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This is a peer reviewed annual research publication published by the Military Academy of Lithuania in co-operation with the University of Vilnius and Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas. The main objective of this publication is to provide readers with a wide-scale analysis and generalization of the changes, both essential and significant, in the national security of Lithuania at the international–systemic, regional, and national levels. The yearbook also aims to give maximum emphasis to the specificity of Lithuanian national security issues and comprehensively present them to a widely interested and concerned audience.

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Preface

The Strategic Research Centre of the General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania, together with its partners Vilnius University and Vytautas Magnus University, present the tenth volume of the “Lithuanian Annual Strategic Review” devoted to actualities and problems of the security policy of Lithuania, Europe and the world in 2011 – 2012. Continuing the established tradition, we have classified the presented content in four main categories.

The first part, called “The Global International System and Lithuania” is comprised of two articles. Egidijus Gailiūnas, looking from the Lithuanian perspective, discusses one of the most striking political actualities of 2011, the so-called “Arab spring”, its causes, consequences and its possible impact on security interests of the West. The author of the second study, Martynas Zapolskis, making use of the theoretical model of the cooperative security system, analyzes and compares the years 1999 and 2010 of NATO strategic conception, thus attempting to evaluate the most significant changes in the Alliance’s transformation during the last decade.

The second part of the publication – “The Changing European Security Space” – consists of three studies. The first two are meant to discuss Lithuania-related aspects of the activity of European institutions. Tomas Janeliūnas provides the most important dilemmas and lessons of Lithuania’s chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 2011. The second article deals with a very important aspect of Lithuania’s coming chairmanship of the Council of the European Union in 2013. In this second article Margarita Šešelgytė investigates an interesting and important experience in the area of the EU Common Security and Defense policy of other member states that have chaired the European Union after the Treaty of Lisbon came into force. The third article of this part of the publication – “Perspectives of the Development of Nuclear Energy in the Baltic Region” – was written by Arūnas Molis and Justina Gliebutė. The authors, seeking to evaluate perspectives and the possible benefit of the construction of a new atomic power station in Lithuania, analyze factors determining the development of nuclear energy in Europe and the entire world.

Three original studies make up the third part of the publication, “Lithuania’s Eastern Neighborhood”. Giedrius Česnakas, in the article “Energy Security in the Baltic - Black Sea Region: Energy Insecurity Sources and their Impact upon States”, continues the energy theme and researches energy security problems in the sectors of oil and natural gas of the three Baltic/Black Sea region states – Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine. Laura Kirvelytė explores the main security dilemma of
Azerbaijan – an important South Caucasian state. On the one hand, for nearly two decades the country has been facing the problem of territorial integrity because of the unresolved territorial conflict with Armenia. On the other hand, Azerbaijan has lately been turning into an ever more significant energy-related player in the entirety of Europe. The third study of this part, “The Third Sector and Political Communication in Belarus: Highlights on the Topic of Social Policies from the Presidential Campaign 2010” was prepared by Irmina Matonytė and Tatsiana Chulitskaya. It aims at demonstrating peculiarities of political communication in the environment of the non-democratic regime of Belarus. To this end, the political communication on social policy issues during the presidential election campaign in 2010 is analyzed.

In the fourth part of this publication, “National Security Issues,” urgent aspects, problems and cases of Lithuanian national security are traditionally analyzed. This time our readers have the opportunity to get acquainted with two studies. Mindaugas Jurkynas and Vilija Gelažauskaitė have prepared a study devoted to the evaluation of the impact on Lithuania of a possible no-visa regime between the EU and Russia. Vaidutis Laurėnas in “Political Parties of Lithuania: Canonization of the Fight for Power, Deconstruction of Responsibility and Actualization of Internal Security” analyzes important aspects of the activity of political parties as well as lack of internal security harmony in Lithuania.

We wish our readers a pleasant and productive engagement with the new research results provided here. Please note that previous volumes of the “Lithuanian Annual Strategic Review” are available at the General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania website at all times. It is also particularly pleasant to note that the circle of partners of the “Lithuanian Annual Strategic Review” is further expanding. Starting from this year, the English electronic coverage of our journal will be published by one of the world’s leading Open Access platforms – Versita Open, which hosts full texts of nearly 200 scholarly journals that currently belong to many societies, universities and research institutes.

Vilnius, January 2012

Editor-in-Chief

Volume 10 articles are available at:

For printed version, please, address the Military Academy of Lithuania