

Conference

# REGIONAL INFLUENCE THROUGH ACADEMIA: POLAND'S ROLE IN INTEGRATING REGIONAL ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

DATE: 1 OCTOBER, 2026  
TIME: 10:00-15:00 CEST

WARSAW, POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES:  
PAŁAC STASZICA, NOWY ŚWIAT 72



The Forum for Research on Eastern Europe and Emerging Economies (FREE Network) and the Institute of Economics of the Polish Academy of Sciences are pleased to invite you to the conference:

## ***Regional Influence through Academia: Poland's Role in Integrating the Regional Academic Community***

The conference is organised with the primary objective of supporting greater regional integration among researchers and academic institutions across Central and Eastern Europe. Set against the backdrop of recent geopolitical developments in the region, the conference will explore the role of academic research and cross-border academic cooperation in strengthening regional ties. Particular attention will be given to the potential benefits of deeper academic integration and to the role that Poland, as well as the European Union more broadly, can play in supporting this process.

The conference will be divided into two parts. The first will focus on academic perspectives related to regional cooperation and integration in the context of war in Ukraine and geo-political instability. The second will take the form of an expert panel, bringing together representatives from different stakeholder groups to exchange views on the opportunities, challenges, and practical steps needed to strengthen regional academic cooperation.

We hope the conference will provide a platform for constructive dialogue, new connections, and a deeper discussion on how academia can contribute to regional integration and resilience.

Please find the conference programme in the next page for further details on the sessions, speakers, and schedule.

*This conference is organised within the framework of the project  
THE FREE NETWORK – Building Analytical Competence for Future EU Accession,  
funded by the Swedish Institute (SI).*

# REGIONAL INFLUENCE THROUGH ACADEMIA: POLAND'S ROLE IN INTEGRATING REGIONAL ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

DATE: 1 OCTOBER, 2026  
TIME: 10:00-15:00 CEST

WARSAW, POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES:  
PAŁAC STASZICA, NOWY ŚWIAT 72



## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

10:00–10:30

**Registration and coffee**

10:30–12:00

### PART 1 - Introductory session

#### Welcome and introduction

- ▶ Michał Myck (IE PAS and CenEA)
- ▶ Andrzej Szablewski (IE PAS)

#### The role of international cooperation in academia

- ▶ Paweł Kaczmarczyk (University of Warsaw) "The driving forces behind the growth of international diversity of Poland's academic community: a global picture and the Polish case"
- ▶ Natalia Letki (University of Warsaw): "To be where the frontier science happens"

#### The role of academia at times of peace, war and political unrest:

- ▶ Anders Paalzow (SSE Riga and BEROC): "Development support through teaching and research: examples of SSE Riga and BEROC"
- ▶ Victoriya Sereda (KSE): "Academia at times of war: examples from the Kyiv School of Economics"

12:00-12:30

**Coffee break**

12:30-14:00

### PART 2 - Panel discussion

#### Introduction: Sweden's international academic initiatives

- ▶ Torbjörn Becker (Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics)

#### What is necessary for Poland to become the regional centre of academic excellence?

Moderator: Michał Myck (IE PAS and CenEA)

- ▶ Martina Quick (Sweden's Ambassador to Poland)
- ▶ Torbjörn Becker (Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics)
- ▶ Jerzy Duszyński (Polish Academy of Sciences)
- ▶ Michał Goszczyński (Ministry of Science and Higher Education)
- ▶ Natalia Letki (University of Warsaw)
- ▶ Victoriya Sereda (Kyiv School of Economics)

14:00-15:00

**Lunch**