



UNIVERSITÄT GREIFSWALD
Wissen lockt. Seit 1456



Workshop

Seizing the crisis moment?

Germany's changing security role in the Baltic states

November 10, 2022

Vilnius University, Lithuania

Venue: Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University (Vokiečių str. 10, room 402)

Over the past few years, Germany has significantly expanded its military presence in the Baltic states, most prominently by assuming NATO's lead-framework nation status in Lithuania. Equally though, for a long time, Berlin pursued a Russia policy that was sharply at odds with the views of the three Baltic states. From the Baltic vantage point, German lawmakers have been too receptive to Russian influence and ideas about how European security should be organized. In light of Russia's 2022 war of aggression against Ukraine, are German-Baltic geopolitical worldviews aligning at last? How has Germany's defence policy orientation and discourses changed? Is the current Enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) model, which Germany is an essential part of, sufficient to deter Russia? By gathering lead academics and policy practitioners in Vilnius, this workshop aims to evaluate key inflection points and controversies nestled within German-Baltic security relations.

Workshop Program

10:00 - 10:10

Welcoming Remarks (Dovilė Jakniūnaitė & Margit Bussmann)

10.10 - 11.40

PANEL 1. CHANGE AND CONTINUITY IN GERMAN-BALTIC SECURITY RELATIONS

Moderator: Andris Banka (University of Greifswald/IFZO)

Participants

Aylin Matlé (German Council on Foreign Relations), via online:
"The security and defense of the Baltic States as viewed from Berlin"

Māris Andžāns (Rīga Stradiņš University & Center for Geopolitical Studies Riga): "Germany's security role: the view from Latvia"

Christina Stremming (University of Greifswald/IFZO): "Germany's engagement on the eastern flank. The influence of political parties on the discussion of Germany's commitment in the German Bundestag"

Deividas Šlekys (Vilnius University): "Germany as a security actor: insights from Lithuania"

11:40 - 12:00. Coffee Break

12:00 - 13:30

PANEL 2. GERMANY AND THE BALTIC SEA REGION SECURITY DYNAMICS

Moderator: Margit Bussmann (University of Greifswald/IFZO)

Participants:

Alexandra M. Friede (Universität der Bundeswehr Hamburg): "Don't be lazy and indifferent, get involved!" – what Baltic Sea states expect from citizens during crises (and vice versa)"

Julian Pawlak (Universität der Bundeswehr Hamburg): "Germany as a keystone of security in the Baltic Sea region"

Justinas Juozaitis (Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania):
"Baltic Perspectives on Germany's Role in European Security"

13.30 - 14.30 Lunch

14:30 - 16:00 PANEL 3. ROUNDTABLE: GERMAN-BALTIC SECURITY TIES AFTER FEBRUARY 24

Moderator: Giedrius Česnakas (Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania)

Participants:

Matthias Sonn (German Ambassador to Lithuania)

Ieva Karpavičiūtė (Senior Adviser, Euro-Atlantic Cooperation Department, Lithuanian Ministry of National Defence)

Margarita Šešelgytė (Vilnius University)

18:00 Conference Diner

November 11, 2022

10:00-12:00

Networking event

Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University, Lithuania. Discussion of common projects and activities.