

# 35 years of the Weimar Triangle: Time for a Second Youth?

Genshagen Castle, 19.–26. August 2026



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## About the Summer School

Every summer since 2012, the Genshagen Trilateral Summer School brings together Master's and PhD students from German, French, and Polish universities at Genshagen Castle (close to Berlin) to discuss a topic of European relevance. This year's edition will take place from 19-26 August 2026 and will deal with the 35th anniversary of the Weimar Triangle.

The structure of the Summer School will be threefold. First, a series of lectures given by experts on the topic will provide participants with an overview of different aspects, challenges, and implications of the Weimar Triangle. This theoretical part will be complemented, secondly, by a study trip to Berlin during which participants will get the chance to discuss the Summer School topic with practitioners active in the policy field. Thirdly, at the end of the Summer School, students will develop future scenarios for the Weimar Triangle.

## About this year's topic

Established in 1991 by France, Germany, and Poland following the end of the Cold War, the Weimar Triangle was designed to bridge the historical divide between Western and Central and Eastern Europe. Its initial goals included supporting Poland's accession to NATO and the European Union, as well as providing a political, cultural, and economic framework for Europe's future. With Poland joining NATO in 1999 and the EU in 2004, the Triangle's primary objectives had been largely achieved, resulting in a period of diminished relevance. While geopolitical events such as the 2014 Ukraine conflict briefly revived interest in the format, the Weimar Triangle struggled to define a new, clear role beyond its early successes.

In recent years, however, Europe has once again been undergoing a period of profound transformation. Shifting geopolitical dynamics, such as Russia's invasion of Ukraine and shifting U.S. engagement, have fundamentally altered Europe's strategic landscape. Pressing issues, including Brexit, climate change, democratic resilience in the face of rising far-right movements and EU reforms aimed at enabling further enlargement, demand decisive action and renewed strategic direction. Internally, Poland's pro-European turn, Franco-German tensions, and a broader leadership vacuum have made new working constellations more viable.

As the Weimar Triangle marks its 35th anniversary, 2026 calls not only for commemoration but also for critical reflection on its future role. The differing historical experiences and strategic cultures of Germany, France, and Poland raise the question of whether the Weimar Triangle can, in the future, function as a laboratory for broader European compromise.

The Summer School 2026 will address these challenges through questions spanning the present and the possible future outlook. First, in which policy areas is the Weimar Triangle already delivering tangible and sustained cooperation? Second, what political and structural limitations reduce its effectiveness, particularly in responding to major European challenges such as security or energy transition? It will also examine whether the Triangle's informal nature is an asset or a liability within Europe's broader multilateral landscape. Ultimately, these reflections open a forward-looking perspective: what strategic role could the Weimar Triangle assume over the next five years, and which focus would be necessary for it to emerge as a more visible and effective actor within Europe's evolving political order?

Building on expert discussions and institutional visits, the Summer School will invite participants to engage with these strategic debates and to envision what a renewed Triangle should look like by its 40th anniversary.

## Who can apply?

We invite applications from **students at master's level as well as PhD students enrolled at a German, French or Polish university** (all nationalities) and **students with German, French or Polish nationality enrolled at universities in other countries**. Prior experience with the topic is welcome, but not obligatory. As the Summer School's working language is English, its excellent command is a prerequisite. Up to eight students from each country will be able to participate in the Summer School.

## How can I apply?

Please send us a cover letter detailing why you wish to participate in the Genshagen Summer School 2026 and your interest in the topic as well as a short CV (both in English). We only accept electronic applications sent via e-mail to: [summerschool@stiftunggenshagen.de](mailto:summerschool@stiftunggenshagen.de). **The deadline for applications is 29 May 2026 and successful candidates will be notified by 5 June 2026.**

## How much does it cost?

**The tuition fee is 250€ per participant.** This covers all costs related to your stay in Genshagen: a shared double room at the castle and all meals are included. Unfortunately, we cannot cover your trip to Genshagen and back. Please organise your travel by yourself.

**Stipends:** We'll be able to give **stipends covering the tuition fee to a small number of participants**. If you want to apply for a stipend, please get in touch with us after having been offered a place and we'll provide you with further details. Please note that stipends will be awarded according to social criteria.

## Contact

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## Summer School Programme Lineout

### Introduction Day

Wednesday, 19 August 2026

#### Linguistic Animation and Teambuilding Exercise

**Introductory Course:** "Origin of the Weimar Triangle - Initial Aspirations and Objectives"

### Day 2

Thursday, 20 August 2026

**Second Session:** "The Current State of Weimar Triangle (+) - What's at Stake?"

**Third Session:** "Examples of cooperation for the Weimar Triangle - Security"

### Day 3

Friday, 21 August 2026

**Working Groups:** The positions of France, Germany, and Poland vis-à-vis Weimar Triangle

### Day 4

Saturday, 22 August 2026

**Fourth Session:** "Examples of cooperation for the Weimar Triangle - The Green Weimar Triangle"

**Fifth Session:** "An institutionalized Weimar Triangle? Example of the Visegrad Group"

### Day 5

Sunday, 23 August 2026

**Cultural trip to Berlin**

### Day 6

Monday, 24 August 2026

**Study trip to Berlin**

### Day 7

Tuesday, 25 August 2026

#### Foresight Workshop

"Weimar Triangle 2031: Roadmap"

### Final Day

Wednesday, 26 August 2026

**Wrap-up, feedback, and farewell**

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