**Lithuanian Foreign Policy and Diplomacy in the 20th Century: Problems and Challenges**

The 20th century was a dynamic period for the Lithuanian nation and the Lithuanian state. Geopolitical turbulence affecting Lithuanian statehood at this time was largely determined by the radically changing political-ideological climate and the geopolitical situation in Europe, shifts in the balance of power, changes in international law, and the transformation of Europe’s political map as a result of the First World War, the Second World War and the Cold War. During the interwar years, Lithuania had rather tense relations with its larger neighbours, and was engaged in a constant political-diplomatic struggle over the implementation of the state’s territorial programme. This situation resulted in difficult tasks in its foreign policy, while diplomatic activities were complicated, and at times even irrational.

**Aim of the programme**: by combining several crucial conjunctures and challenges in 20th-century Lithuanian foreign politics, to reveal the organic continuity of Lithuanian foreign policy and diplomacy on the international arena in the last century, which presupposed the appearance and succession of its statehood. It is intended to examine several hitherto studied or partly investigated issues in 20th-century Lithuanian foreign policy and diplomacy: the dynamics of the Vilnius issue in the international arena and its impact on the country’s internal political processes in the mid-1920s; the place and development of the Klaipėda question in Lithuanian foreign policy during the interwar period; the dynamics of the  Lithuania question in Europe and North and South America during the Second World War; the geography of relations and the activities of the Lithuanian diplomatic corps in exile during the Cold War; the challenges behind the international recognition of the Second Republic of Lithuania in 1990 and 1991.

This research programme is a consecutive and logical continuation of previous research programmes that were carried out by the Institute’s Department of 20th-Century History:  Lithuania during the Second World War and The Belated Formation of a Nation: The Case of the Lithuanians (versions 1–2).