



CENTRAL

Leadership

program

Central Leadership

Program

2025

-Participant Guide-

25 August – 14 September 2025

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.

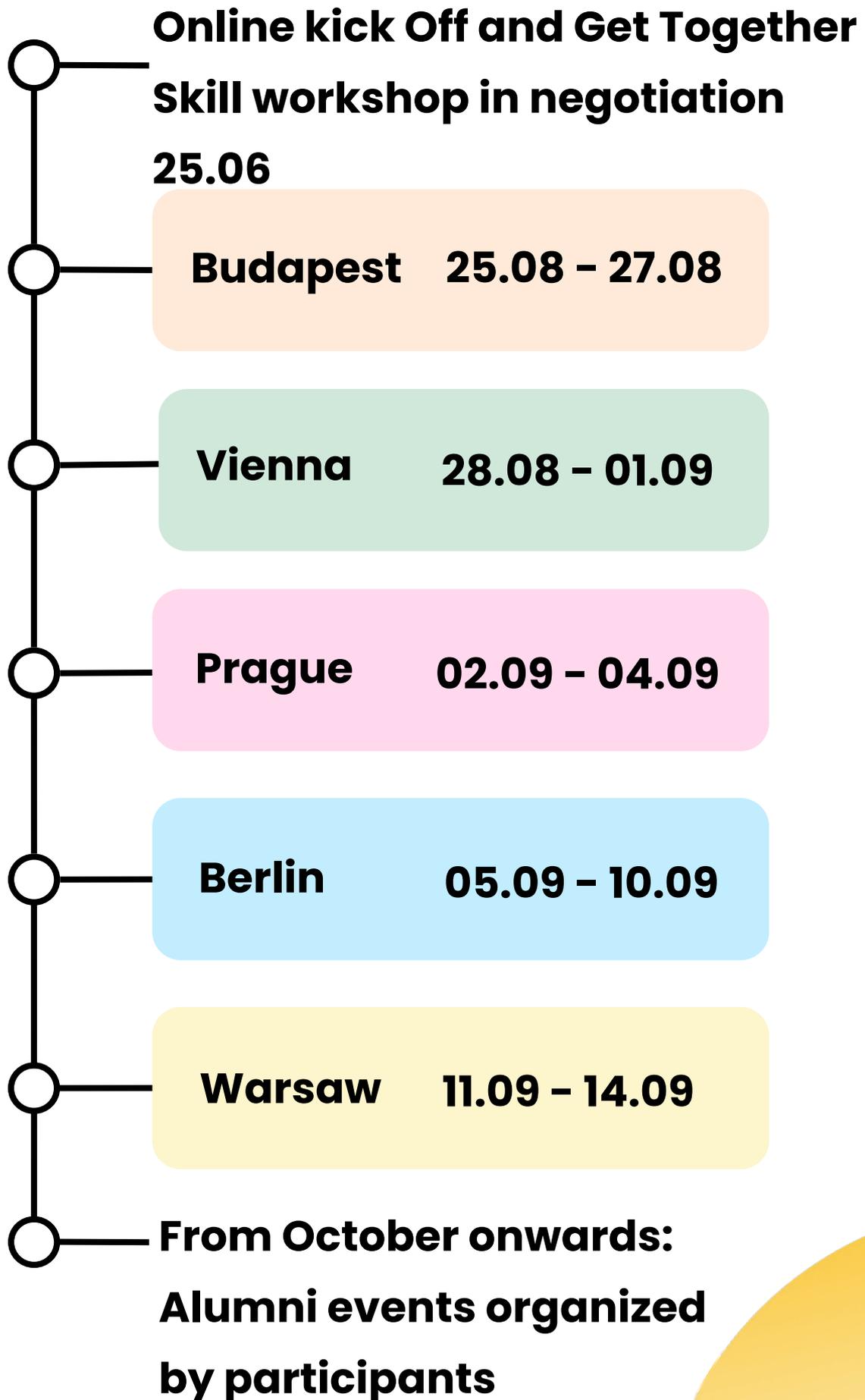


CENTRAL Leadership Program – Key Features

- 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

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

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**
 - I. Workshop 1 (*Hall of Mirrors*): Democracy in Central Europe - progress or regression? The role of civil society (Barlai)
 - II. Workshop 2 (*Hörsaal 6*): Visegrád and the notion of Central Europe (Hettyey)
 - III. 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

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

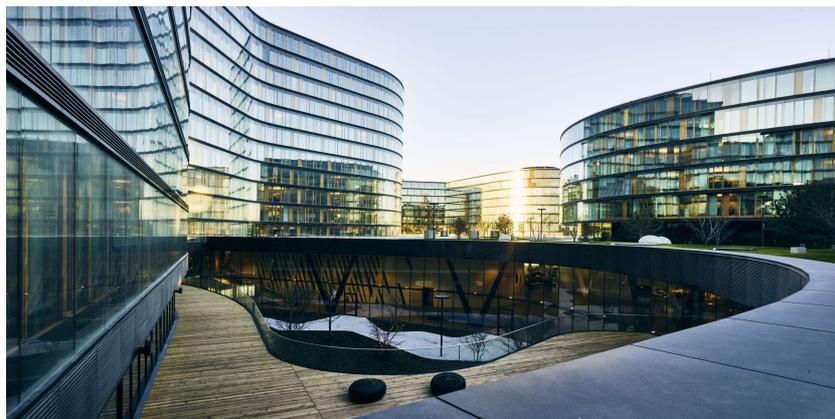
Day off / Individual activities



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)

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

BERLIN

Friday 05.09

- **09:30** Meeting time (09:30 sharp for check-in)
 - **Meeting point:** [Werderscher Markt 1, 10117 Berlin](#)
 - Note: Participants must bring their photo ID or passport for the security check.
- **10:00** Welcome with Ambassador ret. Andreas Meitzner
- **11:30** Expert Input by Head of Cyber Foreign Policy, Felix Kroll
- **13:15** Networking Lunch at [NOUMI Mitte](#)
- **14:30:** Leadership Skill Workshop 3/4*: Conflict moderation & negotiation skills (until 5pm)

Saturday 06.09

- Optional **Excursion to Potsdam** (flex / optional activity)
- **11:00:** Meeting at Rossmann store, S & U station – Friedrichstraße
 - **Meetingpoint:** [Friedrichstraße 147, 10117 Berlin](#)
- return to Berlin individually

Sunday 07.09

- **Day Off**

Week Three| 08.09 - 14.09

Monday 08.09

- **10:00** Meeting at Humboldt University
 - **Meetingpoint:** [Unter den Linden 6, 10117 Berlin](#)
- **11:30** Leadership Skill Workshop (4/4): Leadership Training with Frans Schram – “Negotiation starts with you”
- **14:30** Bundestag,
 - West entrance of Paul-Löbe-Haus
Meetingpoint: [Konrad-Adenauer-Straße 1, 10557 Berlin](#)
 - 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
 - Central entrance for visitors
Meetingpoint: [Reichstagsgebäude, Platz d. Republik, 10557 Berlin](#)
- **17:00** Bundestag Visit
- **20:00:** Dinner in [Restaurant Maximilian's](#)



Week Three| 08.09 - 14.09

Tuesday 09.09

- Meeting at Humboldt University, Senat Hall
 - **Meetingpoint:** [Unter den Linden 6, 10117 Berlin](#)
- **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
- **9:25:** Meeting at the station Gesundbrunnen
 - **Meetingpoint:** [Gesundbrunnen, 13355 Berlin](#)
 - **Group travels to Warsaw:** Lunch sandwiches will be provided for long train journey
- **Evening: Welcome dinner Warsaw**

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 inż Bartłomiej Moszoro
- **Optional Museum (MSN)**

Saturday 13.09

- **Workshop “TOR Project - Privacy on the Internet”** - dr inż Dariusz Jaruga
- **Goodbye dinner “Informal Kitchen”**

Sunday 14.09

- Travel day back 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-erzsobet-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-Veleslavín, 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.

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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Lviv (Ivan Franko National University):

Sofiia Shovheniuk

Email: ifnul.erasmusplus@gmail.com



Lviv (Ukrainian Catholic University):

Solomia Rozlutska

Email: rozlutska@ucu.edu.ua

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