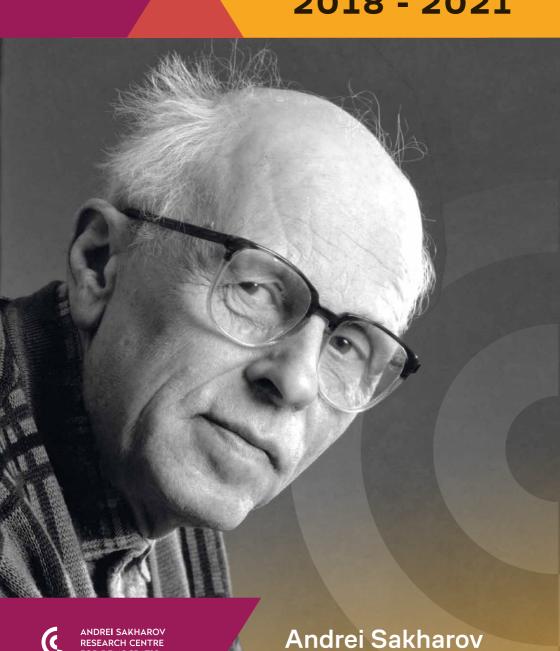
REPORT 2018 - 2021

Research Center



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I. Introduction

The Andrei Sakharov Research Center for Democratic Development at Vytautas Magnus University (ASRC) was founded in December 2017 as a part of the Faculty of Political Science and Diplomatic Studies. The Center started out in a small faculty office, moved to larger premises in 2019, and will occupy double the space at the beginning of 2022 once renovations of the university building are complete. The following report provides an overview of the ASRC's activities during the years 2018-2021 and the developments undergone during this time.



II. Mission and Vision

Main Aim

The main aim of the Andrei Sakharov Research Center for Democratic Development is to make a significant contribution to the development of a pluralist and democratic society in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, a society based on the rule of law, respecting human rights and offering equal opportunities for each citizen to achieve their goals.

Purpose

The major purpose of the Andrei Sakharov Research Center for Democratic Development is to unite state-of-the-art academic research on developments in Eastern Europe and the former USSR with existing multi-disciplinary expert knowledge at Vytautas Magnus University (VMU) concerning past and present political and social developments in the region.

Through its activities, the ASRC intends to stimulate multidisciplinary and multi-national cooperation between VMU and its partners in other countries. It will allow researchers to make use of its extensive archival holdings of material on political freedom, repression, and opposition in the region to gain a better understanding of the processes still at work today.

The ASRC will inform and educate both the academic and the non-academic communities, while maintaining a special interest in reaching out to younger generations. These young people often lack sufficient knowledge of the past that would help them to understand the present and its likely impact on, and implications for, the future.



Goals

To achieve this purpose, the ASRC will:

- Organize public events, seminars and round-table discussions, including annual commemorations of the work and moral authority of Andrei Dmitrievich Sakharov.
- Support research and facilitate the publication of research reports, monographs and other writings that contribute to the aims of the Center.
- Collect published materials and archival holdings that are related to the goals of the Center and allow researchers to access them for their work.
- Contribute to the development of a democratic society based on the rule of law and support those who encounter opposition from non-democratic and non-liberal forces.

III. Archives

III.a. Archival holdings and library

The ASRC started collecting material on issues related to the democratic movement in the USSR long before the center was founded. Its current archives include:

- archival holdings from Sovietologists Martin Dewhirst and Peter Reddaway
- a growing archive on the independent press in the USSR
- the most extensive archive on the political abuse of psychiatry in the Soviet Union
- the photo archive of the Bukovsky Foundation/ Second World Center
- the archive of the complaints office of the Ukrainian Psychiatric Association covering the period 1991-2001

It also has many books from various donors including Peter Reddaway (a complete 7,000 book collection), Andrew Blane, Edward Kline, and donations from several UK-based scholars and Sovietologists.

The ASRC has a close ongoing collaboration with the Research Centre on Eastern Europe at Bremen University, with whom we exchange holdings and collaborate on digitalization plans. We maintain contacts with the historical society Memorial and the Sakharov Archive in Russia.

Work continues on the extension of the Center's archives. Necessary professional equipment is gradually being purchased, and will eventually include a professional photographic scanner, a large television monitor for the oral history laboratory and a server that will hold the digitalized archives. Currently, we are preparing the acquisition of a professional scanner that will enable us to digitize documents up to A-2 size.

At the beginning of 2022, we plan to move to larger premises, which will enable us to make the archives and library more accessible. We also plan to create a special climatized room for original archival documents which require special protection.

III.b. Research

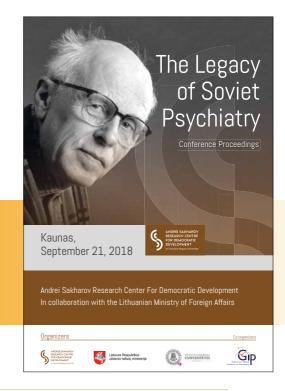
Staff members of the ASRC are involved in various national and international research projects. In addition, foreign researchers regularly visit our center to make use of our archives, such as when conducting research on the political abuse of psychiatry.

III.c. Publications

The ASRC published several books and brochures during the period 2018-2021.

These publications are:

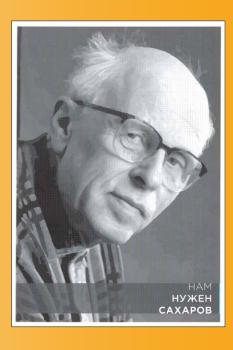
The Legacy of
Soviet Psychiatry –
a report on the 2018
Leonidas Donskis
Memorial Conference.

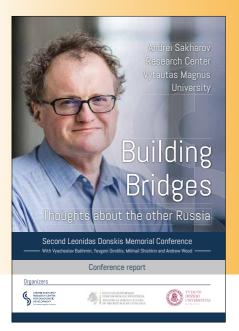


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Hам Нужен Caxapoв ("We Need Sakharov")

– a collection of essays on the importance of Sakharov today, published on the occasion of the Andrei Sakharov Memorial Concert in Odessa in 2018. (In Russian.) Contributors were Aleksei Botvinov, Martin Dewhirst, Cathy Fitzpatrick, Semyon Gluzman, Andrei Kovalyov, Linas Linkevicius, Myroslav Marynovich, Peter Reddaway, David Satter, Nikolai Shchur, Robert van Voren and Tatiana Yankelevich.





Building Bridges –
Thoughts about
the Other Russia –
a report on the 2019
Leonidas Donskis
Memorial Conference.



Guidebook - Andrei Dmitrievich Sakharov, Person of the Era a guidebook to the Sakharov Exhibition.

IV. Programs

IV.a. Reviving the Helsinki Spirit

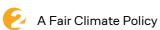
The objective of the Reviving the Helsinki Spirit program is to develop a long-term project to revive the values and principles of the 1975 Helsinki Accords, serving as the basis for a new pan-European movement. Its aim is to find new avenues for cooperation, solidarity and solutions for the challenges facing us today. This is a pan-European initiative carried by civil society yet linked with academia and strong governmental support, a respected three-tiered approach that should successfully impact on the political climate in Europe.

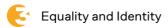
The program's primary activities involve the organization of public events, including a series of Sakharov Hearings and Conferences, as well as debates for young "agents of change." Other activities include education and research projects with the broader academic community, civil society initiatives and cultural events, which will also contribute to shaping the agenda with regards to cooperation, security, tolerance and human rights in Europe.

The project is particularly focused on the younger generations, born after the turbulent political changes of the late 1980s and early 1990s. To that end, special educational programs, debates and events have been developed to involve them.

For the 2020 Hearings, the following key themes were selected:











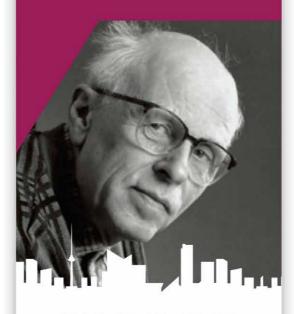




1975 (11) 2025

THE HELSINKI SPIRIT

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL SAKHAROV HEARINGS



MAY 20-21, 2020 VILNIUS, LITHUANIA



LITHUANIAN PARLIAMENT

The initiative involves a consortium of non-governmental, academic and governmental institutions. In addition to the ASRC, it includes the Netherlands Helsinki Committee, the Vilnius Policy Analysis Institute (LT), and Vytautas Magnus University (LT). During the period 2019-2020, the consortium worked closely with Chatham House (UK), the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Lithuanian Parliament, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European Parliament.

The Sixth International Sakharov Hearings were planned for May 2020 at the Lithuanian Parliament. Unfortunately, two months before the event, the COVID-19 pandemic engulfed the world and brought public life to a halt. The Hearings were postponed initially until October, then until May 2021, and eventually postponed indefinitely. The ASRC now hopes to be restart the Reviving the Helsinki Spirit program with Hearings in 2023, 2024 and 2025.

IV.b. Young Generation events

In 2019, the ASRC started a Young Change Maker program. The goal of the program is to create a pool of young people engaged in discussing current challenges and actively working to shape their own future. To this effect, the Center organized in January 2020 a Young Change Maker Dinner at the Valdas Adamkus Library, and in June 2020, a Young Change Maker Drinks. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic severely limited the possibility of organizing further gatherings. It is hoped that the program can be revamped in 2022.

IV.c. "You make the difference"

The "You make the difference" program, implemented in collaboration with the Netherlands-based organization "The Next Movement," encompassed a trilogy of themes: initiatives; role models and influencers from the past and present; and young peoples'



vision for the future of society. On May 10, 2021, the first exhibition was opened at the Martynas Mažvydas National Library, linking the first two themes. The third theme was represented by the exhibition "Cartooning the Future," which opened on November

3, 2021, in the parliament of the Republic of Lithuania. This final exhibition featured images inspired by nearly 100 sketches created by young people during dozens of dialogue sessions across Lithuania between June and October 2021. The sketches were then sent to artists from more than 17 different countries around the world, who responded by transforming the voices of young people into professional cartoons.

Within the framework of the program, the following events were organized:

- May 2021 The program kicked-off with an inspiring exhibition, You Make the Difference, at the Martynas Mažvydas National Library in Vilnius.
- June 2021 onwards Young Change Maker sessions were held across Lithuania. Young people shared their vision for the future.
- November 2021 A closing event at the Lithuanian Parliament was hosted by the Human Rights Council. During this special day, the ASRC launched an exhibition displaying cartoons that represented young Lithuanians' vision of the future they desire.

V. Public Events and Media Visibility

V.a. Conferences

During the period 2018-2021, the ASRC organized eight conferences in total. They can be divided into three groups: International Andrei Sakharov Conferences, Leonidas Donskis Memorial Conferences and other conferences.

V.a.1. International Andrei Sakharov Conferences

The Ninth International
Sakharov Conference took
place May 21-22, 2019,
at the Mažvydas National
Library in Vilnius, Lithuania.
It was the first International
Sakharov Conference since
May 1990, which took
place less than six months
after Andrei Sakharov



passed away. The theme of the conference was "From Cold War to Hybrid War." It discussed many aspects of the deteriorating East-West relations and the resumption or continuation of the Cold War. The numerous speakers at the conference included: Balacs Denes (H), Volodymyr Dubovyk (UA), Mark Galeotti (UK), Mikko Kinnunen (FIN), Illimar Lepik von Wirén (EST), Edward Lucas (UK), Amy Knight (USA), Robert van der Noordaa (NL), Kateryna Smaglyi (UA), Tommy van Steen (NL), Coen van de Ven (NL) and Tatyana Yankelevich (USA).

The **Tenth International Sakharov Conference** was held on May 15, 2021, at the Town Hall in Vilnius. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no event took place in the spring of 2020, and the Sixth International Sakharov Hearings planned for May 2020 had to be

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postponed indefinitely. However, in the spring of 2021, the situation gradually stabilized and technical developments were such that the organization of a hybrid conference was possible. The Tenth International Sakharov Conference took place in the Centennial Year of Andrei



Sakharov's birth and focused on the Helsinki Accords and the Sakharov Doctrine of Peace, Progress and Human Rights. The speakers were Timothy Garton Ash (UK), Vyacheslav Bakhmin (RUS), Maia Mazurkewicz (P), Michael Morgan (USA), Nils Muižnieks (LV), Marina Sakharov-Liberman and Tatyana Yankelevich (USA).

V.a.2. Leonidas Donskis Memorial Conferences

The Leonidas Donskis Memorial Conferences are organized annually to commemorate Leonidas Donskis, a prominent Lithuanian thinker, politician and scholar with whom the Center collaborated, who passed away at the age of 56 on September 21, 2016. By organizing these conferences, we keep the memory of Leonidas Donskis alive and continue to work in the direction he established.

During the years 2018-2021, we organized four Leonidas Donskis Memorial Conferences.



On September 21, 2018, we organized "The Legacy of Soviet Psychiatry", a conference discussing the troubling legacy of Soviet psychiatry, which casts a long shadow on current psychiatric practices in the former Soviet Union. For

this event, we reprinted a report by the Federation Global Initiative on Psychiatry on the resumption of political abuse of psychiatry, covering the years 2012-2017, as well as an update covering the years 2017-2018. Speakers at the conference were Viktor Davydov (RUS), Semyon Gluzman (UA), Julia Pievskaya (UA), Ilmi Umerov (UA) and Robert van Voren (LT/NL). A report on the conference with all the presentations was published after the conference.

On September 20, 2019, we organized "Building Brides – Thoughts about the Other Russia." The goal of this conference was to challenge the notion that Vladimir Putin is 7synonymous with Russia, and that the Russian language is a language "owned" by the current Russian



government. Speakers at the conference included Vyacheslav Bakhmin (RUS) Evgeni Gindilis (RUS), Arkady Ostrovsky (RUS/UK), Mikhail Shishkin (RUS) and Andrew Wood (UK). A report on the conference was published afterwards.



The Third Leonidas Donskis Memorial Conference, held on September 21, 2020, focused on the mental health consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. "Mind the Gap – Emotional Wellbeing and Social Solidarity during COVID-19" analyzed the mental health consequences of recent restrictive measures on the general population. The conference also explored the serious implications for people with mental health problems, generally already more isolated in

society, who suffered further during this time. Among the speakers at the conference were Ineta Dabasinskiene (LT), Dovile Juodkaite (LT), Robertas Povilaitis (LT), Dainius Puras (LT), Shekhar Saxena (CH), Charlene Sunkel (SA), Graham Thornicroft (UK).

The fourth Leonidas Donskis Memorial Conference took place on September 21, 2021. "Difficult Dilemmas - the Role of Museums and Public Space in Remembering the Past" brought together several key museologists and other experts who deal with the complex aftermath of traumatic experiences in their work. The speakers were Zahira Asmal (SA), Tomas Baum (B), Monique Brinks (NL), Neringa Galisanskyte (LT), Imke Hansen (D), Marius Peciulis (LT), Franklin van der Post (NL), and Robert van Voren (LT/NL). The next day, a museology workshop was organized at the Ninth Fort Museum in Kaunas.





V.a.3. Other conferences

October 29-30, 2021, the Andrei Sakharov Research Center organized an international conference exploring 30 years of diplomatic relations between Lithuania and Russia. "Are Good-Neighborly Relations Possible?" was held under the patronage of the President of Lithuania, and looked at the past, present and future of relations between the two countries. No less than twenty-four speakers from Europe and North America participated.

On December 10, the ASRC co-organized the **Eleventh International Sakharov** Conference on International Human Rights Day, together with the Danish New Democracy Fund, at the Danish Parliament in Copenhagen. The conference was opened by the Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jeppe Kofod, and the former German President Joachim Gauck. The program covered two main themes:

the psychological consequences of state repression; and censorship and freedom of speech. The conference was preceded by a concert featuring a performance by acclaimed Odessa concert pianist Aleksei Botvinov.



V.b. Exhibitions

The Andrei Sakharov Exhibition was held in May 2021 at the Vilnius Town Hall, featuring an exhibition on Sakharov created together with the Andrei Sakharov Center in Moscow and the European Parliament, as well as an exhibition on *samizdat*, the creation and distribution of clandestine publications in the Soviet Union.



On September 21, 2021, we re-opened the **Sakharov Exhibition** at the Valdas Adamkus Library in Kaunas, where it remained for a four-week period.

On October 18, 2021, the ASRC opened a new exhibition at the Mažvydas National Library entitled, "The Road to Freedom; Independent Press in Occupied Lithuania and Beyond." This exhibition focused again on samizdat, but also on a unique collection of original printing plates from the independent press dated 1988-1990, collected by former Minister of Foreign Affairs Petras Vaitiekunas, which was on display for the first time.



On December 10, 2021, the Andrei Sakharov Exhibition opened at the Parlementarium of the European Parliament in Brussels, co-organized with the ASRC and the Moscow Sakharov Center. The exhibition, which runs until the end of March 2022, includes artifacts from the samizdat exhibition in Lithuania.



V.c. Concerts

Sakharov Memorial Concert, Odessa

In 2018 and 2019 the ASRC organized Sakharov Memorial Concerts in the Opera of Odessa, Ukraine, which were attended by more than 1,000 people. Members of the audience received a copy of a book on Sakharov that was published by the Center for the occasion. In 2020, the concert was cancelled due to COVID-19, and the 2021 concert was postponed until the spring of 2022 to reduce COVID-19 related risks.

Sakharov Birthday Concert

On May 14, 2021, the ASRC organized a Sakharov Birthday Concert at the Vaidilos Theater in Vilnius. The event featured a Piano Light Show concert by Odessa native Aleksei Botvinov, in collaboration with VJ Videomatics from Ukraine.



Leonidas Donskis Memorial Concerts

Every year following the Leonid Donskis Memorial Conferences, a concert is organized at the M.K. Ciurlionis Gallery in Kaunas. In 2018, the concert was performed by Aleksei Botvinov from Odessa (UA). The following year, Aleksei Botvinov performed together with the Russian writer Mikhail Shishkin. In 2020, the concert featured the Lithuanian ensemble NICO, and in 2021 the Ukrainian Duo Sonora performed.

V.d. Other events

V.d.1. Sakharov Month

During the month of May 2021, the ASRC organized a Sakharov Month in Vilnius, which included the Tenth International Sakharov Conference, the Sakharov Birthday Concert, a Sakharov exhibition at the Vilnius Town Hall, and two film screenings at the Mažvydas

National Library and MO Museum. On May 14, we screened the documentary film "Andrei Sakharov – A Free Man" directed by the Ukrainian filmmaker losif Pasternak at the Mažvydas National Library in Vilnius. On May 21, Andrei Sakharov's 100th birthday, we screened the documentary film "To the Success of our Hopeless Cause" by Nicolas Miletitch at MO Museum in Vilnius. The film features Alexander Lavut, Lyudmila Alekseyeva, Sergey Kovalev, Natalya Gorbanevskaya, Joseph Begun, father Gleb Yakunin, Yuri



Nicolas Miletitch

Orlov, Rostislav Galetsky, Vera Lashkova, Alexander Ogorodnikov, Arina Ginzburg, Alexander Podrabinek, Vasil Ovsienko, Semyon Gluzman, Nikolai Miletitch, Sergey Khodorovsky.

V.d.2. Public lectures

Throughout ASRC's existence, we have organized regular public lectures by well-known experts. These have included (in alphabetical order): Mark Galeotti, Andrei Kovalyov, Edward Lucas, Nikolai Shchur, and Robert van Voren.

V.e. Media

The ASRC's work has garnered increasing attention from the media, both in Lithuania and abroad. In 2021, the number of reports about the Center in the press grew exponentially, thanks to a newly hired part-time public relations officer and two partnership agreements with the Lithuanian national broadcasting company, LRT. The Sakharov Month in May 2021 resulted in eighty mentions in newspapers, journals, websites, radio, and television.

The October 2021 concert earned 50 mentions.

VI. Finances

The ASRC receives an annual operating budget from the Vytautas Magnus University, which also covers part of the salary of the core staff. For the rest, we are fully dependent on external funding.

During the years 2018-2021 the ASRC's activities were made possible with grants, donations and contributions from:

Andrei Sakharov Center (Moscow)

Andrei Sakharov Foundation (United States)

British Embassy (Lithuania)

Embassy of Canada (Lithuania)

Embassy of Finland (Lithuania)

Embassy of France (Lithuania)

Embassy of Germany (Lithuania)

Embassy of Ireland (Lithuania)

Embassy of Norway (Lithuania)

Embassy of The Netherlands (Lithuania)

Embassy of Spain (Lithuania)

Embassy of the United States of America (Lithuania)

European Parliament

Go Vilnius

Human Rights in Mental Health-FGIP

Institut Français (Vilnius)

Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights

JCDecaux

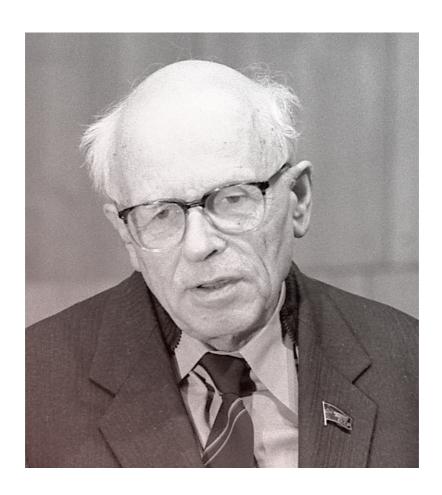
Lithuanian broadcasting company LRT

Lithuanian Ministry of Defense

Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Martynas Mažvydas National Library (Vilnius)

MO Museum Vilnius



Office of the President of Lithuania
Representative Office of the European Parliament (Vilnius)
The NextMovement
Valdas Adamkus Library, Kaunas
Vilnius Municipality
Vilnius Town Hall
Vytautas Magnus University

VII. Staff, Board and Patrons

Staff

The staff of the Center currently consists of Robert van Voren (Executive Director), Dainius Genys (Office Manager), Benas Skublickas (Communications Manager) and Neringa Galisanskyte (Project Manager). In addition, the Center collaborates on a project-by project-basis with Laura Kurtinaityte (Conference Manager) and Ausra Pociute (Public Relations). We also have on average 3-4 interns working with us each semester, and additional volunteers who help us during events.

Interns

During the period 2018-2021, the ASRC welcomed an increasing number of interns and volunteers, who worked on organizing archival holdings and the library, contributed to the process of digitalization and assisted during the various conferences.

The following interns worked at our Center during this time (in alphabetical order):

Davit Abuselidze; Georgii Baryshnikov; Nino Bitchiashvili; Neringa Galisanskyte; Emma Lev; Artiom Miasnikov, Jemima Rodrigues; Lukas Rudys; Letizia Santhia; Benas Skublickas; Kristina Ukrainets, Wessel Witjes.

Board of Patrons (in alphabetical order)

- Mustafa Dzemilev (UA) Crimean Tatar leader, former political prisoner and former President of the Mejlis, close friend of the Sakharov family
- Semyon Gluzman (UA) Ukrainian psychiatrist and political prisoner, close to Sakharov family
- Pavel Litvinov (USA) Leading Soviet dissident, friend of the Sakharov family
- Peter Reddaway (USA) American Sovietologist, leading supporter of the USSR human rights movement, knew Sakharov personally
- Marina Sakharov-Liberman (UK) granddaughter of Andrei Sakharov
- Tatyana Yankelevich (USA) Daughter of Yelena Bonner, wife of Andrei Sakharov

Board of Advisors (in alphabetical order)

- Egidius Aleksandravicius (LT) Head of Academia Cum Laude of the Vytautas Magnus University, professor at the Department of History and director of the Lithuanian Emigration Institute
- David Aprasidze (GEO) Professor of Caucasian Studies,
 Ilia State University, Tbilisi
- Richard Bonnie (USA) Professor of law, Law School, University of Virginia, Charlottesville (VA)
- Robert Brinkley (UK) former UK Ambassador to Ukraine, Chairman of the Ukrainian Institute London and of the Chatham House Ukraine Forum
- Martin Dewhirst (UK) lecturer emeritus, Glasgow University
- Mark Galeotti (UK) –Senior Non-Resident Fellow at the Institute of International Relations
- Yaroslav Hritsak (UA) Ukrainian historian, Lviv
- Jana Javakhishvili (GEO) Associate Professor, Ilia State University

- Andrei Kovalev (B) former senior civil servant of the USSR and RF Ministries of Foreign Affairs, now in political asylum in Belgium
- David Kramer (USA) senior fellow in the Vaclav Havel Program on Human Rights and Diplomacy, Miami and Florida International University, Former Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (2088-2009) and former President of Freedom House (2010-2014)
- Edward Lucas (UK) senior vice-president at the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA)
- Adam Michnik (P) historian, essayist, former dissident and former political prisoner, public intellectual, and editor-in-chief of the Polish newspaper, Gazeta Wyborcza
- Franklin van der Pols (NL) historian, chief-editor of Museumpeil, journal for museumprofesionals, former director of National Foundation for Public Understanding of Science and Technology, former head of exhibitions at the Royal Army Museum
- David Satter (USA) former Moscow correspondent of the
 Wall Street Journal, professor at Princeton University and writer
- Anton Shekhovtsov (UA) writer, academic and political activist. Known for his writings on the European radical right and its alleged connections to Russia
- Lilia Shevtsova (RUS) is a Kremlin expert and member of the Liberal Mission Foundation Board (Moscow)
- Elizabeth Teague (UK) former director of the Russia Research
 Department of the UK Foreign Offic
- Andreas Umland (D/UA) Andreas Umland, Senior Fellow, Institute for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation, Kyiv, & editor of the book series "Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics and Society" (ibidem Press, Stuttgart)
- Petras Vaitiekunas (LT) former Minister of Foreign Affairs, former Ambassador of Lithuania to Ukraine
- Sir Andrew Wood (UK) former UK Ambassador to Yugoslavia, Russia and Moldova
- Mikhael Zantovsky (CZ) Director of the Vaclav Havel Library, Prague

REPORT

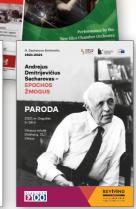
2018 - 2021







Are good-neighborly relations possible?



Third Leonidas 🔞 🛎 🗲 Donskis Memorial Concert

20, 18.30 at M.K. Ciurlionis Gallery









