

## **Interview with the Deputy Secretary of the Head of Mission Mindaugas Stanys**



We had a chance to be at the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania which is found in Prague. It is a really nice building and people seemed to me very likeable. I felt very comfortable there, the atmosphere was just amazing! Unfortunately, we haven't met the ambassador Edvilas Raudonikis who was on his mission back in Lithuania with our foreign minister, but we met the Second Secretary Mindaugas Stanys who answered all of our questions. Once we entered the building, local secretary took care of us. We put off our clothes and entered the meeting room, which looked pretty much like a comfortable and nice-looking living room.

First of all, the deputy head of mission said us some basic information about Lithuania and its relationship to the CR. It was quite interesting.

Lithuania is one of the Baltic States and has about 3 million inhabitants, the country is very flat, they don't have any big mountain (the biggest is 293 meter above the sea). Their sea shore is 99 km long. They have a lot of lakes. Some of them are so clean and you don't have to boil the water if you want to drink it. Then we heard something about their history, occupations and connection to Russia. Finally he said that Lithuania is a member of the EU as well as the Czech Republic.

Now let's move to the questions.

### **What do you think about the Czech cuisine?**

It is fat, with a lot of sugar, cabbage and potatoes.

### **What about the relationship between the Baltic States, the tree sisters?**

It is good but in the past there were some silly wars, such as, egg war, chicken war, etc.

### **What is the Lithuanians' religion?**

People belong to Roman Catholic Church and are very faithful.

### **What do you like about the Czech Republic?**

The mountains! I like skiing and hiking. And also beer, but it is much less strong than the Lithuanian's. When we go to the pub we usually have one or two glasses of beer, not as in the Czech Republic - five or six.

**How long have you been to the Czech Republic?**

Since 2014.

**What do you think about Russian policy?**

\*shows the map\* Here is Kaliningrad area and here is Lithuania. In Kaliningrad area are more than 50% of citizens connected to a military. I guess, you can imagine, what can happen...

**Where were you before coming to the Czech Republic?**

In Belarus. It was completely different.

**How many languages can you speak?**

Besides Lithuanian, I also understand Polish. I have 12 years of experience with Russian, then Byelorussian and Ukrainian. Then a little bit Czech and French.

**What about languages in Lithuania?**

There is Lithuanian language, than Latvian and in the past also Prussian. We are very proud of our language. And we are always trying to save it from different influences, mainly from the Slavic languages. And the letter-w- is an issue for Polish minority (8%)

**What have you studied at university?**

Policy sciences and international relationships.

**What is the most important character trait for being good diplomat?**

Don't be shy!

After we ended up with the interview, embassy staff brought us some coffee, orange juice and Lithuanian cookies called tinginys. We also received some studying material and each student could take a Lithuanian flag.