President. In 1995, she was elected leader of the Liberal Party, being the first female leader of her party.

Leissner joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2000 and served as Ambassador to Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Belize, and Costa Rica from 2000 to 2004. From 2006 she has served as Sweden's Ambassador-at-large for democracy.

She has also served internationally as Director for NDI's Governance program in Iraq

from 2004 to 2005 and as Senior Adviser for Human Rights at AMM (EU/ASEAN peace monitoring mission) in Aceh, Indonesia in from 2005 to 2006. She has participated in a large number of election monitoring and other short term democracy related missions with organisations including SIDA, The Scandinavian Institute for African Studies, and NDI.

Leissner is currently chair of the advisory board of the Institute for Contemporary History at the University of Södertörn and serves on the Swedish Government's Commission against Antiziganism.



JOHN LOUGH, Associate Fellow, Russia and Eurasia Programme, Chatham House & Vice President, BGR Gabara Limited, United Kingdom

John Lough is an associate fellow of the Russia and Eurasia programme and vice president with BGR Gabara Ltd, a public affairs and strategic consulting company.

From 2003 to 2008, he worked as international affairs advisor at TNK-BP. Previously, he served as NATO information representative in Moscow and senior lecturer at the Conflict Studies Research Centre at Sandhurst.

John Lough is an expert of Russia's energy diplomacy, politics of the Russian oil and gas sector, Russia's relations with its neighbours, energy security in the Black Sea region and Russia's relations with NATO.



WALTER RUSSELL MEAD, James Clarke Chace Professor of Foreign Affairs and Humanities, Bard College, Professor of American Foreign Policy, Yale University, Editor-at-Large, *The American Interest*, and Distinguished Scholar on American Strategy and Statesmanship, Hudson Institute

From 1997 to 2010, Professor Mead was a fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, serving as the Henry A. Kissinger Senior Fellow for U.S. Foreign Policy from 2003 until his departure.

Walter Mead's chief intellectual interests involve the rise and development of a liberal, capitalist world order based on the economic, social, and military power of the United States and its closest allies.

He is an honours graduate of Groton and Yale, where he received prizes for history, debate, and the translation of New Testament Greek.



STEPHEN B. NIX, Regional Program Director for Eurasia, International Republican Institute, United States

Stephen B. Nix joined IRI after serving for two years as Senior Democracy Specialist at the U.S. Agency for International Development. Nix is a specialist in political party development, and judicial and legal reform in the former Soviet Union.

Nix resided in Kyiv, Ukraine, for more than three years. During that time, he served as outside legal counsel for the Committee on Legal Reform in the Ukrainian Parliament. Nix also served as a member of the Parliamentary Special Committee on the Law on the Election of Deputies in Ukraine. He has lectured in a number of law schools throughout Ukraine on such topics as election law and judicial reform.

Nix received his juris doctorate from the Georgetown University Law Center in 1989. He worked in the litigation section of the law firm of Baker & Hostetler in

Washington, DC from 1989 to 1994, where he specialized in election law and international law.



SALLY PAINTER, Co-Founder & Chief Operating Officer, Blue Star Strategies, LLC, United States

Sally A. Painter is Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer at Blue Star Strategies, LLC. Painter's work experience includes time spent at both the highest level of the U.S. government and at major corporations in the private sector.

For the last 20 years, she has worked with opposition leaders to promote democracy and transparency in countries in transition, including: Albania, Argentina, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kazakhstan, Romania, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Venezuela.

Painter is on the Board of Directors of the Truman National Security Project, the Global Fairness Initiative, Partners for Democratic Change, and 4D PAC. She writes frequently on European issues and has been published in the *Washington Post*, *Politico*, *WE-NATO*, and *The Hill*, among others.



ŽYGMANTAS PAVILIONIS, Ambassador-at-Large for Europe's East (Eastern Partnership), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania

Žygimantas Pavilionis was recently appointed as Ambassador-at-Large for Eastern Partnership. Before this, he served as Lithuanian Ambassador to the United States of America and to the United Mexican States (2010-2015). He also was a Chief Coordinator for Lithuania's presidency of the Community of Democracies, as well as Chief Coordinator for the Transatlantic Cooperation and Security Policy Department.

In 1993, Pavilionis joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and worked in the Western European Division, with the rank of Third Secretary. He was Assistant Director of Policy from 1994 to 1995, before moving to the Ministry of European Integration, Department of Political Cooperation. He worked in Brussels, Belgium, at the Lithuanian Permanent Mission from 1999 to 2002.

Pavilionis is a graduate of Vilnius University. He holds PhD in political science, master's degree in philosophy and postgraduate diploma in international relations.



JERZY POMIANOWSKI, Director, European Endowment for Democracy, Belgium

Jerzy Pomianowski took leadership of the European Endowment for Democracy after serving two years as Deputy Foreign Minister of Poland. In this most recent position, he coordinated among others the Polish Foreign Policy democratization agenda, which included the establishment of the EED, a flagship initiative of the Polish EU Presidency in 2011.

Pomianowski began his career as a civil servant in 1990, just after the fall of communism, first in the Ministry of Education, and then in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. After leading Poland's relations with Asia, Middle East and Africa, he served as Ambassador to Japan from 1997-2002.

He was a board member of the Independent Students' Association and co-founder of the students' independent publishing house during his Sociology studies at University of Warsaw.



ANKE SCHMIDT-FELZMANN, Research Fellow, Europe Program, Swedish Institute of International Affairs, Sweden

Anke Schmidt-Felzmann is a researcher in the Europe Program. She joined the Swedish Institute of International Affairs in July 2014. Schmidt-Felzmann's current research is concerned with the European Union's performance as an international actor in bilateral relations, taking into account the interplay of EU internal and external factors.

Previously, she served as an International Post-Doctoral Fellow with personal project funding from the Swedish Research Council (Vetenskapsrådet) at Stockholm University, as a Researcher at the Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies (SIEPS) in the research program "The EU external action and the Lisbon Treaty", and as a Temporary Lecturer at Dalarna University, where she is now a Senior Lecturer in International Relations.

Anke Schmidt-Felzmann defended her PhD at the University of Glasgow. She holds also an MSc in International and European Politics from the University of Edinburgh and an MA from the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz.



ANDRÁS SIMONYI, Ambassador, Managing Director, Center for Transatlantic Relations at SAIS Johns Hopkins University, United States

András Simonyi is the Managing Director of the Center for Transatlantic Relations at the Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University in Washington DC.

Simonyi served as the Hungarian Ambassador to the United States from 2002 and 2007. He also served as Hungary's Ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Simonyi worked with many youth exchange programs, in particular the State Committee for Youth and the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY).

His focus is on transatlantic security and business, democratic transition, and human rights. He is a proponent of soft power in international affairs and the role of popular culture for change and advocates for a strong transatlantic relationship to which he does not see an alternative. Simonyi is also a proponent of innovation in diplomatic activities, combining tradition with new radical ideas and means.



TOMASZ SZATKOWSKI, President, National Center for Strategic Studies, Poland

Tomasz Szatkowski is President of the National Center for Strategic Studies in Warsaw, Poland.

Szatkowski possesses a multiannual and diversified experience within national security issues with successful achievements on senior positions at the Polish Parliament, Chancellery of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland, defence industry, public media and at the European Parliament.

Szatkowski's primary focuses on classic military strategic thought, in particular on relation between technology and strategy, intelligence strategy, defence economy and problems of coordination of various aspects of state national security policy. He has MA in Law from Warsaw University and MA in War Studies from King's College London. He has also completed National Security Postgraduate Studies at Warsaw University.



RAMŪNAS VILPIŠAUSKAS, Director, Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University, Lithuania

Ramūnas Vilpišauskas has taught at the Institute since 1996, covering courses including international economics, policy analysis, European economics, public choice, and EU enlargement. He has served as a visiting fellow at several universities in the United States.

He served as a Chief Economic Policy Advisor to the President of Lithuania and the Head of Economic and Social Policy Group from 2004 to 2009. He was appointed to coordinate the team of advisors to the President from 2006 to 2009.

He has served as a consultant with the authorities of Georgia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, and Azerbaijan on the issues of European integration. He is a member of the Lithuanian Progress Council since 2010 and the Sunset Commission since 2009.

Vilpišauskas is a Professor with a Doctorate of Social Sciences and a graduate of Vilnius University and Lancaster University (UK).



CHRISTOPHER WALKER, Executive Director, International Forum for Democratic Studies, National Endowment for Democracy, United States

Christopher Walker is Executive Director of the National Endowment for Democracy's International Forum for Democratic Studies and a Member of the Forum 2000 Foundation Program Council. Mr. Walker previously served in Freedom House's New York office as Vice President for Strategy and Analysis, overseeing a team of analysts and senior scholars in devising overall strategy for the organization's analytical projects.

His articles on media freedom and democracy have appeared in a wide range of publications, including the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *Foreign Policy*. He has served as Adjunct Professor of Global Affairs at New York University. He holds a B.A. degree from Binghamton University and an M.A. from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.