

Dear Networkers,

The new fragility of the security balance in Europe, major shifts in alliances, relative strengths and self-perceptions of countries exemplify the need for new strategies – and new dialogue in and with Eastern Europe. And when it comes to Russia, even the remotest hopes for peaceful co-existence in the future are dependent on the right moment, the right preconditions and the right quality of dialogue.

Against this challenging background, Diplomacy by Networking invites you to apply to the **28th Network Consolidation Programme**, a new installment in the “**Peace Mediation & Crisis Diplomacy in Action**” series, a cooperation between Diplomacy by Networking and the Center for Peace Mediation at European University Viadrina, to be held in Berlin and Frankfurt (Oder) from 22 to 28 October 2023:

“Dialogue & Crisis Diplomacy in Action: Confrontation, Co-Existence or Cooperation?”

This year’s programme will examine how new pathways to and formats of dialogues can help to tackle issues and relationships in the face of a world order and a European Union deeply shaken by the war in Ukraine. Amongst other topics, the programme will focus on the untapped potential Germany might play in the reshaping of roles and relationships with regard to its close Eastern European partners Poland and Ukraine – as well as with regard to Russia. As a result, the programme aims to produce some small, visionary, yet possible scenarios for the much-needed new European security architecture and to identify Germany’s role for bringing it forward.

Over the last decade, in numerous countries and contexts, dialogue and mediation have become important instruments in the wide spectrum of responses to political crises and violent conflicts. Fostering cooperation as well as preventing or de-escalating conflicts by dialogue and mediation poses distinct challenges to actors as well as institutional infrastructures: mandates for engagement must often consider political limitations, information is highly politicized, coordination difficult, and frequently the situation puts enormous pressure on third parties, which nevertheless must act on a solid normative and methodological basis.

In addition, with the new significance of coercive measures like sanctions and military means, the very role of dialogue and mediation in wars and their aftermath is questioned and thus needs to be pro-actively re(de)efined. The key question is: How can meaningful, interest-based dialogue be installed in this historical situation of change and open confrontation? What fruits could it bear? How are the roles and relationships between the respective protagonists and how can they be reshaped for the benefit of all?

To apply, please complete the attached application form and answer following questions:

- I. Did you previously participate in a training on dialogue or mediation? In which field did you gain what kind of relevant experience?
- II. What is your current role and function in dealing with dialogue or conflict?

- III. Which 1-2 concrete questions regarding dialogue in and with Eastern Europe do you want to bring into the programme, in order to jointly work on better responses?
- IV. Which specific perspective, experience, insights that might be relevant can you contribute to this collective endeavor?

To be considered, send your filled out and signed application form to **Mr. Maximilian Weiss** via email (alumni@diplo.de) **by 2 July 2023**. Participants will be selected based on several criteria. A strong statement of motivation will improve an applicant's chances of selection.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Christ". The script is cursive and fluid.

Andrea Christ
Head of *Diplomacy by Networking*