RELIGION AND DEMOCRACY:

An Exchange of Experiences Between East and West

Center for Religious Studies and Research (Vilnius)

General Informations:

The conference is organized by the Center for Religious Studies and Research at Vilnius Univ., in co-operation with CESNUR and the New Religions Research and Information Center, Vilnius.

Date: April 10-12, 2003.

Place: Vilnius Univ., Universiteto str. 3, LT-2734 Vilnius, Lithuania.

Deadline for submission: December 15, 2002.

Contact: Center for Religious Studies and Research at Vilnius University, Universiteto str. 3, LT-2734 Vilnius, Lithuania; e-mail: religijosc@hotmail.com:

New Religions Research and Information Center, PO Box 3550, LT-2001 Vilnius, Lithuania; e-mail: nr-tic@takas.lt; CESNUR, Via Confienza 19, 10121 Torino, Italy; e-mail: cesnurto@tin.it. This international conference will be an opportunity for scholars and others from around the world to meet and share their insights about religions, interactions between "old" and "new" religions, interactions between religious and secular institutions, paying attention to the specific problems of Eastern and Central Europe. The conference will allow space and time for the discussion and exchange of information and will be an opportunity for participants to develop wider networks for the future contributions working in the field of religion and analyzing its impact on the changes in society.

Call for Papers

The speakers from different countries and a broad range of disciplines, including sociology, anthropology, social psychology, history of religion, law, religious studies and theology, are invited to give presentations on the following themes:

- The relations between religious groups and society, between the social institutions and religious minorities
- Freedom of religion and conscience, the problems in the legislation on the activities of religious groups in the contemporary states, particularly in Eastern and Central Europe
- The impact of religious groups on the changes in contemporary society
- Religious minorities and their relations with »traditional religions«

Abstracts of between 100 and 200 words and a short CV should be sent in three copies, one to the *Center for Religious Studies and Research* at the University of Vilnius, one to the *New Religions Research and Information Center*, and one to CESNUR. The papers must be written and presented in English.