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press release

Ukraine Culture Security Forum to be held in Berlin on 23 October 2025

On 23 October 2025, Berlin will host the Ukraine Culture Security Forum, an international conference dedicated to the role of culture in strengthening security and resilience. The event is organized by the **OBMIN Foundation under the patronage of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Germany and Embassy of Ukraine** in cooperation with the **German Federal Foreign Office, the Ministry of Culture and Strategic Communication of Ukraine**, and a broad network of partner institutions.

The Forum will bring together experts, museum professionals, policymakers, and representatives of international organizations from Ukraine, Poland, Germany, and other countries. It aims to foster dialogue on how culture and heritage can contribute to social and national security, particularly in times of war.

The conference program includes four panels on:

- The Importance of Culture for National Security Frameworks
- Culture in Hybrid Warfare and Narrative Building
- Counteracting Illicit Trafficking and Cultural Displacement
- Protection of Cultural Heritage in Wartime

Venue: Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Germany, Berlin

Languages: English, German, Ukrainian.

The event will be preceded by a closed expert roundtable on 22 October at the German Federal Foreign Office titled "Strengthening international interest in Ukraine and its culture".

The full conference program available at: <https://obmin.eu/conferences.php?id=5>

For press inquiries, please contact: office@obmin.eu or w.regosz@obmin.eu

Ukraine Culture Security Forum Program

22–23 October 2025, Berlin

Hosted by:

German Federal Foreign Office and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Germany

Conference languages: German, English, Ukrainian

Please note: Registration for the conference is obligatory. Not registering will prevent you from entering the event.

Partners:

- German Federal Foreign Office
- Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Berlin
- Embassy of Ukraine in the Federal Republic of Germany
- Embassy of the French Republic in Germany
- Ministry of Culture and Strategic Communication of Ukraine
- Ukrainian Institute in Germany
- Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS)
- POLONIKA
- Polish Institute in Berlin
- Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation
- Platform Wiederaufbau Ukraine
- ORLEN
- Imre Kertész Kolleg Jena
- Robert Bosch Foundation
- Alla Horska and Victor Zaretsky Foundation
- Allianz Ukrainischer Organisationen in Deutschland
- Agency for International Museum Cooperation
- Pilecki Institute
- Ifa - Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen
- Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz
- Stiftung Erinnerung Verantwortung und Zukunft

Wednesday, 22 October 2025 | 13:30–16:00

German Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

13:30 – 16:00 Round table: Strengthening international interest in Ukraine and its culture
(20–25 representatives from Ukraine, France, Germany and Poland) **Closed invitation**

Moderator: Kai - Olaf Lang, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik

Thursday, 23 October 2025

📍 Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Germany, (Unter den Linden 70, 10117 Berlin)

08:00 – 08:55 **Registration of participants (and security check)**

09:00 – 09:30 **Opening of the conference**

Welcome:

- Małgorzata Ławrowska - von Thadden, OBMIN Foundation, Poland
- Dr. Kateryna Rietz - Rakul, Ukrainian Institute in Germany

Official opening:

- Jan Tombiński, Chargé d'affaires ad interim of the Republic of Poland to the Federal Republic of Germany
- Oleksii Makeiev, Ambassador of Ukraine in Berlin
- Eric Chevreul, Embassy of the French Republic in Germany
- Stefan Rössel, Deputy Director-General for Culture and Society, German Federal Foreign

09:30 – 11:00 **Panel 1: The Importance of Culture for National Security Frameworks**

- Silke Krummel, Agency for International Museum Cooperation, Germany
- Maciej Matysiak, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland
- Olesia Ostrovska-Liuta, D National Art and Culture Museum Complex "Mystetskyi Arsenal" Ukraine
- Gitte Zschoch, Institute for International Relations, ifa

Moderation: Sonja Zekri, culture correspondent for Süddeutsche Zeitung

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break & group photo

11:30 – 13:00 **Panel 2: The Role of Culture as a Tool in Hybrid Warfare and the Function of Cultural Institutions, particularly Museums, in Shaping Narratives**

Intervention: Maria Smorževskihh-Smirnova, Narva Museum, Estonia

- Dr. Sophie Chauvet, Independent researcher University of Toulouse, France
- Prof. Dr. Thomas Drachenberg, The Association of State Monument Authorities in Germany (VDL)
- Prof. Małgorzata Omilanowska - Kiljańczyk, Royal Castle in Warsaw, Poland
- Dr. Yuriī Savchuk, National Museum of the History of Ukraine in the Second World War, Ukraine

Moderation: Myroslava Gongadze, Supervisory Board member, Ukrainian institute

13:00 – 13:45 Snack break

13:45 – 15:15 **Panel 3: Countering Illicit Trafficking and the Displacement of Cultural Property**

Intervention: Dr. Olena Kocherhina, Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS), Ukraine (10')

- Dr. Konstantin Akinsha, Art Historian, Curator, Journalist
- Mateusz Falkowski, Pilecki Institut Berlin
- Joanna Kilian-Michieletti, National Museum in Warsaw
- PhD. Oksana Lifantii, National Museum of the History of Ukraine
- Prof. Hermann Parzinger, Europa Nostra

Moderation: Yeva Yakubovska, Vitsche e.V.

15:15 – 17:00 **Panel 4: Protection of Cultural Heritage in Wartimes**

Intervention: Trailer of "War on Art", Directed by Andrzej Miękus

- Vianney Basse, ALIPH
- Prof. Susanne Keuchel, Genshagen Foundation
- Michał Michalski, POLONIKA
- Manana Tevzadze, Georgian National Committee of the Blue Shield
- Yuriī Tkach, Chernihiv Regional Art Museum named after Hrigory Halahan, Ukraine

Moderation: Helene Rånlund, The National Swedish Museums of Military History's (SFHM), Sweden