



## **Cultural Guardians: Protecting Cultural Heritage is Protecting the Future for Ukraine , Ukrainian-Polish-German Pilot Project Launched**

Staff from seven museums across Ukraine will come to Poland and Germany for a study project called "Cultural Guardians" to exchange knowledge and learn from experts at cultural heritage institutions and museums. Russia is systematically destroying everything that proves an independent Ukrainian identity, including over 1,000 objects of cultural significance.

Małgorzata Ławrowska-von Thadden, President of the OBMIN Foundation, emphasizes that Ukraine already has extensive practical experience in protecting and restoring cultural assets. The foundation launched this pilot project in collaboration with the Brandenburg Ministry for Science, Research and Culture, the Association of State Heritage Offices in Germany (VDL), and the Competence Network for Interdisciplinary Ukraine Studies Frankfurt (Oder) - Berlin at the European University Viadrina Frankfurt/Oder. Dr. Manja Schüle, Minister for Science, Research and Culture of the State of Brandenburg, is the patron of the project.

"We want to give experts within Europe the opportunity to learn from each other," explains Thomas Drachenberg, a member of the VDL board. "Because heritage preservation means the conservation, not the destruction, of built culture." The Ukrainian participants can also benefit from the expertise of Polish and German heritage preservation specialists.

This collaboration on heritage protection is planned for several years. Other museums in Poland and Germany have already expressed interest in future programs, supported by the Agency for International Museum Cooperation in Berlin, which is organizing a full-day workshop with German museums on the topic of inclusion. Inclusion has become particularly important for Ukrainian museums, as access and cooperation with visitors and artists who have suffered physical and psychological harm as a result of the war have gained significant importance.

The two-week program will include visits to museums in Warsaw and Łódź, Poland, as well as in Frankfurt/Oder, Potsdam, Neuzelle, and Berlin, Germany. It will also feature workshops, meetings with the Ukraine Institute and the Polish Institute in Berlin, and internships for the Ukrainian participants. Longer study visits to museums are planned for the future. The project is supported by the Gerda Henkel Foundation, the Wüstenrot Foundation, the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation, and the Agency for International Museum Cooperation.

"I am particularly pleased about the close collaboration between Europa-Universität Viadrina, Brandenburg's cultural institutions, the Association of State Monument Authorities in Germany (VDL) and the Ukrainian museum network provided by Foundation OBMIN. Together, they are forming an intensive learning and working alliance that builds a resilient network across institutions, languages, and borders."

Dr. Manja Schüle, Minister for Science, Research and Culture of the State of Brandenburg

"Monument preservation and museum work mean preserving, not destroying, architectural culture. Therefore, it is important for us that experts within Europe get to know each other and learn from each other. That's why we started the Ukrainian-Polish-German project Cultural Guardians."

Thomas Drachenberg Member of the Board VDL



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***The program and the list of participating Ukrainian museums are attached.  
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### **List of Ukrainian museums:**

Department of Ethnography and Folk Crafts of the Volyn Regional Museum  
National Historical Museum of Dnipro  
Lviv National Art Gallery  
Kharkiv Historical Museum named after M.F. Sumtsov  
National Museum of the History of Ukraine in the Second World War. Memorial complex  
Ancient Chernihiv National Architectural and Historical Reserve  
Historical Complex of the National museum in Lviv named after Andrey Sheptytsky  
National Museum of the History of Ukraine

### **List of participating institutions**

OBMIN Foundation  
KIU Competence Network for Interdisciplinary Ukraine Studies Frankfurt (Oder)-Berlin  
Association of State Monument Authorities in Germany (VDL)  
Agency for International Museum Cooperation, Berlin  
Polish Institute in Berlin  
Ukrainian Institute in Berlin  
Embassy of Ukraine in Berlin  
Berlinische Galerie, Berlin  
Temporary Bauhaus-Archiv, Berlin  
Stiftung Stift Neuzelle  
Wüstenrot Foundation  
Ministerium für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Kultur, German State of Brandenburg  
Prince-Pückler-Museum Park and Palace Branitz Foundation  
Stadtmuseum Brandenburg an der Havel  
Human Rights Center Cottbus e.V.  
Kloster Stift Heiligengrabe  
Prussian Palaces and Gardens Foundation Berlin-Brandenburg  
Maria Skłodowska-Curie Museum in Warsaw  
National Museum in Warsaw  
The Royal Łazienki Museum in Warsaw  
Zachęta National Gallery in Warsaw  
Muzeum Sztuki in Łódź



## Programme:

### Monday, 1.09

- Visiting 4 museums in Warsaw:  
Maria Skłodowska-Curie Museum in Warsaw  
National Museum in Warsaw  
The Royal Łazienki Museum  
Zachęta National Gallery

### Tuesday, 2.09:

- Trip to Łódź: Muzeum Sztuki in Łódź
- Travel to Frankfurt (Oder): Universität Viadrina
- Workshop: The Paulinenhof settlement – Frankfurt after World War I (Prof. Dr. Paul Zalewski)

### Wednesday, 3.09:

- Workshop: Radical reconstruction – public space after World War II (Prof. Dr. Zalewski)
- Kloster Neuzelle // Workshop: The Heavenly Theatre Museum and Neuzelle Abbey → guided tour: Clara Roth-Winges, Dorothee Schmidt-Breitung, Prof. Mechthild Noll-Minor

### Thursday, 4.09

- Trip to Berlin:
- Embassy of Ukraine
- Visiting selected museum
- Polish Institute and Ukrainian Institute in Berlin

### Friday, 5.09

- Workshop organised by Agency for International Museum Cooperation