


Simultaneous interpretation will be provided on site for all public events in German and Polish and via livestream in German, Polish and English. The links to the livestreams will be available on the website shortly before the conference.

## 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, lunch snack, poster walk**

 Logensaal, Logenstraße 11, Frankfurt (Oder)

13:00–14:30

**Public event**

**Welcoming remarks** by Prof. Dr. Eduard Mühle (President of the European University Viadrina)

**Opening discussion ‘Doing democracy: Why connecting science and Civil Society?’**

with Prof. Dr. Radosław Markowski (SWPS University, Warsaw), Dr. Anja Hennig (European University Viadrina) and Artur Koldomasov (SWPS University Warsaw, tbc)

moderated by Irene Hahn-Fuhr (Centrum Liberale Moderne/Foundation for German-Polish Cooperation)

**Introduction** to the conference program, organizational information

*Walk to Viadrina Coworking Space (7 minutes)*



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15:00–16:15	<p><b>Thematic working groups – Session 1 (Topic A)</b></p> <p>Working Groups (further topics possible):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Youth and Civic Education in the Age of Multimedia (Dis-)Information</li> <li>2) Challenges in Enhancing Dialogue and Local Participation</li> <li>3) Strategies for Countering Hate Speech and Right-Wing Extremism</li> <li>4) Mechanisms for Empowerment, Resilience, and Community Building</li> <li>5) Paths to Protect Queer and Minority Rights</li> </ol> <p> Coworking Space Viadrina, Logenstraße 4, Frankfurt (Oder)</p>
16:15–16:45	<p><b>Coffee break</b></p>
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>Panel discussion: ‘Chances of Participatory Democracy in Times of Disinformation’</b> With Prof. Dr. Radosław Markowski (SWPS University Warsaw), Prof. Gesine Schwan (Berlin Governance Platform), Dr. Anne Holper (Center for Peace Mediation, European University Viadrina) and Krzysztof Izdebski (Batory Foundation Warsaw)</p> <p>Moderated by Dr. Anja Hennig (European University Viadrina)</p> <p><b>Spotlights</b> from Civil Society</p> <p><b>Livestream</b> as part of the <a href="#">ERUA DigiTalks</a> </p> <p> City Council chamber, Town hall Frankfurt (Oder), Marktplatz 4, Frankfurt (Oder)</p>
20:00	<p><b>Dinner reception</b> in the town hall</p>

The initiative is part of [ERUA's Work Package 5](#): ‘Achieving Social Change in ERUA's Local Communities and Regions’, and the ERUA Collaborative Open Space (ECOS) platform, developed and supported by the University of the Aegean.

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.



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## Day 2: 24 April 2026

### New working groups & outlook

08:30	<b>Optional: Group walk</b> across the Oder River border  📍 Meeting point: town hall, Marktplatz 4, Frankfurt (Oder)
09:00–09:15	<b>Introduction</b> to the program of Day 2  📍 Conference hall, Collegium Polonicum, ul. Kościuszki 1, Słubice  <i>Indoor walk to the coworking space</i>
09:30–10:45	<b>Thematic working groups – Session 3 (Choice of new Topic B)</b>  📍 ENS Coworking Space, Collegium Polonicum, ul. Kościuszki 1, Słubice
10:45–11:15	<b>Coffee Break</b>
11:15–12:30	<b>Thematic working groups – Session 4</b>  Option 1) Moderated Thematic Working Groups – Topic open to choose Option 2) Discussion of Specific Collaboration Formats Option 3) Self organized Open Space for Project Development
12:30–13:30	<b>Lunch</b>  📍 Conference hall foyer, Collegium Polonicum, ul. Kościuszki 1, Słubice  <b>Optional artist-led exhibition tour</b> with Michael Kurzwelly: “ <b>Mediathek Słubfurt / Nowa Amerika</b> ”, Collegium Polonicum library



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13:30-15:30

## Public event

### Future Lab: Topics, Formats and Conditions for Science-Practice Cooperation

**Presentation** of the main findings of the Working Groups  
Key insights, future steps toward cooperation, projects, publications, etc.

#### Comments from political and academic stakeholders

With Dr. Carola Lau (Ministry for Economy, Energy, Climate Protection and Europe of the Land Brandenburg), Krzysztof Izdebski (Batory Foundation Warsaw), Daria Mudzo-Wieloch (Polish-German Science Foundation), Alfred Roos (Tolerantes Brandenburg), and Joanna Pyrgiel (Euroregion)

Moderated by

Artur Koldomasov (SWPS University Warsaw) & Laura Bannan-Fischer (Institute for Conflict Management, European University Viadrina)

📍 Conference hall, Collegium Polonicum, ul. Kościuszki 1, Słubice

15:30

### End of the conference



Campus Map European University Frankfurt (Oder)