



Central Leadership Program 2025

-Participant Guide-

25 August – 14 September 2025

Welcome

Dear participants,

We are delighted to officially welcome you as participants of the
CENTRAL Leadership Program.

We look forward to spending an interesting and successful time throughout the duration of this annual program with you.

In order to have a pleasant tour, we have put together important information about your summer program.

If you have any questions before your departure or during your time on the tour, the CENTRAL Team will gladly answer your questions.

We are very excited to welcome you to the CENTRAL Leadership Program.

supported by:

Your CENTRAL Team

Meyer-Struckmann-
Stiftung



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



Auswärtiges Amt



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Interrail – How to Use It

● How to Use Your Interrail Pass

Whether paper or digital, your Interrail pass functions similarly across formats:

Travel Calendar (Paper Pass)

- The **Travel Calendar** is printed inside your paper pass.
- Fill in the travel date (DD/MM) only once you're seated on the train.
- **Never fill in travel dates in advance.** Travel days entered but not used are lost and cannot be changed.



“My Trip” Section

- In the **“My Trip”** section, list each journey (e.g. Vienna → Budapest) with:
 - Date, Departure & Arrival Stations,
Train Number (if applicable)
- Use **permanent ink** — no pencil.



● For Digital Pass Holders

Use the Rail Planner App to:

- Activate your pass
- Add journeys to My Trip
- Tap Travel Day only when boarding
- Always carry your **QR code**, **ID/passport**, and **seat reservation**.
- **More info:** www.interrail.eu



● What You'll Need on Travel Days

- Your **Interrail pass** (paper or digital)
- **Passport or national ID**
- **Seat reservation** (provided by Kristina)
- **Pen** (if using a paper pass)

Itinerary – Train Connections 1-2

- **Budapest to Vienna:**

Thursday, 28 August 2025 - Katalin Ohler will travel with you

Meeting point train platform: 08:25 at the platform

Train: EC 140 Hortobágy

Departure: 08:55 – Budapest-Kelenföld – Vienna Main Station

Arrival: 11:20 – Vienna Main Station

Duration: 2h 25min

Contact: Barbara Grodecka

Barbara Grodecka will meet you at the train station. She'll give you your transport pass and guide you to the hotel.

- **Vienna to Prague:**

Monday, 01 September 2025 - Barbara will travel with you

Meeting point train platform: 16:40 at the platform

Train: RJ 370 Vindobona / RJ 370

Departure: 17:10 – Vienna Main Station (Meeting point 16.45 at the platform.)

Arrival: 21:15 – Prague Main Station

Duration: 4h 5min

You'll meet the Charles University student representative Barbora at the station in Prague for your transport pass and group check-in.

Contact: Barbora Bednaříková

Itinerary – Train Connections 2-2

- **Prague to Berlin:**

Thursday, 04 September 2025 - Barbora O. travelling with group

Meeting point train platform: 15:58 at the platform

Train: EC 170 Berliner

Departure: 16:28 – Prague Main Station

Arrival: 21:02 – Berlin Main Station

Duration: 4h 34min

Contact: Kristina Karnahl

You'll meet Kristina at the station in Berlin for your transport pass and group check-in at the hotel.

- **Berlin to Warsaw:**

Wednesday, 10 September 2025 - Kristina travelling with the group

Meeting point train platform: 09:18 at the platform

Train: EC 45

Departure: 09:48 – Berlin Gesundbrunnen

Arrival: 15:00 – Warsaw Central

Duration: 5h 12min

You'll have to buy your own transport pass and travel on your own without the local coordinator and do the group check-in at the hotel.

Contact: Khrystyna Kurman

Transportation

● Interrail Tickets

As a participant in the CENTRAL Leadership Program, your train travel **between all program locations** is covered by a **prepaid Interrail Global Pass**. The pass is valid from **24 August to 14 September 2025**.

Participants are responsible for organizing and paying for:

- Their own travel to Budapest (arrival on Sunday, 24 August)
- Their return from Warsaw (departure on Sunday, 14 September)

From Budapest onward, all major travel legs (Budapest → Vienna → Prague → Berlin → Warsaw) are covered by Interrail.

● Ticket Distribution

- **Your Interrail pass will be provided by your local coordinator** — either as a paper ticket or a digital pass via the Rail Planner app, depending on your university.
- **Please contact your local coordinator after June 25**
- **Participants from Warsaw follow a separate travel procedure.** Please contact **Klementyna Kielak**.

● Group Travel and Seat Reservations

- **Group seat reservations** are arranged by **Kristina Karnahl** to ensure everyone can travel on the preselected train connections and sit together.
- **Please travel with the group.** If you miss a train or travel separately:
- You may use your Interrail pass for a later connection.
- Access is not guaranteed without a seat reservation — trains may be full.
- No rejoining during the day (e.g. during visits); you may rejoin the group at the next morning's meeting point.

Transportation

Local Transportation

We've got most of your public transport needs covered — but please read carefully to know where you'll need to plan on your own.

- **Provided by the Program in:**

- ✓ **Berlin:** Public transport passes (Zones A & B)
- ✓ **Prague:** Public transport be provided (you will be asked to fill in a contract, Barbora will arrange on arrival)
- ✓ **Vienna:** Public transport pass for all zones is provided
- ✓ **Budapest:** Public transport pass will be handed out upon arrival by the ELTE coordinator

- **Not Provided — Buy Your Own in:**

✗ **Warsaw:** We recommend buying a **3-day pass** and ask you to **purchase your own local transport tickets** for travel between the train station, hotel, and university venues.

*For participants under 26 in Warsaw 50% discount (with an international student card)

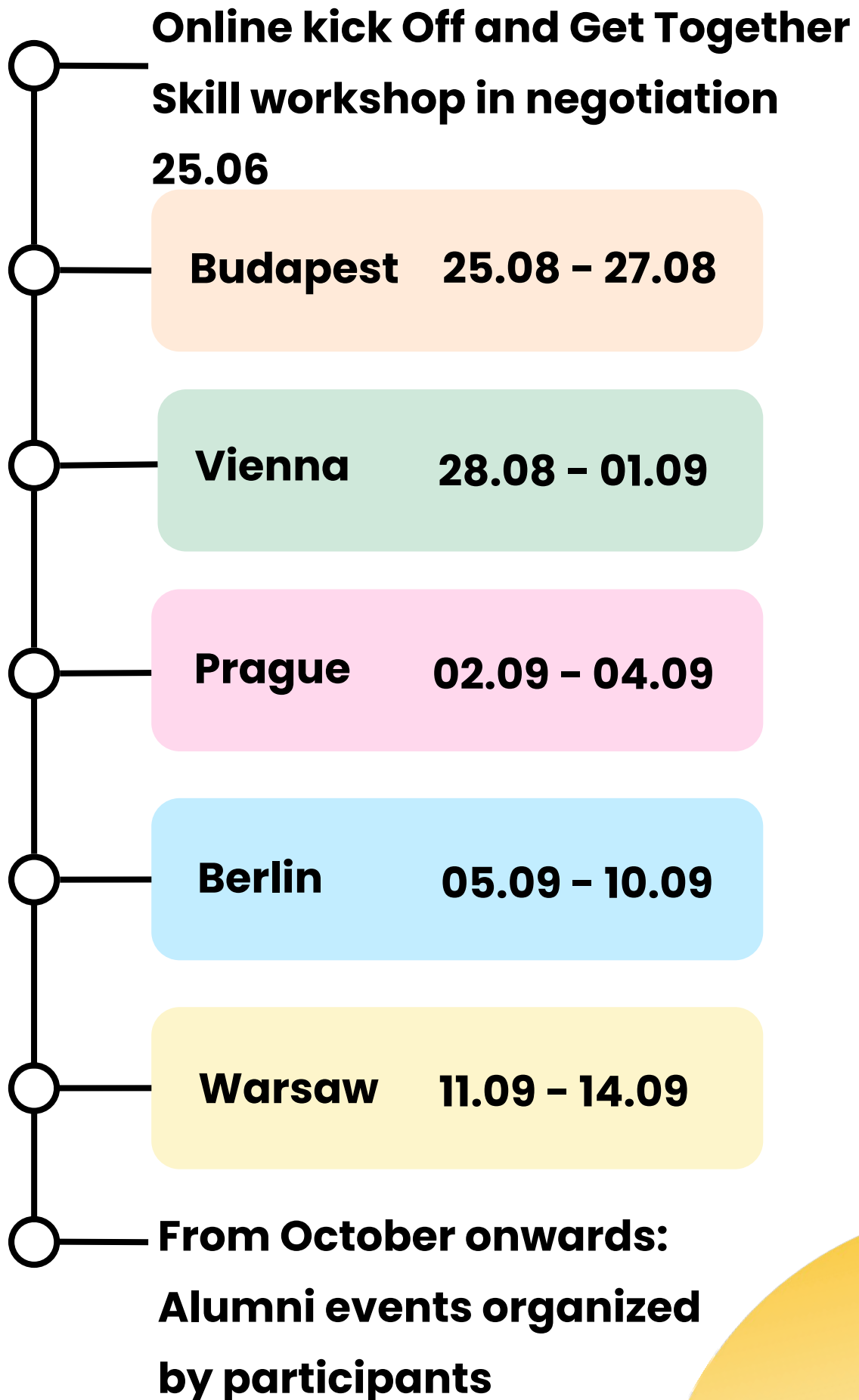
Please keep all original **paper tickets and receipts for local transport, as well as seat reservations for train rides**, for documentation purposes.

- **Additional Notes**

- You'll be using **metro, buses, trams, and trains**. Uber or taxis are fine at your own expense — just be at the daily meeting point on time.
- Always validate your ticket or carry your pass — **checks are common**.
- Be prepared to walk and carry your own luggage — no transfers. Comfortable shoes and outfits are a must.

Program Schedule 2025

- Overview



PROGRAM

Sun 24.08 • Arrival (check-in from 3 pm)

BUDAPEST **Mon 25.08** • ELTE Program
• Intercultural Workshop
• Welcome Dinner

Tue 26.08 • Andrassy Program

Wed 27.08 • ELTE Program

VIENNA **Thu 28.08** • Morning Trip to Vienna
• Welcome Address

Fri 29.08 • Vienna Program

Sat 30.08 • Vienna Program
morning, aft. optional

Sun 31.08 • Day Off

Mon 01.09 • Vienna Program
• Travel Day (late afternoon)

PRAGUE**Tue 02.09**

- Prague Program

Wed 03.09

- Prague Program

Thu 04.09

- Prague Program (morning)
- Farewell Lunch
- Travel Day (afternoon)

BERLIN**Fri 05.09**

- Federal Foreign Office

Sat 06.09

- Cultural Program (opt.)

Sun 07.09

- Day Off

Mon 08.09

- HU & Bundestag

Tue 09.09

- HU

Wed 10.09

- Check-out & Travel Day

Wed 10.09

- Hotel & Guided Tour
- Welcome Dinner

WARSAW**Thu 11.09**

- Warsaw Program

Fri 12.09

- Warsaw Program

Sat 13.09

- Warsaw Program

Sun 14.09

- Departure (no program)

Detailed Program

Description

Note: The exact days and schedule might change and will be confirmed and scheduled interchangeably until August 24, 2025.

The final schedule will be determined by speaker availability.

Days off and optional activities will not change, allowing you to schedule your own activities!

If you have wishes or contacts to speakers you wish to include, feel free to reach out to the respective local coordinator and we will try to include whenever possible!

Detailed Program

Description

Week One | 25.08 - 31.08

BUDAPEST

Sunday 24.08

Arrival individually at [Danubius Hotel Erzsébet City Center 1053 Budapest, Károly u. 15.](#)

Check-in possible after 2 pm

- No official program

Hotel breakfast: 7:00-10:00

Monday 25.08 - ELTE Program

9:30 Meeting at ELTE Professors' Club, Welcome at [1056 Budapest, Szerb u. 21-23](#), 1st floor

- **9:35** Get to know each other & Intercultural training
- **12:30** Lunch at [Műhely Cafe](#)

13:30 – 16:30 Intercultural training in ELTE Professor's Club at [1056 Budapest, Szerb u. 21-23](#), 1st floor

16:30 Free time

19:00 Welcome Dinner at [Muzikum Bistro](#)



BUDAPEST

Tuesday 26.08 - Andrassy Program

8:30 Welcome and Introduction at [Andrássy Universität Budapest \(AUB\), Pollack Mihály tér 3, 1088 Budapest](#) in *Hall of Mirrors*



- **9:00** Plenary: Leadership and coalition-building in Central Europe with Prof. Dr Ellen Bos and Prof. Dr Detlef Sack
- **11:00**
 - Workshop 1 (*Hall of Mirrors*): Democracy in Central Europe – progress or regression? The role of civil society (Barlai)
 - Workshop 2 (*Hörsaal 6*): Visegrád and the notion of Central Europe (Hettyey)
 - Workshop 3 (*Hörsaal 2*): Politics and governance – the EU's strategic capacity to act (Klinke)
- **12:30** Lunch at [Műhely Cafe](#)
- **13:30** Presentation of results and debate (*Hall of Mirrors*)
- **14:15** Wrap-up / Concluding remarks by Dr Robert Klinke, Amb.
- **14:30** Individual transfer to the Parliament by Metro 2, Astoria → Kossuth Lajos tér

15:00 Visit to the Parliament and Guided tour

- **Note: Participants must bring their photo ID or passport for the security check.**

Wednesday 27.08 - ELTE Program

09:30 Leadership Skill Workshop at [ELTE Professors' Club & Senate room](#)

- **12:30** Lunch at [Műhely Cafe](#)

13:30 Leadership Skill Workshop at [ELTE Professors' Club & Senate room](#)

17:30 Free time

BUDAPEST to VIENNA

DAY OF TRAVEL

28.08.2025

MEETING TIME

08:25 at the platform

FROM

Budapest-Kelenföld

DEPARTURE

08:55

TO

Wien Hbf

ARRIVAL

11:20

TRAIN

EC 140 Hortobágy

COACH

415

SEAT NUMBERS

71-78; 81-88; 91-98;
101-104; 105; 108

VIENNA

Thursday 28.08

11:20: Arrival in Vienna/ Check-In

15:00: University of Vienna (Marietta-Blau-Saal)

- **15:30:** Keynote by Ambassador Dr. Emil Brix
- **17:30:** Lecture by Univ. Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Röhrlich: "International Organizations and NGOs in Vienna"



19:30: Dinner Café Central

Friday 29.08

University of Vienna (Marietta-Blau Saal)

- **10:00:** Briefing on the history and presence of OSCE
Career opportunities/ practical advice for international organisations (TBC)

13:30: Vienna International Centre

- **14:00:** Guided tour United Nations Office
- **16:00:** UNODA Briefing and Q&A



Saturday 30.08



10:30 – 12:00 Walking Tour: *Vienna as a Transit Hub for Refugees During the Cold War*

(walking tour through the city center with RECET researcher Daniel Jerke)

13:30 – open end Optional visit to Wien Museum's exhibition: *Controlled Freedom: The Allied Forces in Vienna*

VIENNA

Sunday 31.08

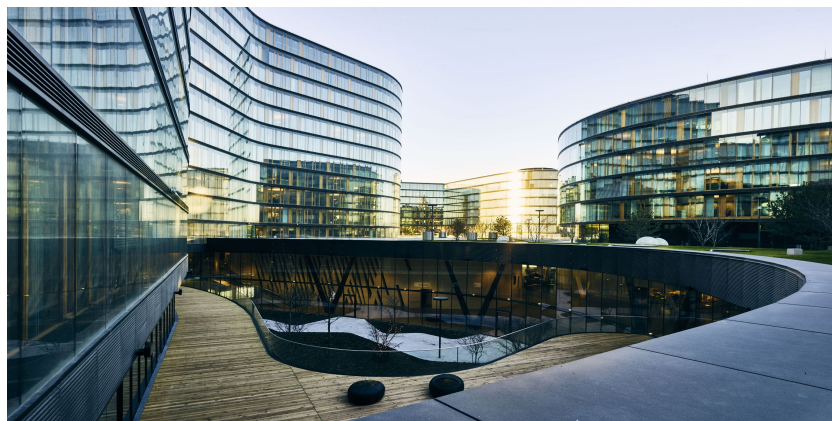
Day off / Individual activities



Monday 01.09

09:00: Welcome to ERSTE Stiftung

- **09:15:** NGO Academy/ Social Entrepreneurship Centre
- **09:45:** Social Finance
- **10:15:** Financial Life Park (FLiP)
- **11:00:** Europe's Future Institute
- **11:30:** Journalism & Media Program



12:30: Lunch at Stöckl im Park

16:45: Meeting at train station for departure to Prague (17:10 – 21:15)

VIENNA to PRAGUE

DAY OF TRAVEL

01.09.2025

MEETING TIME

16:40 at the platform

FROM

Wien Hbf

DEPARTURE

17:10

TO

Prague

ARRIVAL

21:15

TRAIN

RJ 370 Vindobona

COACH

22

SEAT NUMBERS

71-78; 81-88; 91-98; 101; 102;
104-107

PRAGUE

Monday 01.09

- **Evening:** Pick up at the train station at 21:15 by Barbora, transport to [Hotel Krystal](#)
 - Single room with breakfast
 - Towels will be provided
 - Laundry facilities are available (for more information about self-service and payment, please ask at the hotel reception)
- 3-day **ticket for public transport** will be provided

Tuesday 02.09

- **9:15** Meeting in the hotel lobby, public transport to Charles University (CU)
- **10:00** Welcome at CU, address [here](#)
- **10:30 – 12:30 Green Auditorium**
 - Lecture by Věra Jourová, Vice-Rector and former EU Commissioner on a career in the EU
 - Coffee break
 - Workshop on the EU decision-making system and legislative process
- **12:30 – 13:30 Lunch** (Buffet at CU)
- **13:45 Group photo**
- **14:00 – 16:00 Guided tour** of 20th-century Prague landmarks
 - optional, no reservation needed)
- Free time



PRAGUE

Wednesday 03.09

- **9:30 – 12:00 CU, Green Auditorium**
 - **Workshop I:** Lead EU: Mastering Leadership & Career Success (soft-skills oriented)
 - Coffee break
- **12:00 – 13:00 Lunch** (Buffet at CU)
- **13:00 – 16:00 Green Auditorium**
 - **Workshop II:** An interactive workshop following the lecture by Vice-Rector Věra Jourová on decision-making processes
 - Coffee break

Thursday 04.09

- **8:30 Check-out** (luggage will be stored at the university)
- **9:30 – 12:30 Center for Knowledge and Technology Transfer**
 - Bridging Academia and the Private Sector, presentations and discussions
- **12:30 – 14:00 Farewell lunch**
 - [Old Town Brewery](#)
 - You will receive a questionnaire in advance to select your meal.
- **14:00** Internal feedback, debriefing
- **16:00** Departure to Berlin
 - Dinner to go will be provided

PRAGUE to BERLIN

DAY OF TRAVEL

04.09.2025

MEETING TIME

15:58 at the platform

FROM

Prague

DEPARTURE

16:28

TO

Berlin Hbf

ARRIVAL

21:02

TRAIN

EC 170 Berliner

COACH

258

SEAT NUMBERS

71-78; 81-88; 91-98; 101-103;
104; 105; 106

BERLIN

Friday 05.09

9:30: Arrival & Check-in at [Federal Foreign Office \(Kurstraße 36, 10117 Berlin\)](#)

Note: Participants must bring their photo ID or passport for the security check.

- **10:00** Welcome & Office Tour with Ambassador ret. Andreas Meitzner
- **11:30** Expert Input by Head of Cyber Foreign Policy, Felix Kroll
- **13:30** Networking Lunch at NOUMI Mitte

14:30: Leadership Skill Workshop 3/4*: Conflict moderation & negotiation skills

Saturday 06.09

Optional **Excursion to Potsdam** (flex / optional activity)

11:00: Meeting at Rossmann store, S & U station Friedrichstraße

- return in Berlin individually

Sunday 07.09

- **Day Off**

Week Three| 08.09 - 14.09

Monday 08.09

10:00: Meeting at Humboldt University

- **11:30** Leadership Skill Workshop (4/4): Leadership Training with Frans Schram – “Negotiation starts with you”

14:00: Bundestag [First Meeting Point](#)

- **Note: Participants must bring their photo ID or passport for the security check.**

- **15:00** Expert Input by Stephan Bischoff, *scientific research advisor to Member of Parliament Robin Wagener - Alliance 90/The Greens*
- **16:00** Break
- **16:30** Second Check-In (Meetingpoint: [Zentraler Eingang für Besucher](#))
- **17:00** Bundestag Visit



20:00: Dinner in [Restaurant Maximilian's](#)

Tuesday 09.09

Meeting at Humboldt University, Senat Hall

- **10:30:** Lecture of Prof. Sasse (security policy)
- **11:30:** Workshop Session: Threats to Democracy and Democratic Resilience by Khaldun Al Saadi
- **13:00:** Lunch
- **14:00:** Get together with the President of HU Prof. Dr. Julia von Blumenthal
- **16:00:** Closing conference & cocktail reception

Wednesday 10.09

- **7:30:** Breakfast, Check-out
- **8:40:** Departure from Hotel

9:15: Meeting at the station (Gesundbrunnen)

- **Group travels to Warsaw:** Lunch sandwiches will be provided for long train journey

Evening: Welcome dinner Warsaw

BERLIN to WARSAW

DAY OF TRAVEL

10.09.2025

MEETING TIME

09:18 at the platform

FROM

Berlin Gesundbrunnen

DEPARTURE

09:48

TO

Warszawa Centralna

ARRIVAL

15:00

TRAIN

EC 45

COACH

268

SEAT NUMBERS

21-26; 31-36; 41-46; 51-56;
61-66

WARSAW

Wednesday 10.09

- Check-in at the “Logos” hotel
- Welcome dinner “Pełną Parą”



Thursday 11.09

- Visit to **Frontex**
- Mini Lunch
- **Lecture** from Tomasz Łukaszuk (Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Indonesia (2012–2017)) - “**Career in Diplomacy and the Role of Central Europe on the International Stage: Perspective from Asia**”

Friday 12.09

- Workshop “**EU Enlargement Policy: Reconciling Divergent Interests**” - dr Spasimir Domaradzki
- Lunch
- Workshop “**Hackademia: Entering the World of Cybersecurity. Ransomware Alert: A Simulation Game**” dr Bartłomiej Moszoro
- Optional **Museum (MSN)**

Saturday 13.09

- TBD
- **Goodbye dinner** “Informal Kitchen”

Sunday 14.09

- Travel day back at home

Accommodation

BUDAPEST

Danubius Hotel Erzsébet City Center

Károlyi utca 15, Budapest, 1053 Ungarn

Tel.: +36 1 889 3700

<https://www.danubiushotels.com/en/our-hotels-budapest/hotel-erzs-ebet-city-center>

Room Type: Double rooms. If you prefer to book your own accommodation, please notify your local coordinator by **June 30th**.

Location & Transport:

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| • Public Transport: 3 minutes (Elte) | 9 Minutes (AUB) |
| • Walking: 3 minutes (Elte) | 9 Minutes (AUB) |
| • Taxi/Uber: 7 minutes (Elte) | 13 Minutes (AUB) |

Check-In/Out:

- **Check-in:** from 3:00 PM, available any time after that
- **Check-out:** until 11:00 AM

Amenities: Wi-Fi; laundry service available for an extra fee.
(Breakfast 07:00-10:00 AM)

Kitchen: Not available

House Rules: Quiet hours from 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM; no smoking or alcohol consumption in rooms

Additional Fees: None

VIENNA

Hotel myNext – Sommerhotel Rudy

Schelleingasse 36, 1040 Vienna, Austria

Tel.: +43 1 501 521 00

www.mynext.at/de/hotel-rudy/

Room Type: Double rooms. Separate accommodation possible at own expense; notify local coordinator by **June 30th**

Location & Transport:

- **Public Transport:** 30 minutes
- **Walking:** 50 minutes
- **Taxi/Uber:** 15 minutes

Check-In/Out:

- **Check-in:** from 3:00 PM
- **Check-out:** Weekdays until 10:00 AM, weekends/holidays until 11:00 AM

Amenities: Wi-Fi and breakfast (Mon–Fri 7–10 AM; Sat–Sun 7–11 AM); no laundry service

Kitchen: Not available

House Rules: Quiet hours from 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM; no smoking or alcohol consumption in rooms

Additional Fees: None

PRAGUE

Student Hotel Krystal

José Martího 407/2, 162 00 Praha 6-Vešelavín, Czech Republic
Tel.: +43 1 501 521 00
www.centrum-krystal.cz/en/

Room Type: Single rooms. Separate booking possible at own expense; notify coordinator by **June 30th**

Location & Transport:

- **Public Transport:** 30 minutes
- **Walking:** 90 minutes
- **Taxi/Uber:** 30 minutes

Check-In/Out:

- **Check-in:** 2:00 PM to midnight
- **Check-out:** Weekdays until 10:00 AM, weekends/holidays until 11:00 AM

Amenities: Wi-Fi, breakfast (6:45 AM – 9:30 AM), laundry service available (coin operated)

Kitchen: Not available

House Rules: Quiet hours from 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM; no smoking or alcohol consumption in rooms

Additional Fees: Laundry fees apply

BERLIN

Hotel De France – Centre Français De Berlin

Müllerstraße 74, 13349 Berlin, Germany

Tel.: +49 30 12086030

www.centre-francais.de/

Room Type: Single rooms. Separate booking possible at own expense; notify coordinator by **June 30th**

Location & Transport:

- **Public Transport:** 25 minutes
- **Walking:** 90 minutes
- **Taxi/Uber:** 25 minutes

Check-In/Out:

- **Check-in:** 3:00 PM to 11:59 PM
- **Check-out:** until 11:00 AM

Amenities: Wi-Fi and breakfast included (8:00 AM – 10:00 AM).

Note: On **10 September**, breakfast will be served at **7:30 AM** due to early departure.

Laundry service not available on site (washing machine €4.50, dryer €4.00, credit card payment only)

Kitchen: Please bring your own food; check availability of guest kitchen locally

House Rules: Quiet hours from 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM; no smoking or alcohol consumption in rooms

Additional Fees:

WARSAW

Hotel Logos

Wybrzeże Kościuszkowskie 31/33, 00-379 Warszawa

Tel: +48 22 622 55 62, +48 22 622 89 92

<https://hotellogos.pl/>

Room Type: Single rooms. Separate booking possible at own expense; notify coordinator by June 30th

Location & Transport:

- **Public Transport:** 17 minutes
- **Walking:** 19 minutes
- **Taxi/Uber:** 4 minutes

Check-In/Out:

- **Check-in:** from 2 PM, available any time after that
- **Check-out:** until 12 AM

Amenities: WI-FI and breakfast included; laundry service not available

Kitchen: no kitchen available

House Rules: Quiet hours from 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM; no smoking or alcohol consumption in rooms

Breakfast: 7:00 - 10:00

Additional Fees:

Costs & Your Budget

Joining the CENTRAL Leadership Program comes with minimal personal costs, as many core expenses are covered. Still, it's a good idea to plan for any additional spending.

● What's Covered:

- **Accommodation:** All overnight stays are covered by the program. **When in their home city, participants are expected to stay in their dormitories or flats.**
- **Meals:** Breakfast is provided daily at the hotels. Some lunches and selected group dinners are included, but **not all meals are covered.** For meals on your own, please check food prices and local currency in each city on Google to plan your budget.
- **Transportation between cities:** Your Interrail Pass covers travel between partner cities—**except in Warsaw, where tickets must be bought separately.**
- **Cultural activities and institutional visits** included in the official program are free of charge for participants.

● What You'll Need to Cover Yourself:

- **Meals during free time:** On free days as well as during lunches and dinners not included in the program, you'll need to **cover your own meals, snacks, and drinks.**
- **Free time activities:** Optional excursions, museum visits, or entertainment outside of the official program must be **paid by participants.**
- **Personal expenses:** Souvenirs, shopping, toiletries, laundry services, and other personal purchases are at **your own cost.**

We recommend budgeting some extra money for flexibility and comfort during your stay, especially on weekends or during free afternoons.

Health & Dietary Needs

● Medication & Health Essentials:

Please remember to bring any necessary medications or prescriptions, particularly for allergies, asthma, chronic conditions, or travel-related needs. Some program days are long, and pharmacies may not always be nearby.

● Dietary Needs & Allergies:

Before the program begins, we will circulate a **dietary requirements and allergy questionnaire** to help us plan appropriately. We will do our best to accommodate everyone's needs.

However, as we move quickly between cities and venues and occasionally rely on external vendors, **unintentional mistakes can happen**.

If you have **food allergies or intolerances**, we strongly encourage you to **double-check with restaurant staff directly** before eating. When in doubt — better safe than sorry.

● For Vegan Participants:

We aim to offer vegan options, but:

- Some vendors in the regions we visit are still adapting to vegan requirements, and **occasional mix-ups** have occurred in the past.
- Onboard restaurants and snack shops at train stations may offer **limited vegan options**.

We therefore **recommend bringing a few vegan-friendly snacks** with you, especially for travel days and longer train rides.

Dress Code

What to Pack and Wear

There's no formal dress code — we want you to feel comfortable and enjoy the program. Still, here are a few helpful tips:

- **Pack light as we travel with public transport and you will need to carry your own luggage and train compartments are usually full in Aug/Sept!**
- **For Institutional Visits & Formal Events:**

Some days include visits to public institutions (e.g. government offices, cultural venues). Please wear smart casual or business casual:

- Closed-toe shoes (sneakers are fine!)
- Trousers (no shorts)

No need for suits or heels — just respectful and neat attire.

Good to Know:

Some venues may require ID or documents — check info we send before each visit.

- **Comfort Is Key:**

For all other days, we recommend:

- Comfortable clothes for train rides and transport
- Walking shoes (you'll be on your feet a lot!)
- Light layers — ranging from warm to cool indoors (no aircon in some uni buildings!), warm to cold outdoors

- **What Else to Bring:**

- A rain jacket or umbrella — just in case
- A backpack or tote bag for your daily essentials

Good to Know:

You'll receive a reusable water bottle at the start. Keep it with you on travel and activity days!

About CENTRAL and the Program

● CENTRAL Network

CENTRAL is a partnership of five leading Central European universities, all based in their national capitals: Berlin, Budapest, Prague, Vienna, and Warsaw.

Together, they promote academic exchange and raise the visibility of Central and Eastern Europe through joint research and outreach across disciplines.

● CENTRAL Leadership Program – Born from the Network

Beyond its academic focus, the CENTRAL network supports socially engaged initiatives. The CENTRAL Leadership Program was created to foster a new generation of European leaders with a deep understanding of Central Europe.

Over three immersive weeks, participants travel the region, engaging with key actors in politics, business, diplomacy, and civil society. The network has recently expanded to include Andrassy University and two Ukrainian institutions: Ivan Franko National University and Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU).

Together, they build a diverse, forward-looking network that strengthens cohesion in Central Europe and beyond.

A map of Central Europe is shown in the background. The countries of Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, and Hungary are highlighted in different colors: Germany (blue), Poland (yellow), Czech Republic (pink), Slovakia (green), Austria (orange), and Hungary (purple).

CENTRAL Leadership Program – Key Features

- One-year program
- Launches with a three-week immersive summer trip across Central Europe
 - Gain in-depth knowledge of the region's history, politics, and society
- Creation of a vibrant alumni community
 - Starts during the trip and continues through online events
- Opportunity to meet professionals and explore career paths
- Network of like-minded peers across disciplines and countries
 - Participants travel through the region, acquiring & contributing expertise at each university
- Unique perspectives
 - Interdisciplinary program open to master's and PhD students from all CENTRAL partner universities

CONTACTS

Central Coordination: Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
International Department/ Abteilung Internationales
Unter den Linden 6, 10099 Berlin

Coordinators



Budapest (Andrássy, Academic chair):

Robert Klinke

Email: contact via Katalin Pantó



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Prereading Material

- Link to pre-reading June 25:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_Yv9Ws83FgIMssYuqAOvGN9qZeHeUNbduBRWRbQokwM/edit?usp=sharing

Participating Universities

BUDAPEST

1. Eötvös Loránd University
Budapest, Egyetem tér 1-3
1053 Ungarn
2. Andrássy University
Budapest, Pollack Mihály tér 3.
1088 Ungarn

VIENNA

Universität Wien
Universitätsring 1
1010 Wien

PRAGUE

Charles Univerzita
Ovocný trh 560/5
110 00 Staré Město

BERLIN

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Main Building)
Unter den Linden 6
10117 Berlin

WARSAW

Uniwersytet Warszawski
Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28
00-927 Warszawa

Code of Participant Responsibility

● Letter of Acceptance for the CENTRAL Leadership Program 2025

Hereby, I declare my **participation during the full summer school program** taking place **August 24 – September 14, 2025**, and will be **travelling by train** as set out by the program. The program's organizers will provide sufficient rest time as well as recommended train connections between each summer school stop.

While participating in this program, I understand I am expected to follow all Federal, State, and Municipal laws of the countries we visit, as well as the rules set forth by the program via the **Code of Conduct** and regulations of the partner universities. This ensures the safety and respect of fellow participants, staff, and host institutions.

I understand that the **CENTRAL Leadership Program is supported by public funding** and coordinated across five public universities. My **confirmation is binding**, and I commit to **full participation**, knowing that a significant amount of public resources, time, and coordination effort is invested to offer this opportunity to as many students as possible.

Should unforeseen or **force majeure circumstances** arise before or during my participation, I commit to keeping my **local coordinator informed** in a timely and transparent manner.

I confirm that I have **read and understood the CLP 2025 Code of Conduct**, which is attached to this letter. I agree to the principles and responsibilities outlined in it.

At most partner universities, the **interrail ticket is purchased by each participant individually** and will be **reimbursed** after submitting the bill to the coordinator from the “sending” university. **Your local coordinator will give you the necessary information once they receive your letter of acceptance.**

Accommodation:

While the **program offers accommodation** in all visiting cities, it is expected that participants **stay in their own dormitories/flats in their city** (i.e. city of sending university). Please contact your **local coordinator** if you are not permitted to keep your dormitory during the summer and are unable to find alternative housing with friends or family in your university town.

We also want to make note that in some cities, **rooms will be shared**.

Participants understand that **any change of rooms, upgrades** for booking of alternative accommodations falls under the **responsibility of the participants** due to the limited resources at the partner universities. If you intend to change and organize your own hotel accommodation for the cities where the CLP proposes double rooms (Vienna and Budapest will provide double rooms), please kindly let us know under:

kristina.karnahl@hu-berlin.de, subject: **acomodation change & name & cities** where you want to find alternative accommodations to that we can cancel hotel rooms until **Monday, June 30, 2025**. Please note that we must **charge a fee if you inform us late** that you do not wish to make use of the shared CLP accommodation, as we are operating with public funding and need to account for which participant will stay in which hotel room and are held accountable to avoid empty hotel rooms. We hope that this approach balances both individuality regarding preferences in accommodations as well as an accommodation option provided by the program to limit financial strain on participants during the summer trip.

We are very much looking forward to meeting you all first online during our kick-off and then in person during the summer programm!

Feel free to reach out at any time if you have questions or concerns.

Thanks in advance and sincerely,

The CLP Organizational Committee

Annex 1: Code of Conduct – CENTRAL

Leadership Program 2025

● Purpose

The CENTRAL Leadership Program (CLP) brings together participants from diverse backgrounds to learn, engage, and lead across political, academic, and intercultural spaces in Central Europe. In order to maintain a respectful, inclusive, and safe environment for all, the following Code of Conduct outlines behavioral expectations, procedures, and consequences.

This section of the Code of Conduct is our way to encourage good behavior and discourage bad behavior in our projects. Participation in the program implies acceptance of this Code.

● General Expectations & Communication Norms

CLP participants are expected to act with awareness, respect, and responsibility. Because personal norms vary, we ask participants to consider not only their intent but also the impact of their behavior on others.

During all program phases — digital, in-person, and mobile — we expect:

Assume positive intent: We ask participants to assume positive intent on the part of other people's communications. We may disagree on details, but we expect all suggestions to be supportive of the community goals.

Respect participants: We recognize that occasional disagreements may arise. Projects are learning experiences, and we encourage you to ask questions, explore ideas, and challenge assumptions. When expressing your agreement or disagreement, always do so respectfully. If your idea is not accepted, respond with persistence and persuasion, not bitterness.

Welcoming to new members: New members bring fresh perspectives. Occasionally, they may ask questions that have already been addressed. Please kindly refer them to previous discussions. Remember, everyone is new to a topic at some point.

Active listening & consider your impact on others: We encourage participants to be considerate and balance their self-interest with the communal interest. This includes allowing others to finish speaking without interrupting and ensuring everyone has the opportunity to engage equally. Signal your desire to speak and wait for the workshop leader to invite you to contribute, or follow any other agreed-upon discussion formats established by the leader during the session.

Emotional and cultural awareness: We ask participants to communicate respectfully. Not everyone may understand intent and we are navigating in an intercultural environment with heightened emotions in politically or emotionally charged settings.

Respectful disagreement: Challenge ideas, not people. Stay constructive, not defensive or sarcastic.

Inclusion: Avoid making assumptions, stereotypes, or jokes based on nationality, gender, religion, or identity. This also includes respecting how individuals prefer to be addressed, such as their preferred pronouns.

Space-sharing: Be mindful in hostels, trains, group meetings, and public institutions. This includes both laws in the countries we are visiting as well as rules and guidelines of the institutions we are visiting.

Leave with class: When you wish to resign from a conversation for any reason, you are free to leave a situation and or take a short break or see the CENTRAL leadership coordinator to speak about your discomfort.

● Unacceptable Behaviors

The following behaviors are incompatible with the goals and values of CLP and may lead to exclusion from activities or the entire program:

- Harassment or bullying (verbal, sexual, digital)
- Aggressive or discriminatory language or gestures
- Invasion of personal space or boundaries (online & physical)
- Behavior that endangers group safety or disrespects host institutions or other people we meet during the CLP
- Obstruction of classes at partner universities, or obstruction of other CENTRAL Leader program activities.
- Theft or damage to partner universities property, residence halls, participant apartments, facilities used by CENTRAL Leader program or of fellow participants.
- Vandalism at partner universities or facilities used by CENTRAL Leader program or of institutional members' property.
- Unauthorized entry to or use of partner universities, university facilities or technology.
- Use of partner universities technology for any illegal purpose.
- Disorderly, lewd, indecent or obscene conduct, gestures or actions.
- Violations of residential guidelines and/or rules including, but not limited to unauthorized overnight guests, excessive noise, rowdy conduct and drunkenness.
- Forgery, alteration, or misuse of CENTRAL Leadership Program or official documents with the intent to deceive or defraud.
- Failure to follow CLP guidelines, schedules, or instructions from program staff or faculty.
- Falsification or unauthorized alteration of academic or personal records, such as transcripts, certificates, or grade reports.
- Self-endangerment through risky behavior, such as visiting dangerous areas, associating with criminals, or repeated intoxication.
- Repeated intoxication during program events
- Criminal behaviour or violation of local laws.

● Hostels

Please refer to the respective hostel/hotel guidelines and code of conduct. For instance, in most cases the night's rest is from 10 pm - 6 am. Follow the rules of the accommodation you are staying at, leave the room as you found it.

If something gets broken, please report it and tell the hostel staff and your coordinators if necessary, before checkout.

Please do not enter into other participants' vicinity or hotel rooms without being explicitly tasked to do so by the respective party.

● Alcohol and Drugs Policies

- Alcohol may be consumed, within reasonable limits, by participants who are of legal age. Participants who choose to consume alcohol do so with the knowledge that they remain responsible for their actions at all times and are expected to drink responsibly.
- Possession, use or distribution of any drugs that are considered by law to be illicit or illegal drugs or controlled substances is prohibited.
- **NOTE:** Any alcohol consumption that leads to an infraction of the Code of Conduct and/or drug infraction will be considered a grave violation of policy and will result in serious sanctions, up to and including dismissal from the program.

● Reporting Concerns

If you experience or witness inappropriate behavior:

- Speak to any local CLP coordinator directly
- Or use our **reporting email (please indicate if you want your report to be handled confidentially or not):**  kristina.karnahl@hu-berlin.de – please be insured that if you reach out to the central coordinator, your request will not automatically forwarded or handled and confidentiality can also be kept, the central coordination functions as a ombudsperson open for you to raise concerns and mediate
- You may also speak at any point with the other designated ombudsperson in 2025 Katalin Ohler, katalin.ohler@rk.elte.hu
- Reports will be treated with discretion and responded to promptly.

● **Sanctions & Violation Procedures**

When a concern is raised, it will be jointly reviewed by:

- The local coordinator at the current program stop, and
- the central coordinator responsible for the overall program,
- one coordinator from a different city stop – depending on availability.

The participant involved will always have the opportunity to:

- Be informed about the concern,
- Respond to the situation, either in person or in writing.

Depending on the severity of the issue, the coordinators may decide on one or more of the following actions:

- A conversation or verbal reminder,
- A written warning,
- Exclusion from specific activities (e.g. site visits, shared events),
- Reassignment of accommodation or travel arrangements,
- Immediate removal from the program.

Sanction decisions are final. No formal appeal process is foreseen as we need to ensure timely management of situations for the safety and cohesion of the group due to the mobile nature of our summer school. However, participants will always be heard during the review and have the opportunity to be informed, respond and refute any allegations.