
Third Annual ValEUs Conference:

Values, Democracy, and EU Foreign Policy. Paths to a New Policy Agenda

DATES & VENUES

29 September – 2 October 2026

European University Viadrina
Frankfurt (Oder), Germany

Collegium Polonicum

Adam Mickiewicz University and European University Viadrina
Ślubice, Poland



About the ValEUs Network

ValEUs – Research & Education Network on Contestations to EU Foreign Policy is a Jean Monnet Network co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Commission (2024–2026). Led by the European University Viadrina, ValEUs unites 20 universities across five continents to analyse the European Union's foreign policy and the growing contestation of its foundational values. The network fosters research collaboration and innovative teaching, while actively bridging academic expertise with global policy dialogues involving university students and civil society representatives.

The Third Annual ValEUs Conference serves as the network's synthesis, convening scholars, policymakers, students, and civil society to develop societal strategies and policy recommendations to safeguard the EU's foundational values within an increasingly complex and volatile global landscape. The programme is centred around challenges to the EU and the way these challenges are dealt with.

Website: <https://valeus.eu/>

Conference Programme

Tuesday, 29 September

5:00 p.m.

Welcome

Venue: Logensaal at Logenhaus (LH) | Logenstraße 11, Frankfurt (Oder)

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Conference Opening (t-o) **Livestream**

Venue: Logensaal at Logenhaus (LH) | Logenstraße 11, Frankfurt (Oder)

*To support our planning, we kindly ask you to **register** in advance for this event.*

Institutional Welcome by Geny Piotti (Head of EU Research Affairs, European University Viadrina)

Opening Address by Timm Beichelt (ValEUs Principal Investigator, European University Viadrina)

Keynote Address

Hans Kundnani (European Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE))

What Values Are European?

Commentator: Angela Bourne (Roskilde University)

Wednesday, 30 September

1:30 - 3:15 p.m.

Dealing with Normative Erosion in the EU

Academic Panel

Venue: Logensaal at Logenhaus (LH) | Logenstraße 11, Frankfurt (Oder)

Laura Leonardi (University of Florence)

Sorina Soare (University of Florence)

European Union Disenchantment: Normative Erosion, Instrumental Critique, and Legitimacy Loss

Vanessa Ullrich (European University Viadrina)

Beyond the Sender-Recipient Model: Class, Affect, and the Politics of Authoritarian Appeal in Europe

Nina Sajić (University of Banja Luka)

Performing Europe, Claiming Sovereignty: Strong Leadership and the Limits of EU Conditionality in the Western Balkans

Paulina Pospieszna (Adam Mickiewicz University)

Deliberative Mini-Publics and Societal Democratic Resilience

Moderator: Eugene Nulman (University of Florence)

3:45 - 5:30 p.m.

Theory and Practice in a Collapsing World Order

Academic Panel

Venue: Logensaal at Logenhaus (LH) | Logenstraße 11, Frankfurt (Oder)

Sadia Abbas (Rutgers University)

Europe and the Reconfiguration of Geopolitics: A Problem of Method and Form

Peo Hansen (Linköping University)

Europe Can Only Dominate if Unified, and Only Unify if Dominated: The Geopolitics of European Unity, a Hundred Years On

Randall Halle (University of Pittsburgh)

Norms and the International Legal Order: European Values against Genocide, European Values as Genocide

Faisal Devji (University of Oxford)

History and Politics: The Unravelling of a Relationship

Moderator: Driss Maghraoui (Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane)

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Evening Session at Collegium Polonicum (t·v) Livestream

Co-hosted by Adam Mickiewicz University

Venue: Small Auditorium (Kleine Aula) at Collegium Polonicum | ul. Kościuszki 1, Ślubice, Poland

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Opening Remarks

Ewa Bielewicz (Acting Director, Collegium Polonicum)

Agnieszka Stępińska (Vice-Dean for International Projects and Cooperation, Faculty of Political Science and Journalism, Adam Mickiewicz University)

Eduard Mühle (President, European University Viadrina)

Keynote Address

Marek Prawda (Head of the Polish Representation in Switzerland and Liechtenstein, Chargé d'affaires a.i.)

Challenges of a Value-Oriented EU Foreign Policy

Thursday, 1 October

9:00 - 10:45 a.m.	Dealing with Vulnerabilities Academic Panel Venue: Logensaal at Logenhaus (LH) Logenstraße 11, Frankfurt (Oder) Daria Yashkina (V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University) European Integration through Vulnerability: Lessons from Wartime Universities in Ukraine Giorgia Bulli (University of Florence) Who is Vulnerable? The Politics of Vulnerability in the EU New Pact on Migration and Asylum Jarosław Jańczak (Adam Mickiewicz University) Jakub Jakubowski (Adam Mickiewicz University) Young Poles on European Values Related to Borders, Migration, and Security Ulrike Capdepón (University of Guadalajara) The Mexican-Spanish Dispute (2019) and the Debate of the Conquest and Colonial Past Moderator: Ayhan Kaya (İstanbul Bilgi University)
11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Dealing with Values in EU Foreign and Accession Policy Academic Panel Venue: Logensaal at Logenhaus (LH) Logenstraße 11, Frankfurt (Oder) Vladimir Filipović (Libertas International University) Petar Popović (University of Zagreb) Values and Orientations in Croatian Foreign Policy since 2013 Beata Przybylska-Maszner (Adam Mickiewicz University) Between Values and Security: The EU's Approach to the Use of Force in the Shadow of the War in Ukraine Damir Mladić (Libertas International University) What Do EU Leaders Mean by "Realism"? Jaime A. Preciado Coronado (University of Guadalajara) Mexico and the European Union: Between National Relational Autonomy, Strategic Autonomy, and Organized Social Community Responses Moderator: Özge Onursal Beşgül (İstanbul Bilgi University)
2:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Strengthening Support for Ukrainian Academia (t.v) Livestream Co-hosted by Viadrina International Affairs Roundtable Venue: Logensaal at Logenhaus (LH) Logenstraße 11, Frankfurt (Oder) Dmytro Iarovy (Kyiv School of Economics) Ruslan Zaporozhchenko (V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University) Stefan Henkel (Head of Viadrina International Affairs) Moderator: Dmytro Boiko (V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University)

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.	ValEUs Young Generation Policy Forum: EU Visa Restrictions for International Students (🗣️) Livestream Roundtable <i>Co-hosted by the European Reform University Alliance (ERUA)</i> Venue: Logensaal at Logenhaus (LH) Logenstraße 11, Frankfurt (Oder) Enes İçen (İstanbul Bilgi University) Dilara Korkmaz (İstanbul Bilgi University) A New EU Visa Path for Turkish University Students Discussants: Claire Vitou (University Paris 8) Melika Khangholi (University of Macerata) Gabriela Pawlowicz (European University Viadrina) Moderator: Valerie Müller-Huschke (European University Viadrina)
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Civil Society, Political Actors, and Their Struggle with 'European' Values (🗣️) Livestream Roundtable Venue: Logensaal at Logenhaus (LH) Logenstraße 11, Frankfurt (Oder) Claske Vos (University of Amsterdam) Christian Johann (Europäische Akademie Berlin) Mariangela Rueda-Fiorentino (Universidad del Norte) Daniel Scarborough (Nazarbayev University) Fanny Bouquerel (University Paris 8) Moderator: Timm Beichelt (European University Viadrina)
7:30 p.m.	Public Reception: An Evening of Exchange on 'European' Values <i>An informal evening of conversation, open to all conference visitors and members of the public.</i> Venue: Logensaal at Logenhaus (LH) Logenstraße 11, Frankfurt (Oder) We warmly invite you to join us for some snacks and drinks. To support our planning, we kindly ask you to register in advance for this event.

Friday, 2 October

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.	Alternative Paths in EU Politics and EU Foreign Policy Academic Panel Venue: Logensaal at Logenhaus (LH) Logenstraße 11, Frankfurt (Oder) Marta Zorko (University of Zagreb) Josip Lučev (University of Zagreb) Strategic Games, Deglobalization and Hegemonic Retreat Zhanibek Arynov (Nazarbayev University) The Future of the EU's Normative Agenda in Central Asia Sonja Priebus (European University Viadrina) Foreign Policy Trajectories in Central and Eastern Europe Moderator: Elsa Tulumets-Gerhardt (European University Viadrina)
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11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Looking Ahead: The Role of Universities in Fostering Pluralistic and Humanitarian Values Livestream Roundtable

Co-hosted by the *European Reform University Alliance (ERUA)*

Venue: Logensaal at Logenhaus (LH) | Logenstraße 11, Frankfurt (Oder)

Ayhan Kaya (İstanbul Bilgi University)**Allyson Delnore** (University of Pittsburgh)**Alexei Trochev** (Nazarbayev University)**Arnaud Regnauld** (University Paris 8)**Moderator: Timm Beichelt** (European University Viadrina)

Thank you for your interest!

Thank you for your interest in the Third Annual ValeUs Conference and in the ValeUs network. We invite you to learn more about our research, teaching, and activities at valeus.eu.



VALEUS NETWORK MEMBERS



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