

14TH VISEGRAD
SUMMER SCHOOL
5 – 18 JULY 2015
VILLA DECIUS, KRAKOW
www.visegradsummerschool.org



PLATFORM FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

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INAUGURATION

10.00 Press Conference

10.30 Opening

Danuta Glondys, Director of the Villa Decius Association

Bogusław Sonik, Chairman of the Board of the Villa Decius Association

Prof. Jacek Majchrowski, President of the City of Krakow

Rafał Trzaskowski, Secretary of State for European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Marek Sowa, Marshal of the Malopolska Region

Karla Wursterová, Executive Director of the International Visegrad Fund

11.00 Inaugural lecture

Ukraine, Greece and European crisis

Prof. Timothy Garton Ash, Oxford University

12.30 Challenges of cooperation in the Visegrad Group

Rafał Trzaskowski, Secretary of State for European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

HE Jakub Karfik, Ambassador of the Czech Republic in Poland

Adrienne Körmendy, Consul General of Hungary in Krakow

Pavol Popjak, First Secretary, Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Warsaw

Moderator: **Krzysztof Bobiński**, Unia&Polska

PROGRAMME



Sunday, 5 July ARRIVAL OF PARTICIPANTS

18.00 Organizational meeting at Villa Decius

Monday, 6 July INAUGURATION

10.30–11.00 Opening of 14. Edition of Visegrad Summer School

11.00–12.00 Ukraine, Greece and the European Crisis, key note speech **Timothy Garton Ash**

Rafał Trzaskowski

Jakub Karfik

12.30–14.00 Challenges of the Visegrad Cooperation, debate

Adrienne Köröndy

Pavol Popjak

moderator: **Krzysztof Bobiński**

15.00–18.00 Integration workshops

Eszter Neuberger

Vít Borčány

Tuesday, 7 July POLITICS



Polish Edition of the Cycle of Conferences by Evens Foundation

10.00–11.30 How to bridge the gap between European citizens and the European institutions

Jonathan Holslag

The Evens Foundation is a public benefit foundation based in Antwerp, Belgium and with offices in Paris and Warsaw. The Evens Foundation initiates and supports sustainable projects, and awards biennial prizes, that contribute to the progress and strengthening of Europe based on cultural and social diversity. The Evens Foundation initiates, develops and supports projects that encourage people and ultimately nations to live together harmoniously in a diverse Europe. It promotes respect for diversity, both individual and collective and works to strengthen people's physical, psychological and moral integrity. More information: www.evensfoundation.be/en

11.30–12.00 Buffet reception

12.00–13.30 New leaders and new horizons of the Visegrad cooperation

Martin Ehl

15.00–18.00	Students' projects (1) Workshops: political transformation Workshops: free media Photographic workshops: urban space	Marcin Kędzierski Marcin Żyła Tomasz Padło
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Wednesday, 8 July

HERITAGE

10.00–11.30	Multidimensional Europe. Southern perspective	Aslı Erdoğan Andrei Pleșu László Rajk moderator: Michal Vašečka
12.00–13.30	Challenges of multiculturalism, debate	Aslı Erdoğan Andrei Pleșu László Rajk moderator: Michal Vašečka
15.00–18.00	Students' projects (workshops 2)	Marcin Kędzierski Marcin Żyła Tomasz Padło

Thursday, 9 July

CULTURE

10.00–11.30	Identity and culture of Central Europe	Michal Vašečka
12.00–13.30	Potential for reconciliation and cultural cooperation in Central Europe	Michal Vašečka
	MULTICULTURAL EVENING	by VSS participants

Friday, 10 July

ECONOMY

10.00–11.30	Evolution of global finances	Wiesław Gumuła
12.00–13.30	The myth of German hegemony	Kai-Olaf Lang
15.00–17.00	Individual career coaching sessions (optional)	Olga Maksymenko

Saturday – Sunday, 11–12 July
IN SEARCH OF COMMON CULTURAL HERITAGE

Study visits to Krakow and Malopolska region

Monday, 13 July
ON FRAGILITY OF TRANSFORMATION

10.00–11.30	Reforms in Eastern European states – facts and myths	Karel Svoboda
12.00–13.30	Current political, social and security problems in Ukraine	Taras Voznyak
15.00–17.00	Career workshop (optional)	Olga Maksymenko

Tuesday, 14 July
ON UNIVERSAL VALUES

10.00–11.30	International organisations and fundamental freedoms	Helge Lunde
12.00–13.30	Refugees, migrants and stateless persons	Katarzyna Przybyszewska
15.00–18.00	Students' projects: (workshops 3)	Marcin Kędziński Marcin Żyła Tomasz Padło

Wednesday, 15 July
ON LIBERAL GOVERNANCE

10.00–11.30	When women stay silent, debate	Magdalena Vášáryová Marta Dzido Jana Smiggels Kavková moderator: Wojciech Przybylski
12.00–13.30	Roma population, lecture	Attila Z. Papp
15.00–17.30	VISEGRAD FILM MARATHON – Solidarity according to women	Marta Dzido moderator: Marcin Dyrz

Thursday, 16 July ON POWER OF WORDS

10.00–11.30	Post-imperialistic nostalgia. Mystical nationalism	Ziemowit Szczerek moderator: Jakub Majmurek
12.00–13.30	Media or propaganda. Freedom and responsibility, debate	Samuel Abraham Wojciech Przybylski Karol Szyndzielorz moderator: Danuta Glondys
15.00–18.00	Students' projects: (workshops 4)	Marcin Kędzierski Marcin Żyła Tomasz Padło

Friday, 17 July VISEGRAD +

10.00–11.30	International Visegrad Fund – Tool of Regional Cooperation	Dana Pekaríková
11.45–14.00	Closing session: Presentation of students' projects Evaluation Presenting Diplomas	Danuta Glondys Marcin Kędzierski Marcin Żyła Tomasz Padło
20.00	KRAKOW BY NIGHT	

Saturday, 18 July Departure of participants

STUDY VISITS



Malopolska Region 11 July 2015

10.15 am departure from the Hotel 'Za kolumnami'

11.15 am arrival to "Wieliczka", salt mine

11.55 am visit and tour

approx 3 pm transfer to Krakow

approx 4 pm the end of tour

"Wieliczka" Salt Mine

ul. Daniłowicza 10, Wieliczka

www.wieliczka-saltmine.com

We invite you to join us on a very special trip to the **Wieliczka salt mine**.

It is one of the most valuable monuments of material and spiritual culture in Poland. Today, the Wieliczka

Salt Mine combines many centuries of tradition and modernity, the history of several hundred years and an underground metropolis with extensive infrastructure. The mine, built in the 13th century is one of the world's oldest salt mines still in operation. It is a world class monument, featuring among fourteen objects of Poland on the UNESCO's World Cultural and Natural Heritage List.

The mine's attractions include dozens of statues, three chapels and an entire cathedral that has been carved out of the rock salt by the miners. It features an underground lake; and the new exhibits on the history of salt mining, as well as a 3.5 kilometers touring route that includes historic statues and mythical figures carved out of rock salt in distant past. More recent sculptures have been fashioned by contemporary artists.



TOUR 12 July 2015

10.15 am Transfer from Hotel 'Za kolumnami'
to Rynek Główny
11.00 am Tour of The Sukiennice Gallery
12.00 am / 12.30 pm Tour of the Rynek Underground
1st group / 2nd group
Walk from Rynek Główny to Wawel Hil
2.30 pm Tour of the Royal Archcathedral Basilica

Rynek Underground
Rynek Główny 1, Kraków
www.mhk.pl

Sukiennice Gallery
Rynek Główny 3, Kraków
www.mnk.pl

The Sukiennice Gallery

The Gallery of the Polish Art at Sukiennice (a branch of the National Museum in Kraków) is housed on the upper floor of the Sukiennice Cloth Hall in the centre of the Main Market Square. The Gallery, which is a showcase of Polish art, holds the largest collection of the 19th-century Polish painting and sculpture.

The Rynek Underground

The Rynek Underground a branch of the Historical Museum of Krakow, located under the Market Square. The exhibition presents the history of Kraków and the connections between the city and Medieval centres of trade and culture. The presentation makes use of holograms, fog machines and several dozen screens and projectors to recreate the atmosphere of Kraków seven hundred years ago.

The Royal Castle and the Royal Archcathedral Basilica

The Wawel Royal Castle and the Wawel Hill constitute the most historically and culturally important site in Poland. For centuries the residence of the kings of Poland and the symbol of Polish statehood, the Castle is now one of the country's premier art museums. On the Wawel Hill is located the Royal Archcathedral Basilica which interior were created by the most outstanding artists: Bartolomeo Berecci, Giovanni Maria Padovano, Santi Gucci, Jan Michałowicz of Urzędów, Giovanni Trevano, Francesco Placidi and Bertel Thorvaldsen. The Cathedral is surrounded by nineteen chapels. Each of them is a separate church in itself. The Sigismund (Zygmuntowska) Chapel is considered to be the finest example of renaissance architecture north of the Alps.

EXPERTS AND GUESTS





Samuel Abrahám

PhD, educated in Political Science and Political Philosophy at the University of Toronto and the Carleton University in Canada, received doctorate at Carleton University in Ottawa. Since 1996 he is the publisher and editor-in-chief of *Kritika & Kontext* and founder of the educational institution Society for Higher Learning based in Bratislava. During 1996-2001 was representative of the Foundation Project on Ethnic Relations (PER) in Slovakia, based in Princeton, U.S., specializing in inter-ethnic conflicts. He teaches political science at Comenius University in Bratislava. Author of a book *An Attempt to Analyze Slovak Society*, regularly publishes articles in Slovak and English magazines on the subjects of Slovak politics, the EU, as well as political theory. Member of advisory board of *Eurozine* – the internet journal of a network of European Cultural journals. Director of Bratislava Institute of Humanism, nonprofit organization and, since June 2006, he is the President and lecturer of Bratislava International School of Liberal Education.



Timothy Garton Ash

Is Professor of European Studies in the University of Oxford, Isaiah Berlin Professional Fellow at St Antony's College, Oxford and a Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University. He is the author of nine books of 'history of the present', including *The Polish Revolution: Solidarity*, *The Magic Lantern: The Revolution of '89 Witnessed in Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin and Prague*, *The File* and, most recently, *Facts are Subversive*. His essays appear regularly in *The New York Review of Books* and he writes a column in *The Guardian* which is widely syndicated in Europe, Asia and the Americas including in *Gazeta Wyborcza*. He is currently leading a major Oxford University research project on global free speech norms in the internet age, which can be followed in 13 languages on www.freespeechdebate.com, and writing a book on free speech.



Krzysztof Bobiński

Is the President of Unia & Polska, a pro-European organisation. He worked with the Financial Times as its Warsaw Correspondent from 1976 to 2000 and later published Unia & Polska, a magazine devoted to EU issues. He writes for openDemocracy and is associate editor on the Europe section of Europe's World. He is a co-chair of Steering Committee of Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum. He studied modern history at Magdalen College, Oxford. He is a Commander (II class) of the Stella della Solidarieta' Italiana.



Vít Borčány

Project Coordinator in the Association for International Affairs where he started working in 2013. Previously, he worked as a Research Assistant at the Institute of International Relations (2013) and at the Foreign Affairs Department of the Office of the President of the Republic (2012). He currently finishes his International Relations studies and continues in Political Science at the Masaryk University. Vít is mainly focused on Central European politics.



Marta Dzido

Writer, documentary filmmaker and film editor. Studied at the Polish Film School in Łódź. Author of three novels: *A Mark Left by Mom*, *The Clam* and a hypertext *Matrioszka*. Director of photography of the documentary *Underground Women's State* and co-director of *Downtown*, a documentary that has won the Hollywood Eagle Documentary Award in 2011. Her documentary "*Solidarity according to Women*" won The Krzysztof Kieslowski Beyond Borders Award in 2015. A holder of the grant of the Book Institute and of the Homines Urbani grant of the Villa Decius Association (2007), Ministry of Culture and National Heritage (2007), Young Poland (2012) and Visegrad Literary Residency Program (2012).



Martin Ehl

PhD at Charles University, Prague in Political Science, recipient of numerous fellowships and professional courses in the U.S., Poland, Hungary, Belgium, Italy and Slovenia. In 1999 he was a research fellow at Institute of International Relations, Prague, between 2001-2006 lecturer at University of West Bohemia Pilsen teaching global issues. Since 2001, a reporter for the Czech economic daily *Hospodářské noviny*, and since 2006 the head of the foreign desk. Previously, he worked in various Czech written media outlets, incl. TV and radio. He has published articles in the Serbian, Slovak and Polish press. His main areas of expertise include: Central Europe, Balkans, security policy, transatlantic relations, globalization, Latin America and Spain. From 2009 onwards, lecturer in Central and Eastern European Political Systems at the Metropolitan University in Prague. Author of a book *A Third Decade: about the Life, Politics and People between Brussels and Gazprom*.



Aslı Erdoğan

Aslı Erdoğan born in Istanbul, studied Computer Engineering and Physics (MS in 1993) and worked as a high energy research physicist at CERN, Geneva where she completed her thesis in Higgs Physics there. After a 2-year stay in South America, she returned to Istanbul and started to live as a free lance writer. Aslı has written several books: novels, novellas, collections of short stories and poetic prose, and selections from her political essays. She has worked as a columnist and a journalist since 1998, mostly for RADİKAL, a left-wing intellectual newspaper and Özgür Gündem, a bilingual paper of Kurdish press, for which she is still writing. She has treated controversial topics as state violence, discrimination and human rights. Aslı's books have been translated into several languages, including English, French, German, Italian, Swedish, Norwegian, Arabic and Bosnian.



Danuta Glondys

Director of the Villa Decius Association. She holds a PhD degree in the Humanities, MA in English Philology and in Political Studies. In the period 1993–1999, she was director of the Cultural Department of the Municipality of Krakow and following it, the Regional Director of the USAID programme in Poland. She was the European Commission expert in the European Capitals of Culture programme selecting and monitoring all ECOC since 2009 until 2017. Her research field covers relations between culture and politics and European integration. Author of numerous articles and publications. An avid traveler.



Wiesław Gumuła

Professor of Sociology at the Jagiellonian University. Author of many publications including *The Theory of Social Peculiarities*. He specializes in sociology of finance including such particular areas as: the social meaning of money; cash and cashless settlements; evolution of the world financial system in the 21st century; financial markets; financial crisis. In his research he applies a sociological perspective in order to study the role of individuals in the world of finance. At the same time he works for The National Bank of Poland as the Director of the NBP Regional Branch in Kraków.



Jonathan Holslag

Is a postdoctoral fellow of the Research Foundation Flanders and teaches international politics at the Free University Brussels. Among other things, in 2007 and 2008 he was a coordinator of the EU-China Academic Network (ECAN), an academic forum organized by the European Commission. In 2014 he became a Rockefeller Fellow of the Trilateral Commission and a Nobel Fellow at the Nobel Institute. His research focuses on the impact of China's rise on world politics, although also having a decided interest in Europe. His work often bridges different aspects of international relations, such as international political economy, diplomacy and military force. Recent books include *China and India: Prospects for Peace* and *China's coming war with Asia*. He is also an active public intellectual, with articles being published in *The Financial Times*, *The Guardian* and *Foreign Policy*.



Jakub Karfík

Czech Ambassador to Poland since February 2014. During his 20 year career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs he has worked as Director General for Section of Bilateral Relations and Director General for Section of Non-European Countries and Development Cooperation. He served as Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Pakistan (1995–1999), Egypt (2002–2006) and Slovakia (2009–2013).



Jana Kavkova

Jana Smiggels Kavková studied Political Science in Leiden, The Netherlands. She has been working in the field of gender equality since 2005. As a member and later chair of Commission on Equal Representation of Women and Men in Politics, she cooperated on drafting a law proposal introducing quotas. In 2010 Forum 50 % ran a successful campaign to support women in the elections resulting in election of 14 women MPs by using preferential votes. Jana is member of Council for Equal Opportunities of Women and Men of the Government and board member of European Women's Lobby.



Marcin Kędzierski

Research and teaching assistant at the Department of European Studies of the Cracow University of Economics. He graduated from the Cracow University of Economics in International Relations and European Studies (MA) and in Economy and Public Administration (PhD). He completed internships at the Polish Embassy in Germany, European Parliament in Brussels and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland. He runs one of the oldest NGO in Poland, the Jagiellonian Club, which operates i.a. in the field of Visegrad region cooperation (he is personally responsible for the new internet portal aimed at Visegrad+ politics and economy). He covers Polish internal and foreign policy, the European integration processes, EU institutions and EU sector policies with special focus on economic and foreign policy issues.



Adrienne Körmendy

Graduated from the Eötvös Lóránd University in Budapest. She defended her PhD thesis in History and in 1986 obtained habilitated doctor degree at the History Institute of Warsaw University. She is the Laureate of the Alexander von Humboldt Professorship Award in 1988–1989. Her research focuses on studying Settlement History in Central Europe in the Middle Ages specializing in German Settlement and German Law. She worked for the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1990-2004 and spent a long time in the Hungarian Diplomatic Service in Warsaw, Poland. Lectured on Hungarian History and International Relations at the Department of Hungarian Studies of Warsaw University and Pułtusk Aleksandr Gieysztor Academy of Humanities. Appointed Hungarian Consul General in Cracow in 2014.



Kai-Olaf Lang

Research fellow at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs of the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP), Berlin, Germany. Head of research unit on European Integration; previously research fellow of the Federal Institute for Eastern and International Studies (Bundesinstitut für internationale und ostwissenschaftliche Studien, BIOst), Cologne, Germany. His fields of specialization include Countries of Central and Eastern Europe: transformation, political developments, foreign and security policy, bilateral relations with Germany; EU enlargement and implications; security issues in CEE. In recent years he has carried out research concerning foreign and security policies of those countries, problems regarding accession of CEE countries to EU and domestic problems of the countries; European Neighborhood Policy. He holds a diploma in public administration and a doctorate in political sciences. Member of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Osteuropakunde; Member of German-Polish Kopernikus-Group; Member of Editorial Board of Przegląd Zachodni (Poznan), Advisory Board of Aspen Review Central Europe (Prague). He holds a Bene Merito award by Polish Foreign Minister Sikorski.



Helge Lunde

Executive Director of ICORN International Cities of Refuge Network. Helge Lunde (1961) was the director of Kapittel, Stavanger International Festival of Literature and Freedom of Speech from 1998 – 2005. In the same period he was responsible for Stavanger as City of Refuge for persecuted writers, and worked together with Norwegian PEN to develop the network throughout Norway and beyond. Mr. Lunde was among the main figures behind establishing ICORN, the International Cities of Refuge Network (www.icorn.org) in 2005. He became its first executive director, a position he has been holding since.



Jakub Majmurek

Jakub Majmurek – film and art critic, political columnist and philosopher. Co-author of many books concerning movies (Story of Sin. Surrealism in Polish cinema) and social and political philosophy (L'idée du communisme II). He writes mainly for Dziennik Opinii, liberal on-line journal of opinion.



Olga Maksymenko

Olga is public relations professional and career and life coach. Holds MA in Sociology from Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University, MA in Political Science from Central European University (Hungary) and Advanced Certificate in PR from Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR, UK). Olga has extensive experience in public relations. She worked for business, NGO sector and diplomatic representations, including EU Delegation to Ukraine and British Embassy to Ukraine. As a certified life and career coach, Olga helps recent graduates and young professionals who are already part of the working world to identify the career they desire and deserve and navigate transition towards it.



Eszter Neuberger

A young scholar and a journalist. Holds BA in Media and Communication Studies with Journalism specialization, currently researching the public discourse on Holocaust in post-WWII Hungary for her master degree in Media Research at Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest. From this September Eszter will focus on Nationalism Studies at Central European University. Besides her academic activities Eszter is a permanent guest author of hvg.hu (the online edition of HVG weekly) writing mostly about civil society, the social welfare system and covering topics related to unprivileged groups of society. She is a VSS alumna from 2012.



Tomasz Padło

Freelance photographer and co-founder of Bezgranic Foundation dealing i.a. with exposing and describing the phenomenon of stability of relict boundaries. He treats photography as representation of reality and uses it for knowledge promotion, therefore he focuses mostly on documentary photography, in particular on the little-invasive street photography. For many years he has been involved in studying the problem of perceiving Europe. It has also diverted his photographic interest into this issue, after taking up trials to recognize and understand the Orient. He is a geographer by profession and he has been appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Institute of Geography of the Pedagogical University of Cracow.



Attila Z. Papp

Graduated from the Faculty of Sociology, Western University of Timisoara in 1996 and received his Ph.D. in sociology from Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest in 2006. His research areas are minority institutions in education and media, education politics, Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin, and education of Roma in Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine. He is editor in chief of the periodical REGIO, and senior research fellow and director of the Budapest-based Institute for Minority Studies, Centre for Social Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences.



Andrei Pleșu

Born in Bucharest, he studied Art History at the National University of Arts in Bucharest, where he taught from 1980 to 1982. Between 1991 and 1997 he was Professor of Philosophy of Religion at the Department of Philosophy, University of Bucharest. After the fall of the communist regime he was appointed Minister of Culture (1989–1991) and Minister of Foreign Affairs (1997-1999). He held several other important public positions, such as: Member of the National Council for the Study of the Securitate Archives, Presidential Adviser on International Affairs, or Director of the Institute of History of Religion of the Romanian Academy. In 1994 he founded the New Europe College – Institute for Advanced Study in Bucharest, and was its first Rector until 2014. He is currently the President of the New Europe Foundation. He founded the cultural magazine *Dilema Veche* and is very active in contributing to this and other journals. The topics of his books range from art history, philosophy, and history of religion to theology and ethics, and include: *Minima moralia*, *On Angels: Exposition for a Post-Modern World*, *Parabolele lui Iisus. Adevărul ca poveste / Jesus' Parables. Truth as Story*.



Pavol Popjak

First Secretary at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Warsaw dealing with EU affairs. Previous diplomatic post in Paris and Brussels. Former Country Representative for the Slovak part of Carpathian Euroregion seated in Bardejov. Graduated from the Comenius University in social and economic geography, post-graduate studies on public administration at Academia Istropolitana in Bratislava.



Wojciech Przybylski

Editor-in-chief of Res Publica Nowa, Polish journal on culture and politics, and Visegrad Insight – journal with focus on Central Europe. He specialises in the history of political thought. He graduated from the University of Warsaw, and the European College of Liberal Arts in Berlin. Previously junior research fellow at the Modern politics in Vienna (2003-2004), and research fellow at CEFRES in Prague (2013). He received several scholarships from i.a. the Institute of Human Sciences in Vienna, the Minister of Science in Poland and the Goldman Sachs Global Leader honored by the Institute of International Education (U.S.). Author of numerous articles on society, culture and public policy. Founder of the Free Speech Partnership program of Res Publica Nowa and the City DNA program empowering local communities and researching urban policies.



Katarzyna Przybyławska

PhD in law (Jagiellonian University), with a specialty in human rights and refugee law. Co-founder and president of the Halina Nieć Legal Aid Center, a non-governmental organization devoted to protection of human rights through free legal aid and UNHCR's implementing partner. Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford Fellow, member of the Commission of Experts on Migrants to the Ombudsman's Office.



László Rajk

Architect and designer, a former Hungarian dissident. A Doctor of Liberal Arts from Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Faculty of Architecture. In 1998 he was one of the founders of the Network of Free Initiatives and the Liberal Party, the Alliance of Free Democrats. Between 1990–1996 he was a Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Committee on Culture and Member of the Parliament. Since 1992 he has worked as a Professor of Film Architecture at the Hungarian Film Academy in Budapest. From 1995–98 he was an advisor to the Hungarian National UNESCO Committee (World Heritage). In 2003 Legal Cultural Advisor to the European Union. A winner of numerous awards, including the Imre Prize (for the design of the reburial of the Martyrs of 1956), and in 2005, Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit and the Solidarity Award (Poland). Since 2014, giving lectures and master classes at the Center for Human Values at Princeton University, at the Library of Congress in Washington and the Film Factory Sarajevo University. Art director of "Son of Saul" which won Grand Prix at Cannes Festival 2015.



Bogusław Sonik

Former Member of the European Parliament, chairman of Stowarzyszenie Maj77 and Villa Decius Association. Former director of the Polish Institute in Paris and minister plenipotentiary at the embassy of the Republic of Poland in France (1990–1996) and director of "Kraków 2000 – European City of Culture" Festival (1996–2002). Director of the Department of Promotion at the Krakow Municipal Office (2003–2004). Awarded with the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (1993); Order of Merit for achievements in the field of Polish Culture (1999). In the European Parliament, he was a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Subcommittee on Human Rights, the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, and responsible for negotiations on the REACH directive. His most significant success was the report concerning the influence of extraction of shale gas on environment which gave the "green light" to the extraction of shale gas in Europe.



Karol Szyndzielorz

Graduated from the Warsaw University (Dep. of Journalism, MA Specialization in International Relations). He began his career in 1957 at the *Życie Warszawy* daily as a reporter. During the Warsaw Block intervention to Czechoslovakia in 1968 he worked as a foreign correspondent, and later as an editor of the Science and Technology section. He did post graduate work in Social Sciences and Political Sciences as a Ford Foundation grantee at Cornell University and Stanford University. In 1977–78 he was a first Polish Nieman Fellow at Harvard University. Since 1979 he has been the co-editor of the *Global Paper One World* published by the UN system. This publication and *Życie Warszawy*, both were suspended under martial law in 1981. He then moved to the Polish Newsweek as foreign editor (1985–1991). He was spokesman of the Round Table debates in Warsaw in 1989. Founder and editor in chief of the financial daily *Nowa Europa* (1991). He became deputy CEO and member of the board of *Zasada Group* in 1994 (Mercedes Polska) and founder and the owner of the company *Media Group* (1996). Currently he is the advisor of the Executive Board of *Siemens Polska*.



Rafał Trzaskowski

Secretary of State for European affairs in the MFA and Prime Minister's Plenipotentiary for European Council meetings since 2014. Studied journalism and political sciences, English philology, and security in Poland, Great Britain (Oxford), France, USA and Australia. Holds a doctorate in political science and is a university lecturer on European affairs. Former member of the European Parliament (2009–2013) where he dealt with the implementation of EU Treaties, EU budget, the protection of privacy and the European Digital Agenda. In 2004 received a Ph.D. from the University of Warsaw's Institute of International Relations in the Department of Journalism and Political Science. Former advisor to the Secretary of the Committee for European Integration, working for the head of the Office of the Committee for European Integration. Between 2004–2009 an advisor to the Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs and to the Delegation of the Civic Platform to the European Parliament. In the years 2013–2014 Minister of Administration and Digitalization in Prime Minister Donald Tusk's Cabinet.



Karla Wursterová

Graduated in Business Management at the University of Economics in Bratislava and the Ecole Nationale d'Administration Publique in Paris. Her professional career begun in 1998, working at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic. After working two years for Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, she served four years (2005–2009) in Prague, as second secretary in Embassy of the Slovak Republic. Between 2010 and 2012 she worked as the Director of the Development Assistance and Humanitarian Aid Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bratislava. Since August 2012, she holds the position Executive Director of International Visegrad Fund, in Bratislava. Speaks five languages: English, French, Czech, Hungarian and Russian.



Magdalena Vášáryová

A member of the National Council of the Slovak Republic. Chairwoman of the oldest Slovak women's association "Živena" and chairwoman of the Institute for cultural policies. In the past she served as a State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic. Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to Poland (2000–2005), between 1990–1993 Czechoslovak Ambassador to Austria. Founder and in years 1993–2000 the director of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association – SFPA (today honorary chair). Lectured at the Institute of International Relationships and Law Harmonization at the Faculty of Law of the Comenius University in Bratislava, and currently she is lecturer at the CEVRO Institute (Prague). In 2010 she was awarded with a Gold Medal for Meritorious for Culture – Gloria Artis. An author of several books and articles in domestic and international press.



Michal Vašečka

Lectures at the Faculty of Social Studies of Masaryk University in Brno, Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences of the Comenius University Bratislava, and at the Institute of Social and European Studies in Koszeg. A visiting scholar at the New School University in New York (1996–1997), University of London (1998), Georgetown University in Washington, DC. (2008–2009). Between 1999–2005 he worked at the Slovak think-tank Institute of Public Affairs on expert analysis of the Slovak transformation process with a focus on national minorities and the civil society in Slovakia. Consultant for the World Bank (2000–2008 and 2011–2012). Founder of the Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture in Bratislava and its Director (2005–2012). Research fellow at the Institute for the Study of Labor Bonn and at the European Centre for Minority Issues in Flensburg. Chairman of the Board of the Fulbright Commission in Slovakia and, since 2012, a representative of the Slovak Republic in the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, human rights body of the Council of Europe.



Taras Voznyak

Ukrainian culture expert, political scientist, editor-in-chief and founder of Independent Cultural Journal “i”. Studied at the Lviv Polytechnic National University. After Gorbachev’s thaw he became an activist of democratic movement and coorganised the first general strike in Ukraine (at Lviv Factory of Milling Machines). Associated with an informal group of intellectuals “Lvivska Shkola” (Lviv School). He translated a large number of texts and published within samizdat. He is the editor-in-chief and publisher of the Independent Cultural Journal “i”, which has transformed into an influential NGO and a think tank covering issues of civil society, human rights, interethnic relations, cross-border cooperation, multiculturalism, European integration, regionalism, globalisation and anti-globalist movements, ecumenical dialogue, political changes in the region. Initiator and organiser of community campaigns on the promotion of cultural heritage of Halychyna. Co-initiator of an honorary distinction “Order for Intellectual Bravery”. Author of more than 400 publications in Ukrainian and foreign media. Awarded with an honorary distinction “Knight of Halychyna” in the nomination “Public Figure” (2001), a distinction “20 Years of the First Democratic Convocation of Lviv Regional Council” (2010), a distinction by Lviv Mayor “Saint George Distinction of Honour” (2011).



Marcin Żyła

Polish journalist and an op-ed columnist, currently working for Tygodnik Powszechny weekly. A dedicated traveler and hitchhiker, he is the author of numerous articles, interviews and reports from countries of former Yugoslavia and South-East Europe. His main area of interest includes issues of multiculturalism, migration and contemporary history.

PARTICIPANTS



Kareem Amer

Egypt

I am an Egyptian blogger and writer advocating women's rights, human rights and freedom of speech, and opposing political Islam movements. In November 2006 I was detained on charges of blasphemy and insulting Egyptian president on his blog, and was sentenced to 4 years in jail. I served the full sentence. In 2007 I was awarded the Reporters without Borders Prize for Cyber Dissidents and the Index on Censorship Hugo Young Journalism Award. In 2012 I was invited by the President of Krakow as ICORN resident, and spent one year in Poland (2012). Now I am living in Bergen, Norway.



Marek Bičan

Czech Republic

I have just finished my bachelor studies in international relations at Masaryk University in Brno. I am interested in comparative politics, history of Central Europe, Czech foreign policy and British foreign policy as well as domestic politics in the UK. I would describe myself as passionate reader, but apart from literature I also like theatre and cinema. I believe that culture and art are two of the most important factors that make up the national character and something like "national memory," which is in my opinion very strong in Central Europe. Then there are of course two hobbies shared by everyone interested in diplomacy – languages and travelling, which I do also enjoy.



Valeria Cernetchi

Moldova

I come from a small town Hincesti that is located in the central part of the Republic of Moldova. I am a student of master degree in European Studies at Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Romania. I am working in Department of Cross-border Cooperation of the District Council. I am interested in qualitative sociological research, cross-border cooperation and learning the beauty of cultural diversity. I speak very good English, and I worked as translator in a charity NGO. My passion is painting – I paint every time and everywhere, it helps me to relax and to focus on positive vibrations. I am an enthusiastic and perseverant person with high dreams.



Tatiana Cojocaru

Moldova

I was born in a small village from town Floresti, in north-central of my country, Moldova. I studied in Chisinau, and after I left for Bucharest for 3 years. Now I am working at National television in the capital of Moldova as an editor of a youth program "Be Young" (our target audience are young people between 16 and 35 years). In each edition we show what young people in Moldova do, what are their interests and their problems. Before I worked as a press officer of a parliamentary faction, which allowed me to learn more about the subtleties of governance. I understand that diplomacy can be made daily if a country can delegate those who know how to make it. The current agreement with EU commits Moldova to economic, judicial and financial reforms, to converge its policies and legislation to those of the European Union. I have just finished a Master degree program in Public Administration at Academy of Public Administration, one of the most prestigious higher educational institutions of our country.



Balint Csendes

Hungary

I am a PhD student at the University of Szeged, where I obtained two degrees in Economics and in Geography. Until recently, I was a leader of students' association and I had the pleasure to organize all kinds of meetings and scientific presentations. As a researcher, I find it an exciting venture to redefine European Politics and to reshape its cultural background. I have also special interest in Central European History and Geography, and so I'm a passionate hiker as well.



Lukas Dolezal

Czech Republic

I was born in the second largest city of the Czech Republic, Brno. I studied Political science and European studies in Olomouc. After the whole Erasmus year which spent in Helsinki, realized that I want to do my Master degree abroad. I highly appreciate friendliness and tolerance of the Nordic societies so I decided to study European Studies in the Swedish city of Gothenburg. I am professionally interested in the former Soviet Union and issues of nationalism and national identity. My hobbies are: rock, punk, metal music (and gigs of course), cycling, hiking or documentary and independent movies. Besides political science and international relations I am highly interested in psychology. As I am traveling, I always want to meet local people, to talk to them and discover their points of view.



Jana Forstova

Czech Republic

Hello, my name is Jana and I come from a small town in the Southeast of the Czech Republic, but I had been living in Prague for several years. There, I completed my Bachelor degree at the University of Economics in International Studies and Diplomacy and moved to Paris right afterwards to pursue my Master degree in European Affairs at Sciences Po Paris. My great passion is languages and discovering new countries and cultures, but I will not miss any opportunity to spend good time with friends over a coffee or to play tennis. I would like to work for diplomatic service of the Czech Republic or the European Union.



Katarina Gabikova

Slovakia

I come from a small town in north-central Slovakia but I spent several years at Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic studying international relations and human resource management, and working as social worker with autistic children. During my studies, I spent 3 semesters abroad – in Porto, Budapest and Istanbul. Currently I pursue my second Master degree at Hacettepe University in Ankara, Turkey in social work. Beside studies, I work as mentor and project coordinator in association helping children from poor families. My next plan is to take yoga teacher training in India.



Medea Gegechkori

Georgia

I am Medea Gegechkori from Tbilisi, Georgia. Building our future life is directly related to your education, as well as competence, knowledge, motivation and finally luck. It is fundamental reason – why I am permanently researching various educational programs for my further academic and practical advancement. Currently, I am working at the Central Election Commission of Georgia as the international relations specialist. I am also a member of Robert Schuman Foundation – Georgia (NGO). Our goal is to mobilize young people and students through research and analysis, conferences, seminars in order to engage them in the process of European Integration. I am a patient and a very hard working person, dedicated to play a meaningful part in the process of building my country's European future. I've been passionate about hobbies my whole life. I love learning new things, languages, collecting postcards, taking pictures, travelling, researching and developing new skills.



Tetiana Gorokhova

Ukraine

I am a PhD and Senior Lecturer of Department of Production Economics at SHEE Pryazovskyi State Technical University (Ukraine, Mariupol). I research problems of corporate social responsibility and sustainable development. I think, these categories are very important and actual in the context of globalization and the variability of the environment. I believe that scientists and students are the first people of society, who contribute to the European orientation of the Ukrainian society. My passions are choreography and traveling. I have been dancing as a professional since 1994.



Pavel Havlicek

Czech Republic

My name is Pavel Havlicek and I come from a small village which lies about sixty kilometres from Prague. I have spent majority of my life there, however, recently I have been living in our capital where I study a programme called Area Studies at Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague. Last year, I attended two study programmes abroad in the United Kingdom and also the Russian Federation. Currently, I am doing an internship at the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. I am interested in international and Czech politics, Eastern Europe and Russia, nature and camping. I have been member of a scout organization for over ten years and I lead my own group of young people.



Anna Herman

Poland

I come from the Polish-Czech borderland. I did my bachelor's degree in International Relations at Cracow University of Economics. Now I am studying International Economic Relations (Master degree) and Czech Philology at the Jagiellonian University. I was an intern in the Małopolska Institute of Local Government and Administration, volunteer in Civil Initiatives Development Centre, participant in international training courses (Poland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany), project coordinator and member of the board of a student research circle. Speaks Polish (native), English and Czech. I am interested in Central European countries heritage and cooperation, focused on Czech Republic. The thing that I love the most is travelling and meeting new cultures.



Kateřina Hendrychová

Czech Republic

I am a Charles University student from Prague, Czech Republic. I studied English and American Studies and now I am finishing my second degree, in International Law. In the past, I have had the opportunity to both study and work abroad and it was always an amazing experience for me. I consider myself an open-minded, communicative and hardworking person, who is responsible and passionate. I love travelling, art and good food. I am interested in literature, international relations, design and architecture. I am an active member of Fair Art, which is a non-governmental organization that provides legal support to artists and art-organizations. Currently I am doing an internship in Aspen Institute Prague, which is a central European branch of American think tank.



Pavla Kačmárová

Czech Republic

I come from the Czech Republic, originally from small town in mountain on Czech-German border, but I live in Prague for almost 10 years now. I studied my Bachelor and Master degree at University of Economics in Prague, major environmental economics and economic history. During my master I spent one semester in Sweden and then decided to continue my PhD at Charles University, Faculty of Social Sciences. Within my PhD I spent one year in Germany (at Humboldt-Universität in Berlin) and shorter time also in Düsseldorf and Bonn. I focus on environmental economics and environmental history. My greatest hobby are nature and mountains. Whenever I can, I leave Prague and go somewhere "outside". The most beautiful countries are those on the North, such as Norway or Sweden.



Gréta Kojza

Hungary

I am a 21 years old student, who studies economics at University of Miskolc and I am specialized in International Business. I have just returned from an Erasmus Program in France, which was an amazing experience. I've always been interested in international relations and foreign cultures. That's why I consider Visegrad Summer School a great opportunity as well. In my free time I have different hobbies that I like pursuing, such as knitting, jogging or hiking. Furthermore I am working as a volunteer in a Serious Fun Children's Network camp, which is the best activity that I could sacrifice my time and energy on.



Anna Korejtková

Czech Republic

I am student of International Relations and European Studies in Prague eager to broaden my horizons and meet new people. During my studies I tried different internships to enrich my knowledge and get some unforgettable experience from the field of governmental institutions and also non-governmental ones. I love spending my life by learning new skills, speaking different languages and getting to know new places and culture. I am enthusiastic about folklore dance which I also teach in my free time. I love sports, travelling and relaxing in a quiet countryside.



Iurii Kozik

Ukraine

I am a master student taking a degree in philosophy at the University of Bergen in Norway. My field of specialization is political philosophy, while I'm also interested in international relations. I've been involved in many different things such as journalism, studying ancient languages and history of Asian religions, practicing many kinds of sports and volunteering here and there. Currently, my intellectual passion is a theory and practice of international relations, especially relations between Eastern European countries and our collaboration and development, this is the field I see myself involved in future. My hobbies are video games, combat sports and sailing.



Mariia Kriuchok

Ukraine

I have a BSc in Sociology and MA in Journalism from the Mohyla School of Journalism, at National University Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. I am interested in media research, mass communications, HCI, IT and AI. It comes to me from TED, because I am a member of TEDxKyiv team for the last 3 years. I believe in ideas and know that they worth spreading. I am very active and try implement my knowledge for further Ukrainian development. Currently I am working in project "Smart City Kyiv" and preparing International SunnyDay Hackathon. I am fond of travelling – I do love discovering new countries, cultures and sharing different life-stories and ideas. This is what exactly makes us feel alive and happy.



Raul Labadze

Georgia

Hello, I am Raul Labadze from Tbilisi, Georgia. I study Business Administration at Caucasus University. I am intern for Financial Management Office at Embassy of United States in Georgia and at the same time, I run a non-governmental organization. I am interested in politics, economics, languages and cultures. I took part in one semester exchange program at Warsaw School of Economics. It was unforgettable experience and Poland will always stay on my mind. I am a very open, social, friendly person. I always look forward to meet people from various countries and backgrounds, different habits and values, to share knowledge and experience with them. Travelling is one of my favourite hobbies. I do love experiencing new cultures and seeing historical sites. Being a traveller expands your mind and soul, gives you a broader perspective and lets you tell better stories. At the same, I am fitness fanatic person. Exercise is one of the keys to my happiness. It improves my mood and boosts my energy level



Dorota Malina

Poland

I come from Kraków where I completed my BA and MA studies and where I am currently doing my PhD in linguistics. I have not travelled widely but I did live in London, Brussels and Luxembourg for a few months. I am interested in languages, translation and children's literature. I love travelling, swimming, talking with people and learning about them. Languages and communication are my passion. I believe that the limits of my language are the limits of my world and so I am trying to broaden my horizons my learning new languages and improving on those I already know. I am convinced that foreign language teaching and translation can foster understanding between people and thus make the world a better place.



Pavlo Malyuta

Ukraine

I come from a city in Western Ukraine and currently I am studying law at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. I have always dreamt of living in a foreign country for some time, so last year I did exchanges at the University of Graz in Austria and the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin in Poland. My academic interests include human rights and European law. I am passionate about chasing my goals and making a step forward every day. I enjoy travelling and exploring new cultures. In my free time I like doing sports.



Vicko Marelic

Croatia

I am a British born Croatian currently doing a PhD in history at the university of Vienna. My focus is on British policy towards the Adriatic question 1915–1920. I am fascinated by Central Europe in all its forms. My particular interest is in borderlands, whose multifarious nature I enjoy grappling with. My other passion is theatre. I act in a comedy improvisation troupe SPIKU (Spiel mit den Kulturen). Apart from acting, we use improvisation theatre as a way of building bridges between youth worldwide. I am currently working on an international youth comedy theatre production that shall involve participants from the Alpen-Adria region on the centenary of the Treaty of Versailles. Outside academia and the stage, my hobbies include playing rugby, fishing and learning languages.



Weronika Maziarczyk

Poland

I live in Kraków where I have obtained my M.A. degree in cultural management at the Jagiellonian University. For the last two years I have been working on game design (so called “serious games”), both for business and for non-profit purpose. My foremost passion is traveling which I consider a way of enhancing my skills and knowledge. I have had the opportunity to live and work in India, Greece, Crete and England. I love playing instruments, riding bike and organizing events.



Dorottya Milan

Hungary

I am a graduate of European Studies & Philosophy of the University of Dundee in Scotland. I come from a small town in Hungary, but I have lived much of my adult life in our wonderful capital; Budapest. However, 6 years ago I decided to move abroad. I spent a year in the Netherlands and then I moved up to Scotland in 2010 and I’ve been living, working and studying here since then. Throughout my studies and travels I’ve had the opportunity to meet individuals from various cultural backgrounds and to learn a lot about their local cultures, customs and habits. Having lived in 4 different EU countries and having visited most of the European countries and some in the Middle East has clearly enhanced me. In my free time, I enjoy attending conferences and doing study trips, as I love travelling and getting to know new languages, cultures, customs and habits. Besides that, I enjoy various outdoor activities such as cycling, hiking, swimming and practicing yoga. I am also passionate about Literature and Arts.



Milan Molokáč

Slovakia

I come from Humenné, which is small town in the east of Slovakia. I studied law at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University, defended my diploma thesis and passed state exams. Then I successfully defended a rigorous thesis and obtained the title Doctor of Law. Although the legal practice is undoubtedly interesting, I was more attracted to postgraduate studies. In September 2014 after a successful job interview I have become a PhD. student at the Theological Faculty in Košice. I focus on the one hand on research of modern Slovak history as well as on the research within social work, which represents main field of my study.



Mojmir Mutny

Slovakia

I have just completed my bachelor's degree in mathematical physics at Edinburgh University in grassy Scotland. Besides, I spent the last two summers in Germany on educational stays at universities in Heidelberg and Bremen. Apart from mathematics and natural sciences, I am interested in different cultures, philosophy and most importantly issues of tomorrow. I believe there is a great cultural and economic potential in the region of Central Europe that is waiting for us to cultivate. During my free time I enjoy playing the piano, dancing and practicing Aikido.



Alicja Mużnik

Poland

I am a master's degree student of Philological-Historical Central European Studies at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. I am interested in history, literature and culture of this region. In academic year 2014/2015 I was a student of Charles University in Prague. I speak a little bit of Czech and my dream is to learn Hungarian. For several years my special point of interest concerns the memory studies. In my opinion role of memory and postmemory in shaping the present Central European identity is one of the most problematic and fundamental issue. I am a movie lover, basketball player, passionate translator and a curious traveller.



Łukasz Ogrodnik

Poland

I come from the town Cieszyn, which lies on the Polish-Czech border and which reflects the spirit of the Central Europe. I am currently pursuing my Masters in International Relations at University of Wrocław, and working on my master thesis about European foreign policy and transatlantic relations. The opportunity of studying in different countries such as Poland, Germany, USA and the Czech Republic gave me a good grasp of international affairs, as Mark Twain once said: "broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime".



Adam Petras

Slovakia

I come from a small town Tlmace in Slovakia. I began there my primary school studies, however, three years later before finishing I change my primary school to Levice. My studies continued at the secondary grammar school in Nova Bana. Then I worked as an administrative support in Levice and also successfully finished a welder certification. After that I began with bachelor studies in the field of social anthropology at the Comenius University in Bratislava. Last academic year I studied at the Freie University in Berlin. Recently I created a concept called “edeco fairderation” (education, ecology, fair, federation) that may be inspirational for the region of the Central Europe. I also have a passion in watching movies, listening to music and playing tabla percussions.



Valeria Pîrgaru

Moldova

I am an open-minded person, flexible and willing to help others in need. My friends use to say that I’m a positive person, with a sense of humour. I always welcome an opportunity to travel, to learn and to find out something new. As regards my education, I recently graduated from the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova. In my free time I prefer to get lost in a book or to caress my family with something tasty.



Kaja Puto

Poland

I have studied philosophy, film studies and history at the College of Interdepartmental Studies in the Humanities of the Jagiellonian University and at the Tbilisi State University. My interests include political philosophy, the culture of Austria and the contemporary history of Middle-Eastern Europe and Southern Caucasus. I am preparing an MA thesis devoted to the ideology of Polish popular cinema of the political transformation period. I work as a journalist, editor, translator, fundraiser and project coordinator. I am the author of several articles (devoted mostly to Middle-Eastern European subjects) and scientific papers (from the fields of film studies and political science). I am a permanent collaborator of the publishing house Korporacja Ha!art.



Sergei Rastoltsev

Russia

I was born in one of the oldest Russian cities – Smolensk and after finishing the school, I moved to our capital – Moscow to obtain higher education. I graduated with Specialist Degree in History and Master in International Relations. Currently I am continuing my career in science and studying as a PhD student at the Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO) of the Russian Academy of Sciences, where I am also working as a young researcher. My research interests include Peace and conflict studies, European security organisations, post-Soviet space development and EU-Russia relations. I am interested in learning different countries, cultures and people. Thus I think a constructive intercultural dialogue is very important, especially now in the age of globalization. My interests are connected with research interest – negotiation, conflict resolution and understanding differences. My passions are also travelling around the world and listening good music like indie, jazz and folk.



Marcel Rypak

Slovakia

I come from a beautiful countryside of northern part of Slovakia called Orava. My family and society there helped me to become a very empathic and pragmatic person who is interested in many things. When I was 18, I went to study to Brno in Czech Republic and I have one year to finish now. I am MA student in European Business and Finance at Brno University of Technology, specialising in small and medium entrepreneurship development and social economic development. I really like to meet people to talk with them and to do some teambuilding activities. I am interested in civil society and its challenges and problems because it is also work with people which I like but which I know is very difficult. I like languages and travelling. I play the piano and accordion and I like walking, sailing and cycling.



Jan Šabaka

Czech Republic

My name is Jan and I come from the Czech Republic. I like spending time with my friends as well as meeting new people; good music never bothers me, and I enjoy exploring other cultures – especially through the cuisine. Currently I am enrolled in the final year of a master's programme in Security Strategic Studies at the Police Academy of the Czech Republic in Prague. The programme is aimed at the information analysis and crisis and emergency management, which is the topic of my master's thesis. Last year I also took part in the Erasmus programme at the Academy of Ministry of Interior in Sofia and had a wonderful time there.



Anna Sedy

Hungary

I am a student of master degree in International Relations at the Corvinus University of Budapest. My interests are mainly security related issues such as the question of energy or the impact of the Ukrainian crisis in Central Europe. I took part in one semester study stay at CEVRO Academy in Prague and one semester at HSE in Moscow. I speak English, German and a bit of Russian. I am fascinated by the fact that well educated open minded, young people can change the world significantly and remarkably not to mention their influence on their countries politics, society, etc. I am interested in books especially during the exam period when is impossible to read for fun, languages, outdoor sport, and yoga. Passionate chocolate consumer and traveller.



Michaela Šedovičová

Slovakia

Hi, I am Michaela and I am student of Master Program of Sociology at Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic. I am originally from Slovakia. Usually, I do not consider my nationality to be an important information while introducing myself, but this summer school is a lot about it. I find myself always surprised when somebody explicitly asks about nationalities. Maybe that's why, as a (wannabe) sociologist, I am interested in nationalities, identities, migration and its effect on our everyday life. And that's why I am happy to be at this summer school today and have chance to talk about it with all of you. Among other things I am interested in are architecture, music festivals, or travelling.



Zuleykha Shirinova

Azerbaijan

I have graduated from The Academy of Public Administration under the President of The Republic of Azerbaijan, major in International Relations. Thanks to my current position in SPARE Azerbaijan, the largest environmental programme in the country, I have a say in public sphere making contributions to the youth of Azerbaijan. The significance of sustainable development is on the rise, thus I am keen on learning and conducting research on sustainable growth, energy security, peace-building. When it comes to favourite pastime, I am fond of participating in intellectual games broadcasted by various local TV channels; writing blog articles about green lifestyle, art and music. All in all, I am an avid learner.



Elena Sidorova

Russia

I am currently an M.A. student at the Department of North American Studies at the University of Bonn, Germany. I hold a B.A. degree in International Relations from National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia. My Bachelor's thesis was dedicated to the specifics of the political behaviour of the Jewish Diaspora in the USA and in my Master's thesis I researched the coverage of the 1972 and 2012 presidential campaigns in "Rolling Stone" magazine. My academic interests include electoral politics and transatlantic diplomacy. I speak Russian, English, German, French and Spanish. In my free time I jog, swim and go to the opera.



Piotr Sieniawski

Slovakia

I live close to the city of Košice in the East of Slovakia. My fields of study and expertise are International Relations and Law. At the university I focus on the problem of secession in contemporary international law as well as on the norm evolution and development. I believe it is the norms in our everyday life, either legal or social, that shape us most. Two years ago I spent a semester studying at the University of Jena in Germany. I speak English and German. Apart from that, skiing, travelling and literature are my favourite hobbies.



Patrik Szeghő

Hungary

I come from an ethnic Hungarian background from Serbia. I hold Master Degrees in History, in English Language and Literature and in Gender Studies, recently I have become a Doctoral Candidate in Modern European History. My interests include: national symbolism and myth-creation, Orientalism, travel writing and the creation of the Eastern European "other", the emergence and interdependence of modern science and the modern state, and the idea of social reform and social evil. I am co-founder and co-editor of the online history magazine entitled Újkor.hu (Modern Age) and have cooperated with many non-governmental organizations. As chief organizer for the Hungarian Institute's various programs (e.g. Summer University, Erasmus Program) I am responsible for lectures in culture and outdoor activities devised to raise cross-cultural awareness by comparing the similarities and differences in terms of culture, music, dance, cuisine, language and mentality. I am taking Latin and Standard dance lesson, and I am an advocate for evolutionary psychology and meritocracy.



Katarzyna Szewczyk

Poland

I come from a lovely town called Zamość which is located in south-eastern Poland. Currently, I live in Warsaw. I also lived in Czech Republic for 1,5 years. I graduated with a master's degree in International Relations. My passion is studying Czech language and traveling. I'm a permanent admirer of LOTR films and cats. In my spare time I like listening to different types of music, reading reportage books and playing the piano. Being involved into making different civil actions brings me a lot of joy and happiness. In my everyday life I follow the motto: Better to try and fail than never to try at all.



Fruzsina Márta Tóth

Hungary

I am studying sociology at the Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, Hungary. I also spent one semester at the Humboldt University in Berlin, where I started my research on young Hungarian immigrants. I speak German, English and I started to learn Polish. In the past two years I've participated in different social movements. For several months I worked with homeless people, which was really an important experience, and changed my point of view on life, family and society. Currently I volunteer for UNICEF. I'm an idealist, as a kid I dreamed of being a writer or an astronaut. My passion is reading, writing and travelling. Next year I plan to volunteer in Asia.



Teona Turashvili

Georgia

I come from Tbilisi, Georgia. Now I am doing the 2-year Master program of Political Sciences at the University of Warsaw. I am interested in books, languages, travelling and meeting with new people. I am always open to new ideas and novelties. Open-minded and devoted friend. I am interested in studying and preparing analysis on the issues of electronic governance, South Caucasus transformation, post-soviet countries and democratization. I love listening to music and sharing experience with close friends. My current field of interest is social media. I wonder to explore to what extent online tools help people to become more active in their society. I am always promoting importance of active activism in my country.



Lyudmyla Tsyachna

Ukraine

Though originally from Kamianets-Podilskyi, Ukraine, I spent most of my childhood in a small picturesque town in Eastern Bohemia near the Czech-Polish border. Coming from a culturally diverse family background, I have always been curious about all the happenings around the globe. Currently, I am pursuing my MA studies in International Relations at the Masaryk University in Brno. My interest in the politics of the CEE region drove me to choose Warsaw, Poland, as a destination for my Erasmus study stay. Apart from academia, I have a passion for creative crafts and ballet, enjoy experimenting in the kitchen, adore travelling and dream of visiting all the earth's continents.



Erik Uszkiewicz

Hungary

I am a lawyer specializing in the protection of fundamental rights. In September 2011, I commenced a Ph.D. at Eötvös Loránd University. My doctoral research program focuses on prejudice and discrimination in jurisdictional practice. I am one of the founders of Mertek Media Monitor, a Budapest-based media policy think tank and watchdog organization. I am also a member of some European research groups. Currently I live in Budapest. Hobbies: running, travelling, theatre.



Aleksandar Vanchoski

Macedonia

My name is Aleksandar and I'm from Macedonia. I'm living in Skopje, the capital city of Macedonia, but I already have spent some time living and studying in Tallinn, Bratislava, Wroclaw, Budapest and Prague. Recently I have graduated at Budapest Academy of Diplomacy at NUPS and currently I'm also master student at TEMA Erasmus Mundus Master course. My academic interest is connected to International Security, International Relations and Political and Social transformation of countries from Central and Eastern Europe. Furthermore I'm a member and part of several NGO's in Macedonia which deal with Euro-Atlantic issues; Human rights protection; International relations and diplomacy. I speak English, French and at the moment I'm learning Czech language. My hobbies are hiking, judo and travelling.



Lucia Vavrova

Slovakia

I come from Bratislava, where I have spent the most of my life. I am in the second year of my PhD. In social anthropology in Comenius University, Bratislava. I specialise in gender and work anthropology, situated in Ukraine. I really like this country and its people, as well as France and French. I enjoy traveling and spending time with people from different backgrounds. I am trying to play flute, but I am still only a beginner. I enjoy theatre – watching and playing if possible – and dance on every occasion. I learn new languages quite quickly and I should be spending a semester in Warsaw as a part of my PhD.



Andrej Žibrek

Slovenia

I live in a small country, called Slovenia. I travelled and studied in Czech, Italy, Lithuania and this year I am making my internship in Malta. I like travelling, seeing new places and learning from people. I did my Bachelor's degree in international business economy, and now I doing master's in agricultural economy, because I want to help farmers to develop on the farms and live a good life on them. I want this, because I also come from a farm. I like to have fun, meet new people and just enjoy my life. In my free time I also like to spend with my friends and play football or tennis.

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Renaissance residence and park of the Villa Decius

The villa of Iustus Ludovicus Decius (Polish: Justus Ludwik Decjusz) built in Wola Chełmska (today's Wola Justowska, named after the name of the dignitary) in the 1530s is one of the most famous and beautiful examples of residential architecture in Poland. Built on the initiative of the secretary to King Sigismund I, it was modelled on the suburban villas around Florence and Rome fashionable in the Europe of the time as they provided a place for leisure, meetings, and philosophical disputes. It is a work (1533/34-ca 1535) of the construction company set up by Giovanni Cini of Siena, Bernardino de Gianotis, and Filippo of Fiesole after completion of the works on the Sigismund Chapel. In its original shape it had one storey, with the interiors laid out on three axes, and was connected to a parterre garden which was considered a marvel by the court poet Klemens Janicki. Located on the eastern slope of the hill, its main façade faces Kraków.

The residence was surrounded by gardens and a park. It is assumed that the garden design was composed of two parts: a larger parterre garden, and another garden of the giardino secreto type. The adjacent forested hills were a compositional complement to the complex. The whole three-storey-high arcaded loggia present between the two alcove towers is today a product of a redevelopment performed under Stanisław Lubomirski in the first quarter of the 17th century.

Currently, the residence and park complex consists of the Villa Decius building and two subsidiary buildings: Łaski House from the 1630s and Erasmus House built early in the 21st century, with the Decius Park surrounding them. Since 1996, the main building has been the seat of the Villa Decius Association.

www.villa.org.pl

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