Let me congratulate all the readers of this first edition of the *Journal of Security and Sustainability Issues*. I am very pleased that the The General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania have decided to launch this ambitious academic project and succeeded in attracting so many foreign partners. We hope that through the involvement of academics and practitioners from so many institutions of high international standing as well as through the peer review process the editors will be able to ensure continuous high standard of this publication.

While the Journal is first and foremost designated for the professionals and academics working in security policy area, I hope that the publishers will find ways to reach wider audience. To my regret, international security and defense matters are increasingly becoming the issue for narrow professional circles, and largely separated from our societies. However, the foundations of our security lie within our societies. It is therefore paramount that our public has sufficient awareness and understanding of the issues and stakes involved when we discuss Lithuania’s commitments to NATO, or deployment of our troops in Afghanistan, or energy security matters.

Furthermore, I am pleased to note that the title of the *Journal* as well as the content of the first edition implies a comprehensive approach to the international security agenda. Indeed, in the current security environment, economic, energy, environmental, demographic and national security issues are increasingly interrelated and the lines between them are increasingly blurred. Therefore the analysis of risks and threats to national and international security is impossible without understanding those complex interrelations.

Last but not least, I hope that the *Journal of Security and Sustainability Issues* will help to widen the discussions and teaching curriculum in the Lithuanian Military Academy. It is very important that future officers of the Lithuanian Armed Forces have broad understanding of the security issues and develop necessary skills to operate in the future environment, which is going to be ever more complex and ever more international.

With best wishes

RASA JUKNEVIČIENĖ
Minister of National Defence
of the Republic of Lithuania