



EUROPA-UNIVERSITÄT  
VIADRINA  
FRANKFURT (ODER)

## INVITATION

**“Ambivalences of Transformation: How do people and societies grow through cross-border changes and social fractures?”**

**Forum of European cities  
in Frankfurt (Oder) and Słubice**

**8th-10th May 2022**





Cities, Regions and Institutions  
INTERREG-/ INTERACT network

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Frankfurt (Oder) and Słubice, 24th March 2022

Dear Friends all over Europe,

We are delighted to enclose the following invitation: on the occasion of Europe Day on 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 we would like to welcome you to our Double City Frankfurt (Oder) and Słubice for the Transformation Forum of European cities.

In Europe we find ourselves in the midst of new and old conflicts. We are experiencing increasing polarization within our societies and across Europe and we are facing major future challenges of a social, political and technological nature - not to mention the effects of climate change on all of our lives. The ongoing war in Ukraine this month has added even more urgency to the need of peaceful dialogue formats, as well as highlighted the significance of such.

In the view of this current situation, we, the citizens of Frankfurt (Oder) and Słubice consider it more important than ever to build bridges with those who continue to thoroughly root their core values in the indispensability of peaceful dialogue and conflict-solving: bridges between our different experiences of the past forty years and the current challenges we are facing. Bridges between the transformation achievements that we can be proud of and the mistakes and omissions that still hurt years later. Bridges between societies inside and outside the European Union and within our respective societies.

Indeed questions dealing with the future of Europe are discussed within the INTERREG network as well. The INTERREG network is one of the best examples that Europe works because people are willing to cooperate across borders, to build bridges between different countries, languages, cultures and interests and to solve problems together. It is now up to us to contribute in a remarkable way to the debate on European future and to show evidence that cooperation is key to address future struggles. In this light, we welcome you to visit our transformation forum and engage with the delegations of different European cities.

The program of our format consists of three essential pillars:

(1) Academia - We invite renowned transformation scholars from all over Europe to enter into discussion.

(2) Encounter and dialogue - We want to strike up a conversation with the participants of Cities from across Europe. People of different ages, with different social backgrounds, who listen to each other and are curious about the perspectives and experiences of the other.

(3) Art and Culture - We invite ensembles and solo artists from all over Europe, who deal with the changes of the past and the current challenges, with music and dance, performance, literature, exhibitions and theater.

When selecting topics and formats for our forum, we were guided by the three pillars of the planned "Future Center for European Transformation and German Unity". In the end of 2022, the German Federal Government is supposed to decide which city out of five East German regions will be selected to become the seat of this institution – a huge investment and construction project that is to be realised by 2027.

We proudly inform that the City of Frankfurt (Oder), supported by its Polish neighbour city Słubice, is applying to become the location of the „Transformation Center”. We have decided to refer with our application strongly to our location as German-Polish Twin City, because we established a very close cooperation on nearly all levels of city policies, based on the European integration process in the last two decades. The transformation forum is a part of our application process for the Future Center, but just as much, it is a part of the intercultural exchange and dialogue, that is already a lived reality in our Double City.

According to the plans of the Federal Government, the “Transformation Center” intends to be an outstanding destination for about one million visitors from all over Europe each year. The Center is supposed to consist of a modern exhibition area, a meeting and debating space for civil society, sciences and governance and a scientific research lab on European transformation experiences. The main goal of that institution is not only to reflect on history, but even more importantly to draw lessons to be learned for future transformation challenges, like the digital revolution, consequences of climate change and challenges for our democratic systems.

Since mid-2021, the city administration has been working on preparing for the application process. All of the city council members signed a declaration to support the purpose. The federal state government of Brandenburg officially supports our application and we hope that soon the federal state of Berlin will join as well. Our campaign “WE BUILD BRIDGES” represents the big potential and is gathering support.

In our application we want to show that Frankfurt (Oder) and Słubice are the best place for that institution, because we are an exposed European location, where transformation and transition took and is continuously taking place, where partners from all over Europe are coming together to share their different perspectives and to come along about common ideas how to cope with future challenges.

Therefore, we would be grateful if you would like to support us as our European partners by honouring us with your presence at the transformation forum from 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> May 2022. If you cannot make it to the forum, but still would like to show your support, please contact our colleagues at [zukunftszenrum@frankfurt-oder.de](mailto:zukunftszenrum@frankfurt-oder.de).

Do join Frankfurt (Oder) & Słubice and let us get together to become „Bridge builders“ for Europe and the European idea!

Sincerely yours,

René Wilke  
Lord Mayor Frankfurt (Oder)

Mariusz Olejniczak  
Mayor Słubice





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**Programme**

<p><b>Sunday, May 8th</b></p>	<p><b>7 p.m.-10 p.m.: Ceremonial Reception of the double city, Kleist Forum</b></p> <p>Patronage: Dr. Dietmar Woidke, Prime Minister of the State of Brandenburg and Mrs Annalena Baerbock, Member of Federal Parliament Bundestag (requested)</p> <p>Welcome, getting to know each other, buffet</p> <p>Opening Discussion: “Who were we and who will we be? - (Double) cities in the post-transformation period” with Jana Hensel and Wolfgang Engler (tbc)</p> <p>Music: "Europe Variations", performed by Søren Gundermann, piano</p>		
<p><b>Monday, May 9th</b></p> <p>Europe day</p>	<p><b>9.00 a.m. - 9.45 a.m. : Official Opening of the Forum, Collegium Polonicum</b></p> <p>Outline of the forum, Presentation of short videos from the participating cities</p>		
<p><b>Science in Dialogue:</b></p> <p><b>German-German transformations</b></p> <p><b>10.15 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.</b></p> <p>Venue: Logensaal (Viadrina) or Collegium Polonicum</p> <p>East German transformation experiences and future development scenarios from a regional perspective</p> <p>Key Notes and Discussions</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Susann Worschech, European University Viadrina</p> <p>Languages: English, German, Polish</p>	<p><b>Citizen Dialogue:</b></p> <p><b>Transformation is tangible - Our experiences with upheavals</b></p> <p><b>10.15 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.</b></p> <p>Venue: Municipal Concert Hall</p> <p>Social transformation in the mirror of what is individually experienced, learned and won</p> <p>Dialog formats: Blind Date and World Café</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Anne Holper and Elena Mika, European University Viadrina</p> <p>Languages: English, German, Polish</p>	<p><b>Discoveries in the twin city area:</b></p> <p><b>10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.</b></p> <p>Offers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cycling tour</li> <li>• Exhibitions</li> <li>• Cultural offer in the double city</li> <li>• Boat tour</li> <li>• City tours</li> <li>• digital discussion board</li> <li>• Performances</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Monday, May 9th</b></p> <p>Europe day</p>	<p align="center"><b>From 1 p.m.: lunch break</b></p> <p align="center">Cafeteria of the Viadrina or Picnic and further discoveries in the twin city area</p>		
<p><b>2.30 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.</b></p> <p>Venue: Logensaal or Collegium Polonicum</p> <p>German-German interdependencies, migration, (dis-) integration</p> <p>Key Notes and Discussions</p> <p>Moderator: PD Dr. Carolin Leutloff-Grandits, European University Viadrina</p> <p>Languages: English, German, Polish</p>	<p><b>3.00 p.m. -5.30 p.m.</b></p> <p>Venue: Municipal Concert Hall</p> <p>A look at the unprocessed aspects of the transformation: excessive demands, losses, conflicts</p> <p>World Café dialogue format</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Anne Holper and Prof. Dr. Lars Kirchhoff, European University Viadrina</p> <p>Languages: English, German, Polish</p>	<p>See above</p>	
<p align="center"><b>8.00 p.m. -10.00 p.m.: Transformative, European cultural program, snacks, Kleist Forum and SMOK cultural center Słubice</b></p>			
<p><b>Tuesday, May 10th</b></p>	<p><b>Science in Dialogue:</b></p> <p><b>European transformations</b></p> <p><b>9.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.</b></p> <p>Venue: Logensaal or Collegium Polonicum</p> <p>European transformations between the “post-socialist” and “neoliberal” paradigm</p> <p>Key Notes and Discussions</p> <p>Moderator: PD dr Carolin Leutloff-Grandits, European University Viadrina</p> <p>Languages: English, German, Polish</p>	<p><b>Citizen dialogue:</b></p> <p><b>Transformation can be designed: Fears and plans of action for future changes</b></p> <p><b>9.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.</b></p> <p>Venue: Municipal Concert Hall</p> <p>Own roles, patterns, contributions to current and future change</p> <p>Various formats</p> <p>Moderator: dr Anne Holper and Elena Mika, European University Viadrina</p> <p>Languages: English, German, Polish</p>	<p><b>Discoveries in the twin city area:</b></p> <p><b>9.00 a.m. – 12.00 a.m</b></p> <p>Offers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cycling tour</li> <li>• Exhibitions</li> <li>• Cultural offer in the double city</li> <li>• Boat tour</li> <li>• City tours</li> <li>• digital discussion board</li> <li>• Performances</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>From 12.30 p.m.: lunch break</b></p> <p align="center">Cafeteria of the Viadrina or Picnic and further discoveries in the twin city area</p>			

<b>Tuesday, May 10th</b>	<b>2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.</b> Venue: Logensaal or Collegium Polonicum  Transformation & (double) cities in the European debate - ambivalences, dependencies, gray areas and autonomous paths  Key Notes and Discussions  Moderator: Dr. Susann Worschech, European University Viadrina  Languages: English, German, Polish	<b>2.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.</b> Venue: Municipal Concert Hall  Conclusion: what do we return home with? What are we leaving on-site? What do we want to build on in the future?  Various formats  Moderator: dr Anne Holper and Elena Mika, European University Viadrina  Languages: English, German, Polish	
	<b>4.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.: Closing discussion, Kleist Forum</b>  "The twin city of the future: How does a visitor to the Future Center 2030 recognize that citizens have seized the opportunities of upheaval?"  Fish Bow format		
	<b>6.15 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.: Statements of support and press conference, Kleist Forum</b>		
	<b>8.00 p.m. - 11.00 p.m.: Closing ceremony, Kleist Forum</b>  "European Lessons from the Transformation", final lecture by Prof. Dr. Philip Ther (tbc)  Dinner, cultural closing programme		
<b>Wednesday, May 11th</b>	<b>Departure day</b>		

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