



# VILNIUS SCIENCE DIPLOMACY FORUM

16 October 2025 | Venue: Lithuanian Research Council (Gedimino pr. 3, Vilnius)

## PROGRAMME

### 08:30-09:00 REGISTRATION & COFFEE

### 09:00-09:15 WELCOME REMARKS

*H.E. Mr. Kęstutis Budrys, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania*  
*Dr. Regina Valutytė, Vice-Minister of Education, Science and Sport of Lithuania*

### 09:15-09:30 KEYNOTE: Science diplomacy in a Polarized and Crisis-Driven World

*Dr. Ulf Ehlert, Head of Strategy and Policy, NATO Science and Technology Organization*

### 09:30-10:30 PANEL I Building a Resilient State – the Role of Science Diplomacy in Times of Crises

How can science diplomacy strengthen state resilience in the face of crises – be it security challenges, pandemics, or natural disasters? How can foreign policy, crisis governance, and science ecosystems work together navigating uncertainty, building strategic foresight, and enhancing national security?

*Mr. Tomas Godliauskas, Vice-Minister of National Defence of Lithuania*  
*Dr. Craig Jantzen, Northern Europe Regional Director, UK Science & Technology Network, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office*  
*Dr. Ieva Gajauskaitė, National Crisis Management Centre & Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania*

*Moderator: Mr. Vidmantas Purlys, Director of the European Union Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania*

### 10:30-10:45 COFFEE & NETWORKING BREAK

### 10:45-11:45 PANEL II Research Security – Balancing Openness and Risk in International Science Collaboration

How to balance science openness and research security to safeguard Europe's competitiveness? How to address risks related to dual-use research, disinformation, IP theft, disruptive technologies, and brain drain? How can science diplomacy enable responsible collaboration, while mitigating security risks?

*Dr. Regina Valutytė, Vice-Minister of Education, Science and Sport of Lithuania*  
*Prof. Aoife McLysaght, Chief Scientific Advisor, Government of Ireland*  
*Prof. Eugenijus Valatka, Rector of Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania*  
*Dr. Ulf Ehlert, Head of Strategy and Policy, NATO Science and Technology*

*Moderator: Mr. Mindaugas Lašas, Director of Communication and Cultural Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania*

### 11:45-12:55 PANEL III Lightning Talks: Science Diplomacy in Practice Across Europe

How is science diplomacy practiced in different national contexts? Which institutions play key roles, and how do they contribute? What common challenges and shared opportunities emerge in advancing science diplomacy?

*Dr. Gintaras Valinčius, Chairman, Research Council of Lithuania*  
*Prof. Paula Eerola, President, Research Council of Finland*  
*Dr. Lauma Muižniece, Director General, Latvian Council of Science*  
*Dr. Małgorzata Jacobs-Kozyra, Programme Coordinator, National Science Center Poland*  
*Ms. Leire Leguina, Science Diplomacy Officer, Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT)*  
*Moderator: Mr. Sigitas Mitkus, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania*

### 12:55-13:00 CLOSING REMARKS: Towards a Lithuanian Science Diplomacy Roadmap

### 13:00-14:00 NETWORKING LUNCH

