

# DOING DEMOCRACY

Connecting Academia and Civil Society Across Borders  
Two days full of impulses, dialogue and (German-Polish) networking


 23–24 April 2026

## Day 1: 23 April 2026

Orientation, welcoming, opening & working groups

12:00–13:00

**Arrival & registration, poster walk, refreshments**

 Logensaal, Logenstraße 11, 15230 Frankfurt (Oder)

13:00–14:30

**Welcome address** by Viadrina President Prof. Dr. Eduard Mühle

**Panel discussion “Doing democracy: Why connecting science and Civil Society?”**

with Prof. Mikołaj Czeńnik (SWPS University, Warsaw), Dr. Anja Hennig (EUV), Irene Hahn-Fuhr (Centrum Liberale Moderne, Berlin)

*Keynote and discussion with simultaneous interpretation into Polish and German, Livestream with simultaneous interpretation into English.*

**Introduction** to the conference program

*Walk to Viadrina Coworking Space (7min)*

15:00–16:15

**Thematic working groups – Session 1 (Topic A)**



Working Groups (further topics possible):

- 1) Youth and Civic Education in the Age of Multimedia (Dis-)Information
- 2) Challenges in Enhancing Dialogue and Local Participation
- 3) Strategies for Countering Hate Speech and Right-Wing Extremism
- 4) Mechanisms for Empowerment, Resilience, and Community Building
- 5) Paths to Protect Queer and Minority Rights

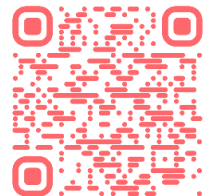
 Coworking Space Viadrina, Logenstraße 4, 15230 Frankfurt (Oder)

16:15–16:45

**Coffee break**

16:45–18:00	<p><b>Thematic working groups – Session 2 (Topic A)</b></p> <p>Deepening discussion in the working groups Optional: Creation of sub-groups or rotation to another working group</p> <p><i>Walk to the town hall (10 minutes)</i></p>
18:30–20:00	<p><b>Public event</b></p> <p><b>Welcome address</b> by Claus Junghanns, Mayor of Frankfurt (Oder)</p> <p><b>Roundtable “Chances of Participatory Democracy in Times of Disinformation”</b> with Prof. Radosław Markowski (SWPS University Warsaw), Krzysztof Izdebski (Batory Foundation Warsaw), Prof. Gesine Schwan (Berlin Governance Platform) moderated by Dr. Anja Hennig (EUV)</p> <p><b>Spotlights</b> from Civil Society</p> <p><b>Livestream</b> as part of the <a href="#">ERUA DigiTalks</a> series on "Achieving Social Change in ERUA’s Local Communities and Regions" </p> <p> Frankfurt (Oder) town hall, City Council chamber</p>
20:00	<p><b>Dinner reception</b> in the Townhall</p>

Through **DOING DEMOCRACY**, European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) and the Center for Democracy Research at SWPS University Warsaw are creating a space where academia and civil society work together on the future of democracy. Promoting and analyzing democracy has become more urgent and at times more difficult. That is precisely why we need spaces in which NGOs and academia share knowledge, identify needs, strengthen one another, and develop sustainable new forms of collaboration.



Ministerium für Wirtschaft,  
Energie, Klimaschutz und Europa



**Day 2: 24 April 2026**  
**New working groups & outlook**

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09:00–09:15

**Introduction** to the program of Day 2

 Small Aula, Collegium Polonicum, ul. Kościuszki 1, Słubice

*Indoor walk to the coworking space*

09:30–10:45

**Thematic working groups – Session 3 (Choice of new Topic B)**

 ENS Coworking Space, Collegium Polonicum, ul. Kościuszki 1, Słubice

10:45–11:15

**Coffee Break**

11:15–12:30

**Thematic working groups – Session 4**

Option 1) Moderated Thematic Working Groups – Topic open to chose  
Option 2) Discussion of Specific Collaboration Formats  
Option 3) Self organized Open Space for Project Development

12:30–13:20

**Lunch**

 Small Aula Foyer, Collegium Polonicum, ul. Kościuszki 1, Słubice

**Optional artist-led exhibition tour** with Michael Kurzwelley:  
“**Mediathek Słubfurt / Nowa Amerika**”, Collegium Polonicum library

13:30-15:30

**Public event “Future Lab: Conclusions & Perspectives”**

**Presentation** of the main findings of the Working Groups.  
Lessons learned, future steps towards cooperation, projects,  
publications, etc.

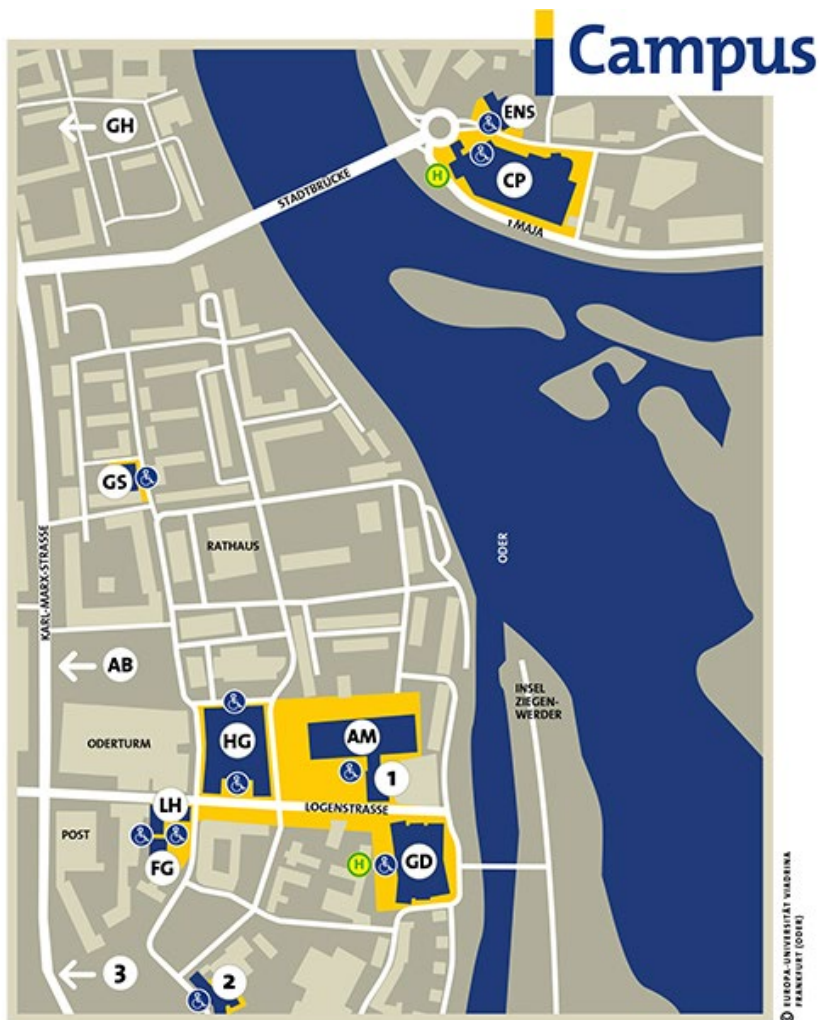
**Comments** from political and academic stakeholders:  
Marzena Słodownik (Mayor of Słubice, *tbc*), Polish-German Science  
Foundation, Batory Foundation, Tolerantes Brandenburg, Ministry  
for Economy, Energy, Climate Protection and Europe of the Land  
Brandenburg.

*With simultaneous interpretation into Polish and German, Livestream with  
simultaneous interpretation into English.*

 Small Aula, Collegium Polonicum, ul. Kościuszki 1, Słubice

15:30

**End of the conference**



- HG HAUPTGEBÄUDE**  
Große Scharrnstraße 59
- AM AUDITORIUM MAXIMUM**  
Logenstraße 4
- GD GRÄFIN-DÖNHOF-GEBÄUDE**  
Europaplatz 1
- LH LOGENHAUS**  
Logenstraße 11
- FG FACEWALL-GEBÄUDE**  
Logenstraße 12
- GS GROSSE SCHARRNSTRASSE 23 A**
- AB AUGUST-BEBEL-STRASSE 12**
- CP COLLEGIUM POLONICUM**  
ul. Kościuszki 1, Słubice
- ENS EUROPEAN NEW SCHOOL OF DIGITAL STUDIES**  
ul. Kościuszki 1, Słubice
- GH VIADRINA-GÄSTEHAUS**  
Sophienstraße 5
- 1 STUDIERENDEN-WOHNANLAGE**
- 2 STUDIERENDENWERK**
- 3 BAHNHOF**
- H BUS 983 > CP**  
**TRAM 2 > AM**  
**TRAM 3 > 1**
- BARRIEREFREIE ZUGÄNGE**



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