

The Byzantine presence between Black Sea and Baltic: political, ecclesiastical, and cultural trends in late medieval East-Central Europe

Vilnius, 30–31 May 2024
(hybrid format)

Conference organisers: Darius Baronas, Jonathan Shepard,
Sergejus Temčinas, Constantin Zuckerman
(Lithuanian Institute of History)

This international conference aims to address the issue of Byzantium's political and cultural impact on the region of present-day Poland, Lithuania, Belarus, and Ukraine. What kind of interests, interest-groups and beliefs were in play in the interactions between Byzantium and its northern neighbours? Themes to be addressed in these territories include:

- The attractions of Byzantine Soft Power, its export and local reception;
- The Byzantine empire's need for military aid and material support;
- Relics diplomacy;
- The role of the patriarchate of Constantinople in creating new ecclesiastical structures;
- The Byzantine contributions to Church Union;
- Commercial networks and Italian traders
- The long-term legacy of Eastern Christendom in the lands of the Crown of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.



Further details about the conference

The conference will take place at the National Museum – Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania in Vilnius from **30–31 May 2024**.
<https://www.valdovurumai.lt/en>

Conference language: English

Scholars willing to participate actively as speakers are invited to submit an abstract of ca. 300 words as well as a short biographical note (about 150–250 words) to darius.baronas@istorija.lt by **31 May 2023**. Please indicate your attendance availability (in-person or virtually).

Applicants will be notified by **31 July 2023**.

The proceedings of the conference will be published as part of attempts in bridging the gap in the study of late medieval relations between Byzantium and its East-Central European neighbours in the North.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us!