

Introduction

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As we started considering the migraine tormenting the contemporary European spirit in the first Nida Forum, we learned in our presentations and discussions that one particular topic deserves our special attention. As we traveled over Europe east to west, or west to east, we necessarily had to stop or even stumble on the line that once marked not a simple state border, but a wall that may almost be perceived physically, and that greatly affected the fates of nations and states. Initially, the construction permit was issued already in February, 1945 in Yalta, and later further confirmed in July of the same year in Potsdam, and the construction itself appeared in August, 1961 in Berlin. This wall, often simply referred to as the iron curtain, divided the continent into zones of freedom and captivity for decades, and we still feel the effects of those decades today.

The effects were the topic of our discussion on 13–14 September, 2019 at the second Nida Forum. “Building the Wall” was the topic we set for our presenters. The presentations of the former long-term director of the Bavarian Catholic Academy Mons. Dr. Florian Schuller, the Buckingham University professor and director of its Centre for Intelligence and Security Studies Anthony Glees, the poet Gintaras Grajauskas, the translator of the Lithuanian literature into German, the old and faithful friend of Lithuania dr. Claudia Sinnig, the Polish writer and essayist, expert in Central Europe and especially the former Yugoslavia, the tireless traveler Nikodem

Szczygłowski and the philosopher Paulius Gritėnas (who put forward the question directly: where could the new iron curtain fall?) and the discussions afterwards have convincingly revealed that the topic of the forum is truly relevant and probably not considered enough. Clearly, not only the decades-long partition of West and East Europe, but the following liberation of East and Central Europe was and still is one of the essential factors that have caused the present European migraine. We will continue in this vein in September 202 in the third Nida Forum.

Those who could not attend the second Nida Forum but are concerned with the fate of Europe, we present with this issue of "Nidos sąsiuviniai" in which we compiled the texts of all the presentations. At the same time, we are already issuing the invitation to come to Nida again, on the 11–12th of September, 2020, to discuss how we tore down the wall that was built.