

## ALEKSANDRA PALKOVA

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### PROFILE

A motivated expert with a strong foundation in both theoretical knowledge and practical skills within the field of European Union affairs, with a specific focus on CFSP, CSDP, and Neighbourhood Policy/Enlargement. Over the past five years, I have a variety of responsibilities in the field starting from extensive experience in project management, project proposal drafting, as well as, public speaking at international conferences and in media engagements. These skills have been honed through my previous work experience in both think-tanks and International Political Organization.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

#### Head of EU Programme

Latvian Institute of International Affairs

Riga, Latvia

February 2023 — Present

- Working with stakeholders, international NGOs, and organizations such as: UN, NATO, EC, EP, Council of Europe and decision-makers to include up-to-date relevant research, analyses, and expert groups to address EU policy;
- Briefing the LIIA Director about EU main policy changes and activities in foreign and defence matters (e.g., war in Ukraine, EU enlargement, CFSP, and CSDP, EU Neighbourhood Policy, Global South, EU-Africa, EU-NATO relations); (ad hoc, other EU related issues)
- Coordinating and planning research activities within the EU Programme, guiding a team of researchers and experts in producing high-quality analyses and reports on EU-related topics within the Institute for MoFA and European Parliament/European Commission;
- Providing annual policy recommendations (in June and November) to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on EU questions in the field of security, economy, and foreign policy;
- Serving as the project manager and coordinator for main projects within the EU Programme, such as EC HORIZON grants (36 months, budget 3,430,176 euros, 22 partners), CERV grant (24 months, budget 420,075 euros, 12 partners), BAFF grants, and EEA and Norway Grants and other projects.
- Drafting projects and submitting them for EC and others open grants: planning the project outline, identifying consortium partners, drafting work packages (WPs), coordinating with a consortium of partners, planning project dissemination.
- Providing live analyses of commentaries for media (TV and radio) on EU-related topics (Euronews, Tvnet, TV24, LETA, LSM, LR1, LR4, Diena.lv, etc);
- Speaking in panels of international conferences (e.g., EU Council Presidencies, MoFA-organized events, international forums, NGOs conferences, seminars);
- Representing LIIA and the EU Programme at open events for students and scholars by educating them on EU matters;
- Informing Latvian stakeholders and decision-makers on EU policy updates, EU Summit decisions, new EC planning, as well as published significant programs, directives, and regulations within foreign and defence matters;

Previously worked for 5 years at LIIA as a Researcher before transitioning to leading the Programme.

#### Researcher

NATO Parliamentary Assembly

Brussels, Belgium

September 2023 — Present

- Writing reports on topics such as: NATO at 75, NATO and the Global South, NATO's Partners at Risk, Russia's War Against Ukraine, NATO's Open Door Policy, and China's Global Role;

- Providing policy planning documents, backgrounders, outlines for NATO PA Committees, closer collaboration with PCNP and PCTR subcommittees;
- Writing session notes and speaking notes for the Sessions, mission travel chairperson;
- Contributing to sessions through organizational matters;

Associate Researcher  
European Council of Foreign Relations (ECFR),  
London, UK  
April 2021 - Present

Research for projects and contributing by providing information about Latvia's country profile

- Energy Sovereignty Index, assessment of energy sovereignty across different EU countries, <https://ecfr.eu/special/energy-sovereignty-index/>;
- Energy Deals Tracker, monitoring and analysing energy-related agreements and transactions on a global scale, <https://ecfr.eu/special/energy-deals-tracker/>;
- Sovereignty Index, assessing sovereignty in various geopolitical contexts, <https://ecfr.eu/special/sovereignty-index/>;
- Sentiment Compass, exploring public sentiment and opinions on international affairs, <https://ecfr.eu/special/sentiment-compass/>;
- Mapping China Influence in Western Balkans, mapping China's influence in the Western Balkans, <https://ecfr.eu/special/china-balkans/>;

Lecturer  
Riga Stradins University,  
Riga, Latvia  
June 2021 — March 2024

Teaching and planning entirely course of:

- International Relations and diplomacy Programme, course “Governance of the European Union”, MA level ECTS 5, 26 lectures and seminars.
- International Relations and European Studies Programme, course “European Security Defence”, MA level, ECTS 4, 25 lectures and seminars;
- International Relations and European Studies Programme, course “Introduction to the European Union”, BA level, ECTS 2, 17 lectures and seminars;
- International Relations and European Studies Programme, course “Russian Foreign and Domestic Policy”, BA level, ECTS 4, 25 lectures and seminars;
- International Relations and European Studies Programme, course “International Security and Organizations”, BA level, ECTS 2, 17 lectures and seminars;

Lecturer  
Vidzeme's University,  
Valmiera, Latvia  
June 2021 — December 2023

Teaching and planning entirely course of:

- International Relations Programme, course “Euroatlantic Values and EU Common Foreign and Security Policy”, MA level, ECTS 4, 25 lectures and seminars.
- International Relations Programme, course “Disinformation, Misinformation, and Conspiracy Theories.” MA level, ECTS 2, 17 lectures and seminars;

Researcher  
NUPI  
Oslo, Norway  
June 2021 — June 2022

Monthly research activities on EU climate and defence policy with think tanks: SPRI, MNBU, PRIO, TSPMI, CMI, FIIA, EFPI, and DIIS.

<p>Researcher (National Expert), Latvian Institute of International Affairs January 2020 – February 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Management: including communications, logistics, accounting, funding, content creation, supervision, and team coordination.</li> <li>• Writing Analytical Briefs and Conducting Research on EU Policy</li> <li>• Drafting projects and submitting them for grants: planning the project outline, drafting work packages (WPs), coordinating with a consortium of partners, planning project dissemination, and identifying consortium partners.</li> <li>• Providing Radio and TV Commentary on an Ad Hoc Basis on EU Topics for TV24, LSM, LR1, LR4, Euronews, Polish media, etc.</li> <li>• Participating in International Conferences in open plenary sessions, in the panels and also as a moderator.</li> <li>• Organizing High-Level Conferences, such as the NATO Summit in Riga, EU Conversations, Riga Dialogue, Riga Security Forum, Book presentations, (Handling logistics, communication, speakers coordination, program development, and budget management, drafting agreements)</li> <li>• Writing articles for books</li> </ul>
<p>Senior Researcher Riga Stradins University Riga, Latvia September 2019 – June 2022</p> <p>Project management and coordination of the projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Countries in the Crises of Other Countries - Influencing Factors: The Cases of Belarus and Ukraine.</li> <li>• Factors and Actors Influencing the Will of the Society to Defend the State: The Case of the Baltic States.</li> <li>• I Want to Defend: Factors and Actors Affecting the Country - The Case of Latvia, Lithuania, and Taiwan" (Latvian Lithuanian-Taiwan Scientific Cooperation Support Fund Project)</li> </ul>
<p>Content writer Latvian Radio, Since 2018-2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating News Content for Radio News Shows</li> <li>• Providing Simultaneous Translation (English to Latvian/Russian)</li> <li>• Preparing Speeches for Producers</li> <li>• Writing Concise Information Briefs</li> </ul>

## EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 2022 — PRESENT	Doctor of Philosophy, Riga Stradins University. Currently enrolled as a third-year student in a five-year program, thesis EU natural and artificial crises impact on integration process within Common Security and Defence policy
JANUARY 2020 — JANUARY 2022	Master of Political Science, Riga Stradins University. Achieved academic excellence by graduating with High Honours (9.8) and the defence of my master's thesis, earning a perfect score of 10, European Union crises impact on CFSP integration.
JANUARY 2019 — SEPTEMBER 2019	Exchange scholarship (Erasmus), Maastricht University, Faculty of European Studies, Maastricht
JANUARY 2017 — JUNE 2020	Bachelor of Science in Political Science, European Studies), Riga Stradins University, Riga

Achieved academic excellence by graduating with High Honours (9.2) and the defence of my bachelor's thesis, earning a perfect score of 10.

### **LANGUAGES:**

Latvian – native, English - C1/C2 (Advanced), Russian - C1/C2 (Advanced), Ukrainian – A2 (Intermediate), French – A2 (Intermediate, limited working proficiency), German – A1 (limited working proficiency)

### **SKILLS AND COMPETENCES**

- Strong Analytical Skills, strong analytical skills, proficient in crafting complex plans and analyses.
- Stress Resilience, capable of managing multiple projects and teams simultaneously. Can make autonomous decisions and prioritize tasks adeptly, even in high-pressure situations. When faced with stress, quickly identify solutions and delegate tasks effectively.
- Clarity and Accuracy, ensure clarity and accuracy in the work, maintaining meticulous attention to detail.
- Initiative, displays initiative by taking the lead in time-sensitive scenarios.
- Teamwork, by working in diverse environments, have been collaborating seamlessly with individuals from various backgrounds, cultures, and age groups.

### **PUBLICATIONS (RECENT)**

- Palkova, A., & Bukovskis, K. "Head and Heart in the Right Place: Latvia on the EU Enlargement." In *Head and Heart: Perspectives on EU Enlargement*, Ed.,. Cham, Switzerland: Springer Cham. (2024).
- Palkova, A (2024) "CRISES OR JUST MORE TURBULENCE? IT'S TIME TO SAIL THE ROUGH SEA AND GET USED TO IT" in Sintija Broka, Kārlis Bukovskis, *Latvian Foreign and Security Policy. Yearbook 2024*. Riga: Latvian Institute of International Affairs, 2024
- Palkova, A (2023) "From Crises To War? Geopoliticising the EU Without Sacrificing Solidarity And Values" in Sintija Broka, Kārlis Bukovskis, *Latvian Foreign and Security Policy. Yearbook 2023*. Riga: Latvian Institute of International Affairs 2023
- Palkova, A. (2022). "In Search of Stability: Latvia in the European Union in 2022." In Eds., Spruds, A., Broka, S. *Latvian Foreign and Security Policy, Yearbook 2022*, Rīga: Latvian Institute of International Affairs, 2022, 70-83. <https://www.lai.lv/publikacijas/latvijas-areja-un-drosibas-politika-gadagramata-2022-956>
- Bukovskis, K., Palkova A., & Bikovs, A. (2021). "Foreign Policy Specialization of Small States: The Role of Latvia in Collaboration between the European Union in Central Asia." *Central Asia- Europe Relations: Linking Asia with Europe in times of expansions*, Romanian Journal of European Affairs. <http://rjea.ier.gov.ro/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Art.-8.pdf>
- Andžāns, M., Gajauskaite, I., Juurvee, I., Palkova, A., Yeh, Y.-Y., and Vargulis, M. (2021). "Willingness to Defend Own Country in the Baltic States: Implications for National Security and NATO's Collective Defence." Rīga Stradiņš University, 2021. 82 p. [https://doi.org/10.25143/willingness\\_to\\_defend\\_2021\\_ISBN\\_9789934563997](https://doi.org/10.25143/willingness_to_defend_2021_ISBN_9789934563997)

### **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES (RECENT)**

- Night Owl Session in Prague (Chatam House rule)
- Open Plenary Session Panellist at "Pre-Presidency Conference Belgium 2023 in Brussels," November 25, 2023. EU Defence and Security priorities for Belgium Council Presidency.
- Energy Security in CEE region. Warsaw Institute and Three Seas Initiative. 12.11. 2023.

- Speaker at the first panel on "Disinformation, Misinformation, and Conspiracy Theories in CEE Region. How to Safeguard Democratic Values?" in Threats to Democracy, Sofia, May 2023.
- “Pre-Presidency Conference 2022 in Stockholm,” Parallel Session II titled "Energy Security and War in Ukraine" at 13:15 – 14:45 on December 1, 2022.
- “Pre-Presidency Conference 2022 in Prague,” on March 27, 2022, Czech EU Council Presidency. Parallel Session II titled "The Green Deal: Are We Fit for Carbon Neutrality?" at 17:15 – 18:45 on May 23, 2022. The event is jointly organized by the Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA) and the Institute of International Relations Prague

(March 2024)