



GLOBAL COALITION
OF UKRAINIAN
STUDIES

UKRAINIAN WEEK IN GERMANY 12–16 OCT 2026

Opening event



European University Viadrina
12th of October

Organisational Partner in Germany



Schedule

Venue: Logensaal der Europa-Universität Viadrina,
Logenstraße 11, 15230 Frankfurt (Oder)

Language: English

13:00 - 13:45

Official opening of the Ukrainian Week

Speakers:

Prof. Dr. Eduard Mühle, President of European University Viadrina

Oleksii Makeiev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the Federal Republic of Germany

Volodymyr Sheiko, Director General of Ukrainian Institute

Olga Budnyk, Adviser–Commissioner to the President of Ukraine on the Fund of the President of Ukraine for the Support of Education, Science, and Sports

Anke Reiffenstuel, Director Culture, Education, Science; Directorate General Culture & Communication, German Federal Foreign Office

13:45 - 14:00

Presentation of GCUS

Speakers:

Olha Oseredchuk, Head of the Project Office, Global Coalition of Ukrainian Studies; Professor, Lviv Polytechnic National University.

Musical performance

Schedule

14:00 - 14:15

Signing of Memorandum of Cooperation

14:15 - 15:00

Exhibition Opening “Crimea: Over a Decade Under the Russian Occupation”

15:00 - 15:30

Coffee break

15:30 - 16:30

Ukrainian Studies at Viadrina - Pitching session

Speakers:

Stefan Henkel, Prof. Dr. Benjamin Lahusen: Mohyla Academy's Remote Law Campus @Viadrina / German-Ukrainian University Network (DAAD)

Dr. Susann Worschech: Competence Network Interdisciplinary Ukrainian Studies

Dr. Anne Holper: ImpactHub& Peace Mediation

Prof. Dr. Erol Pohlreich: LL.M. Transitional Justice

Ingo Trenkmann (Faculty of Economics) und Torsten Glase (International Affairs): Dual Bachelor's degree with Karazin University

16:30 - 17:30

Round Table discussion: Security & Resilience for a European Future

Speakers:

Oleksii Makeiev, Ambassador of Ukraine to Germany.

Dr. Andrea Luebcke, Deutscher Bundestag

Schedule

Prof. Dr. Jan C. Behrends, European University
Viadrina

Prof. Dr. Olena Palko, an Assistant Professor at the
Department of History, University of Basel

Moderator:

Dr. Susann Worschech, European University
Viadrina

17:30 - 18:00

Coffee break

18:00 - 19:00

Keynote lecture:

Freedom despite: why Ukraine matters for Europe

Speaker:

Volodymyr Yermolenko, ukrainian philosopher, writer
and journalist

19:00

Reception

Event participants



Oleksii Makeiev

Ukrainian diplomat and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Germany since October 2022. With a diplomatic career spanning nearly three decades, he has served as Political Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine (2014–2020) and Special Representative for Sanctions Policy (2020–2022). His expertise includes international security, foreign policy, sanctions policy and strategic communication. He previously served at the Ukrainian embassies in Switzerland and Germany. Oleksii holds a degree in International Relations from the Institute of International Relations at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. He speaks German, English, Spanish and French.



Volodymyr Sheiko

Arts and culture management, marketing and communications professional with 20 years of experience in cultural diplomacy. Member of PEN Ukraine. Volodymyr has been leading the Ukrainian Institute since its founding in 2018. Previously, he was director arts at British Council Ukraine, regional arts and communications manager for 15 countries of South-East Europe and Central Asia. Organiser and producer of numerous cultural projects and events in theatre, literature, film, creative industries, music and visual art. Graduate of the Institute of International Relations of the National University of Kyiv, Institute on Public Diplomacy at the University of Southern California, School for Strategy Architects, and Aspen Institute Kyiv. Holds an Executive MBA degree from the Kyiv-Mohyla Business School. Lecturer on cultural diplomacy, essayist, contributor to Ukrainian and international media and professional journals.



Olga Budnyk

Adviser – Commissioner to the President of Ukraine at the Fund of the President of Ukraine for the Support of Education, Science and Sports. Co-launched the Twinning initiative, creating 100+ partnerships between Ukrainian and UK universities, initiated dual-degree programs, helped establish the Global Coalition of Ukrainian Studies, Expert in civic education and public administration.



Olha Oseredchuk

Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences (PhD in History), Head of the Project Office of the Global Coalition of Ukrainian Studies, and Professor at the Department of Practical Psychology and Mental Health, Lviv Polytechnic National University. She has over 16 years of experience in the field of higher education and academic development. Her research focuses on adult education, particularly learning and reintegration of veterans, as well as teaching excellence and professional development of educators.



Volodymyr Yermolenko

Uc. Volodymyr holds a PhD from the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS, Paris) and teaches at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. Since 2009, he has been Director of European Projects at Internews Ukraine, and since 2015, a journalist at hromadske.ua. He is one of the initiators and Editor-in-Chief of UkraineWorld, launched in 2017, and has served on the Supervisory Board of the Ukrainian Institute since 2018.

Volodymyr is the author of numerous articles and essays on Ukraine, Europe, philosophy, literature and global affairs, published in Ukrainian and international media, including Le Monde, Financial Times, Newsweek, The Economist and Die Welt. He is also the author of several books, including The Storyteller and the Philosopher: Walter Benjamin and His Time (2011), Distant Close Ones (2015), The Ocean Catcher: The Story of Odysseus (2017), and Fluid Ideologies: Ideas and Politics in Europe in the 19th–20th Centuries (2018). Since 2020, he has co-hosted the Kult podcast with Tetiana Oharkova, exploring defining eras and figures in cultural history.

Event participants



Dr Susann Worschech

Susann Worschech is the scientific co-ordinator of the Competence Network Interdisciplinary Ukrainian Studies Frankfurt (Oder) – Berlin (KIU) at the European University Viadrina. As a social scientist, she has been working on Ukraine for about 20 years – once starting with her fascination for the Orange Revolution in November 2004. Since then, she works on civil society, democratization, culture diplomacy, resilience and Europeanization of Ukraine and Central & Eastern Europe. She is a board member of the German Association for East European Studies and of the section on Sociology of Europe of the German Sociological Association. She is a member of the advisory board of Ukraine Analyses and co-editor of the book series Interdisciplinary Ukrainian Studies (2025) published by Nomos.



Stefan Henkel

Stefan Henkel is head of Viadrina International Affairs and leads the project Remote Law Campus, a joint project of the European University Viadrina and the National University of the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA). Its goal is to offer Ukrainian law students who are temporarily residing in Europe, and particularly in Germany, a safe, in-person learning environment in Frankfurt (Oder), while maintaining their connection to the Ukrainian higher education system. He also leads the project Learning and Teaching Together within the framework of the DAAD programme German-Ukrainian University Network (DUHN). The project aims to enhance and strengthen the already existing collaboration with Viadrina's Ukrainian partners.



Dr Anne Holper

Anne Holper is an applied Conflict Researcher, PhD in Political Philosophy/Applied Ethics from the Center for Ethics at LMU Munich, a certified business mediator, systemic and solution-focused coach, and supervisor. She is Co-Head of the Viadrina Center for Peace Mediation, Academic Director of the Viadrina master's programme Conflict and Democracy, and Consortial Lead of the research and transfer project Impact Hub. She has 20 years of experience in action-oriented research, support and coaching of negotiation, mediation and decision-making processes in international political conflicts, amongst others in cooperation with the German Federal Foreign Office and the Robert Bosch Foundation.



Prof. Dr Eduard Mühle

In November 2022, Eduard Mühle was elected President of the European University Viadrina for six years, starting office on 1 April 2023 after having been Professor of History of East Central Europe and Eastern Europe at the University of Münster since 2005. After studying Eastern European, Modern and Jewish History, Slavic Studies and Philosophy in Paderborn, Jerusalem, Münster and London, and research stays in Kyiv, Leningrad, Novgorod and Moscow, he received his doctorate in Münster in 1990 and completed his habilitation in 2004 at the Philipps University of Marburg.

From 1990 to 1995, he worked as Head of the Executive Division of the German Research Foundation and Head of the International Affairs Division and Department at the Secretariat of the German Rectors' Conference in Bonn. From 1995 to 2005 he was Director of the Leibniz Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe in Marburg, and from 2008 to 2013 Director of the German Historical Institute in Warsaw. Research and teaching stays included a visiting professorship and senior visiting fellowship at St Antony's College at Oxford (2001-2002), Wolfson College at Cambridge (2007), the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton (2017) and at the German Historical Institute's Warsaw branch in Prague (2021-22).



Prof. Dr Benjamin Lahusen

Benjamin Lahusen is Dean of the Faculty of Law and Professor of Private Law and Modern Legal History at the European University Viadrina. He studied law at the Universities of Tübingen, Lausanne, Humboldt University of Berlin, and Columbia University in New York. After completing his First State Examination in Law, he spent three years as a doctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History in Frankfurt am Main. Following his legal traineeship at the Berlin Court of Appeal (Kammergericht) and his Second State Examination in 2010, he initially worked as a research associate at the University of Rostock. From 2015 to 2020, he was head of a junior research group at the Faculty of Law of Humboldt University of Berlin.

From 2020 to 2023, he served as Managing Director of the Advisory Commission in connection with the restitution of cultural property seized as a result of Nazi persecution, particularly from Jewish owners.

Event participants



Prof. Dr Erol Polreich

Since 2023, Prof. Dr. Erol Polreich has held the Chair of Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, and Related Areas of Law at European University Viadrina. From 2016 to 2023, he held visiting and substitute professorships at universities in Berlin, Freiburg, Hamburg, and Hanover. He completed his habilitation at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in 2016 with a thesis on the right to be heard in criminal proceedings. From 2011 to 2013, he worked as a research associate at the Federal Constitutional Court in the chambers of Justice Prof Dr Gertrude Lübke-Wolff. He received his doctorate from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in 2009. He studied law at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Université Paris II – Panthéon-Assas, and the University of Hamburg. At Viadrina, he is involved in strengthening academic cooperation with Ukrainian universities within the project Learning and Teaching Together.



Prof. Dr Georg Stadtmann

Georg Stadtmann is Professor of Macroeconomics at European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), where he has held the chair since 2009. His research and teaching focus on macroeconomics, international economics, and financial markets. In recent years, he has devoted particular attention to the economic consequences of the war in Ukraine and the country's future reconstruction. In preparation for the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Gdańsk in June 2026, he conducted a comparative analysis of major reconstruction plans developed by the European Union, the World Bank, the IMF, the OECD, international think tanks, and the Ukrainian government. At Viadrina, he is also involved in strengthening academic cooperation with Ukrainian universities, including newly established exchange programmes and joint degree programmes.