



Wulkow Group

Directors of Language Centres
in Higher Education in Europe

Wulkow 2.6

“Institutional and Human Resilience: Where do Language Centres Stand?”

The 18th Wulkow Meeting of Directors of Language Centres
in Higher Education in Europe

Dates: 28th January 2027 – 31st January 2027

Venues: viadrina Dialog und Transfer gmbh (Frankfurt (Oder) / Germany)
Castle Trebnitz (Trebnitz near Frankfurt (Oder) / Germany)

About the Wulkow Group:

In January 2009, over 30 language centre directors from a variety of European institutes of higher education came together in Wulkow in Brandenburg, Germany to discuss the key issues and challenges facing them, their centres and their parent institutions. This initiative, started by the Director of the Language Centre at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt/Oder, has resulted in an annual meeting ever since.

Each meeting focuses on a specific theme and examines a range of topics. The conclusions, compiled in the Wulkow Group Memoranda, reflect the view of a wide range of institutions, represented by a leading community of practice. European Language Centres in Higher Education foster not only successful language teaching but also act as a driver for mobility, employability and intercultural communication.

Aims of the 18th Wulkow Meeting:

In a time when societal and political debates are increasingly divisive, withdrawing into like-minded circles can feel safe, but it limits our understanding of reality. Engaging with different perspectives requires us to question our assumptions, accept uncertainty, and remain open to being wrong. This calls for both humility and courage - qualities that are essential for resilient and active participation in a diverse society.

For language centres in higher education, these challenges are particularly relevant. Working at the intersection of communication, intercultural understanding, and critical thinking, they face societal change, political and financial pressures, and growing debates about academic freedom and “cancel culture”. Our Wulkow meeting invites reflection on how language centres can prepare students not only linguistically, but also as responsible participants in democratic discourse. It explores how communication can foster constructive dialogue with those who question or reject democratic values, while also enabling us to articulate and defend the fundamental principles of democratic societies. Finally, it asks how we can develop “Zivilcourage”: the courage to engage respectfully and stand up for dialogue in times of tension.

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with:



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FRANKFURT (ODER)



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More organizational information and Wulkow registration form you will receive in October.

Contact details:

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