



Central Leadership Program 2026

–Participant Guide–

31 August – 20 September 2026

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, 03.09.2026 - Kristina Karnahl will travel with you

Meeting point train platform: 08:15 am at the platform

Train: EC 140 Hortobágy

Departure: 08:30 am – Budapest-Keleti – Vienna Main Station

Arrival: 11:20 am – Vienna Main Station

Duration: 2 h 50 min

Contact: Barbara Grodecka

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

● **Vienna to Prague:**

Tuesday, 08 Sept 2026 - CLP group travels on their own

Meeting point train platform: 10:55 at the platform

Train: RJ 252 Vindobona ÖBB Railjet

Departure: 11:10 – Vienna Main Station

Arrival: 15:23 – Prague Main Station

Duration: 4 h 13 min

Contact: Barbora Bednaříková

Barbora will meet you at the station in Prague; she will handle you transport passes and guide you to the hotel.

Itinerary – Train Connections 2-2

● **Prague to Berlin:**

Sunday, 13 September 2026 - group is travelling on their own

Meeting point train platform: 10:05 at the platform

Train: RJ 382 Berliner ComfortJet

Departure: 10:31 – Prague Main Station

Arrival: 14:29 – Berlin Main Station

Duration: 3 h 58 min

Contact: Kristina Karnahl

Please remember to validate your public transport passes before boarding the S Bahn

You travel on your own and your rooms are ready and prepared for you for the group check-in at the hotel.

We will meet you Monday morning at the foreign office entry.

● **Berlin to Warsaw:**

Thursday, 17 September 2026 - Kristina travelling with the group

Meeting point train platform: 11:15 at the platform

Train: To be communicated

Departure: 11:44 – Berlin Gesundbrunnen

Arrival: 17:00 – Warsaw Central

Duration: 5 h 16 min

Contact: Khrystyna Kurman

You'll need to purchase your own transport pass. The local coordinator will meet you at the train station, accompany you to the hotel, and assist you with the group check-in.

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 **31 August to 20 September 2026**.

Participants are responsible for organizing and paying for:

- Their own travel to Budapest (arrival on Sunday, 30 August)
- Their return from Warsaw (departure on Sunday, 20 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 26**
- **Participants from Warsaw follow a separate travel procedure.** Please contact **Krystyna Kurman**.

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, not incl airport)

✓ **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

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

● **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.

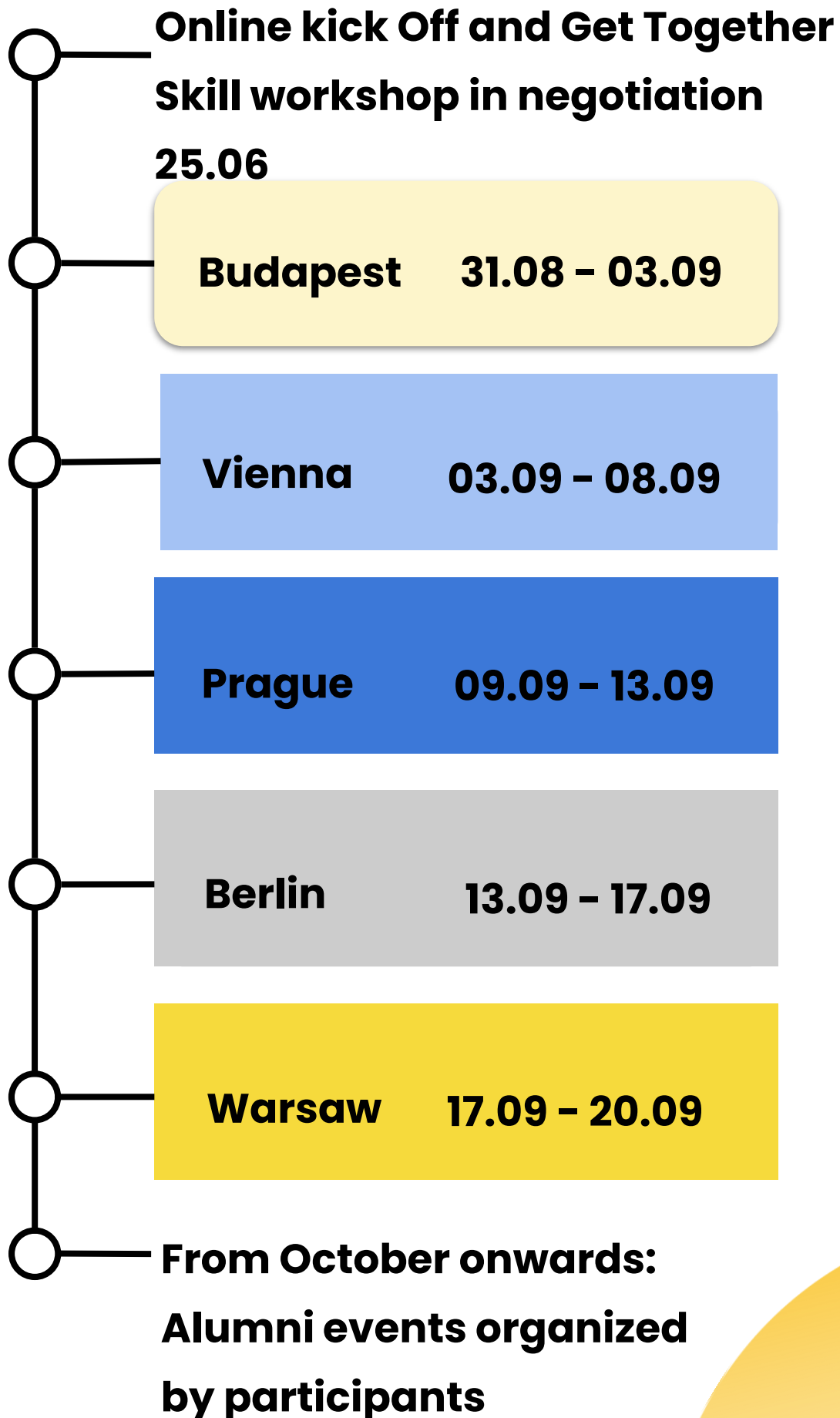
*For participants under 26 in Warsaw 50% discount (with an international student card) - Download [Jakdojade App](#)

● **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 2026

– Overview



PROGRAM

Sun 30.08 • Arrival (check-in from 3 pm)

BUDAPEST

Mon 31.08 • ELTE Program

Tue 01.09 • Andrassy Program

Wed 02.09 • ELTE Program

Thu 03.09 Travel to Vienna

VIENNA

Thu 03.09 • Europe's Futures Initiative

Fri 04.09 • UNO

Sat 05.09 • Day Off

Sun 06.09 • Day Off

Mon 07.09 • OSCE
• Ambassador Emil Brix

Tue 08.09 Travel to Prague

Tue 08.09

afternoon- Arrival

PRAGUE

Wed 09.09

- morning Lecture; afternoon Prague Guided Tour

Thu 10.09

- Full-day workshop+ visit at a branch of European Institution in Prague

Fri 11.09

- Full-day workshop

Sat 12.09

- Free day to explore Prague

Sun 13.09

- Check-out & Travel Day
- before Lunch - Departure to Berlin

BERLIN

Sun 13.09

- Day Off

Mon 14.09

- Berlin Program

Tue 15.09

- Berlin Program

Wed 16.09

- Berlin Program

Thu 17.09

- Berlin Program

WARSAW

Thu 17.09

- Arrival

Fri 18.09

- Warsaw Program

Sat 19.09

- Warsaw Program

Sun 20.09

- Departure (no program)

Detailed Program

Description

Note: The exact days and schedule might change and will be confirmed and scheduled interchangeably if need be

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 | 31.08 - 03.09

BUDAPEST

Sunday 30.08

Arrival individually at IBIS Budapest City Hotel

Check-in possible after 3 pm

- **No official program**

Hotel breakfast: **6:30-10:00**

Monday 31.08 - ELTE Program

9:30 Welcome

(Location: Szerb str. 21-23, Professors' Club)

9.35 - 12.30 Get to know each other & Intercultural Training

(Location: Szerb str. 21-23, Professors' Club)

12.30-13.30 Lunch

(Location: Műhely Egyetem Cafe, Múzeum krt 4/A)

13.30-14.50 Intercultural training

(Location: Szerb str. 21-23, Professors' Club)

15.00-16.30 Central Europe overview

(Location: Szerb str. 21-23, Professors' Club)

16.30 Free time

19.00 Welcome dinner

(Location: Muzikum Klub, Múzeum str. 7.)

BUDAPEST

Tuesday 01.09 - 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:

The New Dynamics of EU Enlargement

This session focuses on the shift from a decade of stagnation to a geopolitically driven process with high priority, further accelerated by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Both perspectives, that of the EU and that of the accession countries, are critically examined and also assessed from a Central European point of view.

Dr. Kai-Olaf Lang, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Berlin

<https://www.swp-berlin.org/wissenschaftler-in/kai-olaf-lang>

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 - 12.30 Workshop 1: Central European civil society and the transitional knowledge transfer to the Western Balkans (Barlai)

Civil society has an important role to play in strengthening democracy in the Western Balkans. This workshop will focus on its work and impact (tbc).

Room: AUB, Hall of Mirrors

BUDAPEST

Tuesday 01.09 - Andrassy Program

Workshop 2: Asymmetric interdependence and the dual expectation gap in EU–Western Balkans relations (Griessler)

Deep dive on policy and governance: What do Western Balkan countries expect from the EU? What do they do for the EU?

Room: AUB, tbd

Workshop 3: Central Europe, a divided enlargement constituency? Chair of Diplomacy II

Central European states simultaneously advocate for enlargement. Rhetorics or strategic competition? (tbc)

Room: AUB, tbd

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch - ELTE University Restaurant

Venue: *Műhely Egyetem Cafe, Múzeum krt 4/A*

13.30 Presentation of results and debate (30 min.)

Room: AUB, Hall of Mirrors

14.15 Wrap-up / Concluding remarks

N.N., Chair of Diplomacy II

Room: AUB, Hall of Mirrors

14.30 Individual transfer to the Parliament

from the AUB Courtyard

Metro 2, Astoria - Kossuth Lajos tér

15.00 Visit to the Parliament

Kossuth Lajos tér, 1055 Budapest

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

Guided tour

Wednesday 02.09 - ELTE Program

9.00 - 12.30 Leadership Skill Workshop - Negotiation & Conflict Management Training (2/4)

(Location: Szerb str. 21-23, Professors' Club)

Frans Schram

<https://www.ccds-berlin.de/index.php?frans-schram>

12.30-13.30 Lunch

(Location: Műhely Egyetem Cafe, Múzeum krt 4/A)

15.30-16.30 Leadership Skill Workshop - Negotiation & Conflict Management Training (2/4)

(Location: Szerb str. 21-23, Professors' Club)

Frans Schram

16.45 Budapest Sightseeing

(Starting at Szerb str. 21-23)

Thursday 03.09 - ELTE Program

Travel to Vienna

BUDAPEST to VIENNA

DAY OF TRAVEL

03.09.2026

MEETING TIME

08:15 at the platform

FROM

Budapest-Keleti

DEPARTURE

08:30 am

TO

Wien Hbf

ARRIVAL

11:20 am

TRAIN

EC 140 Hortobágy

COACH

To be communicated

SEAT NUMBERS

To be communicated

VIENNA

Thursday 03.09

11:20: Arrival in Vienna. Pick up at the station by Barbara, walk to the nearby Hotel: MyNext Rudy (approx.15 Minutes). Check-in time is in the afternoon but you can leave your luggage in the storage room. No lunch will be provided upon arrival, so please make your own arrangements.

15:00: Europe's Futures Initiative, Alte Kapelle,
Campus Location: Campus of the University of Vienna
(Courtyard 1), [Spitalgasse 2, 1090 Vienna](#)

18:00 Welcome Dinner, [Bierheuriger zum Gangl](#), Alser
Straße 4/Hof 1, 1090 Wien

Friday 04.09

09:00 Vienna International Centre - visit to the United Nations Organisation, tour and briefing at UNODA,
IMPORTANT: Bring the ID you registered with

12:45 Lunch, **Le Burger** Rotenturmstraße 15, 1010

16:00 "Ode to Joy" – Vienna, Capital of Europe.

Guided City Tour. Meeting point: In front of the House of the European Union, Wipplingerstraße 35, 1010 Vienna.

Saturday 05.09

Day Off/ Individual activities

VIENNA

Sunday 06.09

Day off / Individual activities



Monday 07.09

Location: [Oskar-Morgenstern-Platz 1, 1090 Vienna](#)

10:00-12.30 OSCE Briefing with Florenz LeClezio

12:30-14.30 Lunch, Honu Tiki Bowls (Will be delivered to OMP, please place your order in advance)

14:30 Dr. Sebastian Haug, German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), International Organizations, debriefing

16:30-18:00 Ambassador Dr. Emil Brix Closing Session

Tuesday 08.09

Departure

VIENNA to PRAGUE

DAY OF TRAVEL

08.09.2026

MEETING TIME

10:55 at the platform

FROM

Wien Hbf

DEPARTURE

11:10

TO

Prague

ARRIVAL

15:23

TRAIN

RJ 252 Vindobona

COACH

TBD

SEAT NUMBERS

TBD

PRAGUE

Tuesday 08.09

Afternoon : Arrival from Vienna; Pick up at the train station by Barbora, transport to [Hotel Krystal](#) welcome dinner at the hotel (buffet style)

- Double 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)
- **ticket for public transport** will be provided

Wednesday 09.09

8:45 Meeting in the hotel lobby (Barbora) / Transport to the Rectorate of Charles University

9:30 Welcome address at Charles University

9:30 - 12:00 Morning Lecture - Prof. Jan Kuklik

12:00 - 13:00 Lunch

Afternoon: Guided tour of 20th-century Prague landmarks

Thursday 10.09.

9:00 - 12:00 Lead the Europe - workshop

12:00 - 13:00 Lunch

14:00 - 16:30 Interactive role play game „European Parliament" in European Commission Representation in the Czech Republic

PRAGUE

Friday 11.09

9:00 - 12:00 Intellectual property and patenting in science and research. Seminar led by Nikola Minks, a patent attorney at CPPT (Center for knowledge and technology transfer)
Farewell lunch
Guided tour of the Charles University

Saturday 12.09

Free day to explore Prague



Sunday 13.09

Check out and **travel to Berlin** from train station Praha hlavní nádraží - fastfood points (Burger King, Dhaba Beas), supermarket, cafe available

PRAGUE to BERLIN

DAY OF TRAVEL

13.09.2026

MEETING TIME

10:05 am at the platform

FROM

Prague

DEPARTURE

10:31

TO

Berlin Hbf

ARRIVAL

14:29

TRAIN

RJ 382 Berliner

COACH

TBD

SEAT NUMBERS

TBD

BERLIN

Sunday 13.09

Day off

Monday 14.09

09:30–10:00 – Arrival & Check-in (Meeting point: Foreign office day)

10:00–11:00 – Diplomatic Careers and the Development of the German Foreign Service with Heinrich Kreft (former Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany; “CENTRAL Ambassador” at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin; Program Director for International Diplomatic Training, Federal Foreign Office)

11:00–11:30 – Coffee Break

11:30–13:00 – Cyber Foreign Policy, Cybersecurity and European Diplomatic Leadership with Felix Kroll (Head of Cyber Foreign Policy, Federal Foreign Office)

12:30–13:30 – Lunch at Noumi

14:00–17:30 – Negotiation Training / Leadership Skills: Negotiation and Conflict Moderation with Frans Schram (International Negotiation Trainer and Mediator (CEDR accredited))

17:30–18:45 – Break

19:00–21:30 – Welcome Dinner (Restaurant Maximilians)

BERLIN

Tuesday 15.09.2026

09:00–09:30 – Arrival & Check-in (Senate Chamber / Foyer)

09:30–10:30 – Interactive Lecture & Discussion: “Russia Through German Eyes: Perceptions and Political Consequences” with Prof. Dr. Gwendolyn Sasse (Scientific Director, Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS) Einstein Professor for Comparative Democracy and Authoritarianism, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

10:30–11:00 – Coffee Break

11:00–12:30 – Discussion at the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DIHK) with Stefan Kägebein (Director Eastern / Southeastern Europe, , Southern Caucasus; Head of the Ukraine Task Force; Security and Defense Desk International, DIHK | German Chamber of Commerce and Industry, International Markets Division)

12:30–13:30 – Lunch

BERLIN

Tuesday 15.09.2026

13:30–14:30 – Seminar / Workshop: Space Diplomacy and Foreign Security Aspects in Central and Eastern Europe with Prof. Dr.

Heinrich Kreft (former Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany “CENTRAL Ambassador” at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin; Program Director for International Diplomatic Training, Federal Foreign Office)

15:00–16:00 – Academic Freedom: Meeting and Discussion with Prof. Dr. Julia von Blumenthal (President of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

16:00–17:00 – Break

17:00–18:40 – Diplomatic Roundtable “Central Europe in Transition” with Prof. Dr. Kreft (former Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany; “CENTRAL Ambassador” at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin; Program Director for International Diplomatic Training, Federal Foreign Office), Dr. Péter Györkös (Hungarian Ambassador) and Dr. Alexander Marschik (Austrian Ambassador)

19:10–19:45 – Networking Reception

Week Three| 13.09 - 17.09

Wednesday 16.09.2026

09:30–10:00 – Arrival & Check-in at Bundestag

10:00–11:00 – Discussion on Parliamentary Work, Ukraine and Germany's Engagement in Central and Eastern Europe with Stefan Bischoff (Member of the Bundestag and Scientific Research Advisor to Member of the German Bundestag Robin Wagener (Alliance 90/The Greens)

11:00–12:00 – Bundestag program (dtls.TBD)

13:00–16:30 – Negotiation Training / Leadership Skills: Negotiation and Conflict Moderation

Frans Schram (International Negotiation Trainer and Mediator (CEDR accredited))

17:00 - 18:30 – Guided Visitor Tour of the Reichstag Building

19:30 – Informal Get-Together

Thursday 17.09

Travel to Warsaw

BERLIN to WARSAW

DAY OF TRAVEL

17.09.2026

MEETING TIME

11:15 at the platform

FROM

Berlin Gesundbrunnen

DEPARTURE

11:44

TO

Warszawa Centralna

ARRIVAL

17:00

TRAIN

EC 47

COACH

TBD

SEAT NUMBERS

TBD

WARSAW



Thursday 17.09

17-18:00 Check-in at the “Logos” hotel

19-21:00 Welcome dinner “*Pełną Parą*”

Friday 18.09

9-10:30 Seminar by dr Szymon Kardaś

12-14:00 Visit to **FRONTEX**

16-18:00 Optional museum (MSN)

Saturday 19.09

10-11:30 Lecture by Jakub Wiech “*Energy Security after 2022: Lessons for Europe*”

12-13:00 Workshop by dr Jan Farfał “*russian Information Warfare: Strategies, Narratives and Influence*” / “*Q&A Starting a Career in the Expert and Think Tank Community: First Steps and Practical Advice*”

18-20:00 Goodbye dinner “*Informal Kitchen*”

Sunday 20.09

Departure

Accommodation

BUDAPEST

IBIS Budapest City Hotel

Akácfa u. 1-3, Budapest, 1072 Ungarn

Tel.: +36 1 478 3050

https://all.accor.com/hotel/1681/index.de.shtml?utm_campaign=seo+maps&utm_medium=seo+maps&utm_source=google+Maps

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

Location & Transport:

- **Public Transport:** 15 minutes (Elte) 10 Minutes (AUB)
- **Walking:** 20 minutes (Elte) 13 Minutes (AUB)
- **Taxi/Uber:** 14 minutes (Elte) 12 Minutes (AUB)

Check-In/Out:

- **Check-in:** from 3:00 PM, available any time after that
- **Check-out:** until 12:00 AM

Amenities: Wi-Fi; laundry service available for an extra fee.
(Breakfast 06:30-10:00 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.: ++420 235 361 539
<https://www.centrum-krystal.cz/en/>

Room Type: Double 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

H+ Hotel 4Youth Berlin

Bernauer Straße 45 10435 Berlin, Germany

Tel. +49 (0) 30 – 451 98 88 0

www.hotel4youth.de

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

Location & Transport:

- **Public Transport:** 20 minutes
- **Walking:** 45 minutes
- **Taxi/Uber:** 15 minutes

Check-In/Out:

- **Check-in:** 3:00 PM to 11:59 PM
- **Check-out:** until 12:00 AM

Amenities: Wi-Fi and breakfast included (6:30 AM – 10:30 AM Monday - Friday; 7:30 AM - 11:00 AM on Weekend).

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

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.

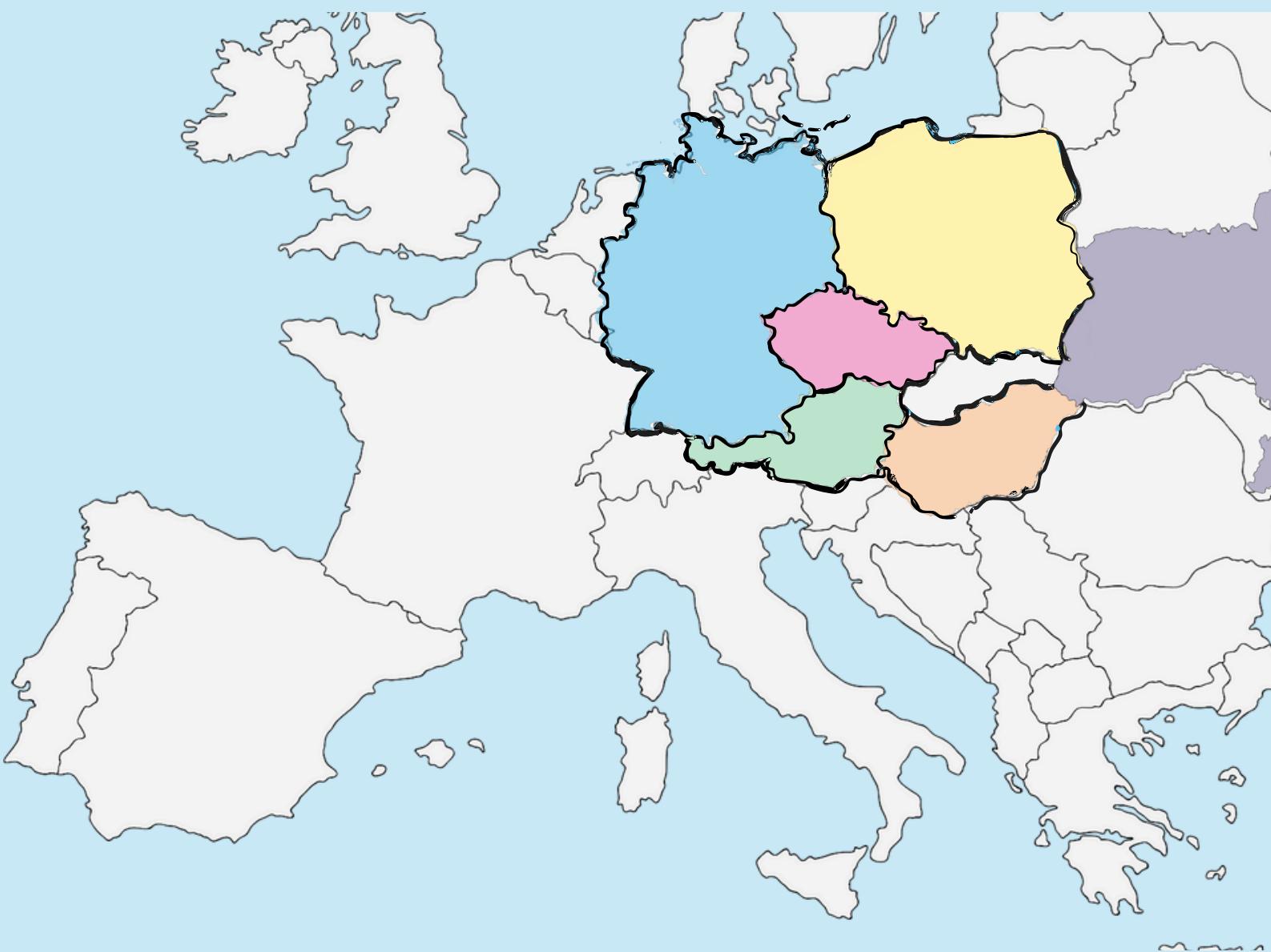
Together, they promote academic exchange and raise the visibility of Central and Eastern Europe through joint research and outreach across disciplines.

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 Andrásy 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.



CONTACTS

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

Coordinators



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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

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 2026

Hereby, I declare my **participation during the full summer school program** taking place **August 31 – September 20, 2026**, 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 2026 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: accomodation change & name & cities where you want to find alternative accommodations so that we can cancel hotel rooms until **Monday, June 30, 2026**. 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 2026

● 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 2026 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.