VALEUS

EUROPA-UNIVERSITÄT VIADRINA FRANKFURT (ODER)

Co-funded by the European Union

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
Słubice, 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** (•) **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: Jarosław Jańczak (Adam Mickiewicz University)

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

Moderator: Driss Maghraoui (Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane)

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Evening Session at Collegium Polonicum (•) **Livestream**
Co-hosted by Adam Mickiewicz University
Venue: Small Auditorium (Kleine Aula) at Collegium Polonicum | ul. Kościuszki 1, Słubice, 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)

Timm Beichelt (Principal Investigator, ValEUs Project)

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)
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

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 (•) Livestream
Co-hosted by Viadrina International Affairs
Roundtable
Venue: Logensaal at Logenhaus (LH) | Logenstraße 11, Frankfurt (Oder)

Olena Muradyan, Dmytro Boiko & Ruslan Zaporozhchenko
(V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University)
(Video contribution)

Dmytro Iarovyi (Kyiv School of Economics)

Stefan Henkel (Head of Viadrina International Affairs)

Moderator: Daria Yashkina (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
Co-hosted by the European Reform University Alliance (ERUA)
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)
Karolina Kholiavko (Kyiv School of Economics)

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
An informal evening of conversation, open to all conference visitors and members of the public.
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)

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

Damir Mladić (Libertas International University)
What Do EU Leaders Mean by "Realism"?

Moderator: Elsa Tulmets-Gerhardt (European University Viadrina)

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

Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)

Adam Mickiewicz University Poznań

Al Akhawayn University

Rutgers The State University of New Jersey

Nazarbayev University

University of the Aegean

İstanbul Bilgi University

Doshisha University

Università degli Studi Firenze

University of Pittsburgh

Libertas International University

Universidad de Guadalajara

Universidad del Norte

Roskilde University

V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University

Université Paris 8 Des Créations

Универзитет у Бањој Луци / University of Banja Luka

KSE Kyiv School of Economics

Sveučilište u Zagrebu / University of Zagreb

University of Amsterdam