

Towards the Solidarity

Blended Intensive Programme

on-site May, 12-16 2026

(+2 days travel and mandatory online sessions in the end of May)

The programme aims to enhance participants' understanding of solidarity by exploring its philosophical, social, political, historical and artistic dimensions. Through learning in the city of Gdańsk, engaging with the European Solidarity Centre, and taking part in creative, collaborative activities, students will examine how solidarity is shaped, practised and expressed in communities. The programme will develop participants' ability to critically analyse social realities and design actions that are grounded in solidarity, inclusion, conviviality and collective responsibility.

Target audience

University students of education, sociology, philosophy, communication, pedagogy, political science, spacial management, social geography, visual and performing arts, as well as other related social study fields.

Workload & credits: 5 ECTS

Venues:

- **University of Gdańsk (UG)** – lectures, theoretical workshops
- **European Solidarity Centre (ECS)** – immersive classes, lectures, historical and practical analyses
- **City of Gdańsk (selected urban spaces and art centres)** – city tours, field activities, case studies, loci educandi
- **European Solidarity Centre (ECS)** – field activities, case studies, loci educandi

Contact person:

Dr hab. Małgorzata Cackowska, prof. UG
Faculty Erasmus+ Coordinator
malgorzata.cackowska@ug.edu.pl

Tuesday, May 12

Understanding the Foundations of Solidarity

Location: University of Gdańsk (Faculty of Social Sciences / Instytut Pedagogiki, Marii Janion 3 Street)

Aim of the day:

- Introduction to the idea of solidarity from a humanities and social perspective
- Grounding the concepts of solidarity, community, and the common good

Programme:

1. **Opening Lecture:** *Why Solidarity Matters Today — From Philosophy to Practice*
2. **Seminar:** Solidarity as a Social Paradigm
3. **Workshop:** Children participation in protests
4. **Group reflection:** Personal and collective experiences of solidarity

Outcome: Participants understand the theoretical foundations and their current significance.

(Lecturers: Jacek Kołtan, PhD; Prof. Tomasz Szudlarek, Piotr Kowzan, PhD)

Wednesday, May 13

Gdańsk as a "Locus Educandi": City of Equality and Human Rights

Location: Urban spaces of Gdańsk, CSW ŁAŻNIA

Aim of the day:

- Discovering the city as a 'place that practices solidarity'
- Critical observation of social space

Programme:

1. **City Tour:** Gdańsk as a City of Human Rights and Equality Routes
2. **Case Study Workshop:** Solidarity as Social Inclusion and Shearing Common Goods – Contemporary Art and Education in The Context of Social and Political Change – CSW ŁAŻNIA
3. **Dialogue Session:** Solidarity and Everyday Coexistence in Diverse Communities

Result: Students practise analysing the city as a laboratory of social solidarity.

(lecturer: Mikołaj Jurkowski – an art worker)

Thursday, May 14

European Solidarity in Practice

Location: European Solidarity Centre (ECS) + WL4 Art Space Gallery

Aim of the day:

- Contextualising the idea of solidarity within its historical background
- Understanding the origins of social movements and their significance for the present day
- Analysing European interpretations of solidarity

Program:

1. Guest session: Reassembling the Political and Education for a Common World: lectures and discussion
2. Curated Study Visit: Solidarity: A European Story — ECS permanent exhibition: “Paths to Freedom”
3. ART EXHIBITION "Solidarity as Conflict": Opening and discussion - WL4 Art Space Gallery.

Result: Participants are familiar with the historical and European origins of solidarity.

(lecturers and artists: Prof. Maria Mendel, Prof. Tomasz Szkudlarek, Prof. Sharon Todd, Jacek Kołtan, PhD, Rick Dolphijn, Adriana Majdzińska)

Friday, May 15

Conviviality as solidarity

Location: Museum of the University of Gdańsk (the museum's historic Red Hall) in a historic building of the Faculty of History (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Institute of Art History): Bielańska 5 Street, Old Town.

Aim of the day:

- Contextualising the idea of solidarity within the idea of conviviality

Programme:

1. *Conviviality as solidarity*. Discussion panel
2. *Social Propaganda Workshop: the graphic symbol as a tool of indoctrination*. Discussion panel.
3. *Conflict as the main element of building a film narrative*. Art event and discussion

Result: Students are capable of developing and describing activities based on solidarity.

(lecturers and artists: Prof. em. Carl Anders Säfström (Maynooth University, Sweden,)), Jacek Staniszewski (ASP Gdańsk) Juliette Bertoldo (Université du Québec à Chicoutimi), Dr. Vahram Mkhitarian)

Saturday, May 16

Performative activities

Meeting point: next to the WL4 ART SPACE GALLERY building

Venue: Academy of Fine Arts, Targ Węglowy 6 Street; Museum of the University of Gdańsk – Bielańska 5 Street, Old Town

Aim of the day:

- Contextualising the idea of solidarity within the idea of engaged common creativity

Programme:

1. *Being / Seeing / Acting* - a meeting, performative walk and participatory activity with performer and choreographer
2. Collective creation of participants for raising awareness of the humanitarian, migration, and social crises

Result: Students are capable for creations based on solidarity.

(performer and lecture: Aurora Lubos)

For those who will stay a little longer on Saturday, May 16

The Night of the Museums will take place in Gdańsk this Saturday, May 16 (starting at 6.00 pm.), including a lot of possible activities. We highly recommend:

- the exhibition of PhD students of the Academy of Fine Arts in Gdańsk, opened as part of the Night of Museums in the Academy building – 6 Targ Węglowy Street, Old Town
 - the Museum of the University of Gdańsk in the building of the Faculty of History building - Bielańska 5 Street, Old Town
 - Concert: St. Peter and Poul Church, 6.00 pm. – the violin legend master – Giuliano Carmignola with Cappella Gedanensis
-

Organiser:

The University of Gdańsk is one of the largest universities in Poland. It is located by the Baltic sea in Tricity (Gdańsk, Sopot, Gdynia), capital of picturesque Pomeranian region. There are 11 faculties with about 30.000 students, doctoral students and post-graduates. University of Gdańsk ranks in the top 5 universities in Poland. It's also third most popular university among candidates for studies in Poland. The University of Gdańsk is included in world-famous universities rankings such as Academic Ranking of World Universities, QS, Times Higher Education Young University Ranking. The University of Gdańsk was ranked fifth among Polish universities in the QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2024, which examines achieving sustainability goals. In the Governance Rank category, we reached a high third place among Polish universities. University cooperates with universities and scientific institutions from all over the world. The work of UG scientists in 107 international and 293 national projects contribute to UG reputation in the knowledge network. University is one of two Polish scientific institutions that established International Research Agendas: International Centre for Cancer Vaccine Science and International Centre for Theory of Quantum Technologies, funded by Foundation for Polish Science. University of Gdańsk participates in prestigious project "European University of the Seas - SEA-EU". Along with universities from Germany, Spain, Malta, Croatia, France, Italy, Norway and Portugal, creates a unique partnership of universities, focused on field studies, students exchange and creating international academic campus. More information about Faculty of Social Sciences at: <https://en.wns.ug.edu.pl/> and about the UG Centre of Sustainable Development: https://czrug.ug.edu.pl/en/en_start/ and about the Museum of the University of Gdańsk: <https://ug.edu.pl/news/en/6501/permanent-exhibition-ug-museum-making>

Partner institutions:

- University of Gdańsk (Faculty of Social Sciences - Institute of Education, the More-than-Human Studies Lab at the UG Centre for Sustainable Development, and the Museum of the University of Gdańsk)
- Academy of Fine Arts in Gdańsk
- European Solidarity Centre in Gdańsk
- CSW ŁAŻNIA
- WL4 - ART SPACE Association
- SCAPE

The Academy of Fine Arts in Gdańsk. For more than 80 years, the Academy of Fine Arts (ASP) in Gdańsk has been shaping young creators who participate in the most important events in the field of culture, art, and design in the region, country, and beyond its borders. Currently, around 900 students are studying at ASP on both undergraduate and graduate levels. The students are educated by a faculty of 150 experienced academic teachers. Locally, the university collaborates with key cultural institutions in the region, consulates, and the business community. Among the most important initiatives of ASP are the Nationwide Exhibition of the Best ASP Diplomas, International Foundry Workshops, and Art'em All at the Gdańsk Shipyard. Within the walls of ASP, there is a Sound Laboratory for interdisciplinary activities in the field of computer recording and sound design for moving images (visit: <https://en.asp.gda.pl/>). The Academy of Fine Arts in Gdańsk welcomes all international initiatives and is keen on establishing new cooperation and participating in artistic projects and researches as well as hosting international tutors, organizations and events. Internationalization is one of the key points of our development strategy, resulting in, among other things, the systematic increase of student mobility for studying and training. Additionally, the Academy of Fine Arts in Gdańsk offers participation in plein-air, workshops and exhibitions, both domestically and abroad. More information at: <https://en.asp.gda.pl/academy/academy,2>

The European Solidarity Centre is a modern cultural institution that perpetuates the memory of our greatest civic success – the victory of Solidarity. It is a museum commemorating the Solidarność revolution and the collapse of communism in Europe, but also an educational centre, a research and study centre, an archive, a library and a mediatheque. And finally, a public space, a meeting place for citizens who feel responsible for the development of democracy: a zone for practising solidarity and citizenship. We believe that from the experience of August '80 we can also draw social energy today, and that in the legacy of Solidarność there still beats a source of invigorating ideas for Europe.

We are happy to be here together – Europeans, Poles, Pomeranians and all those who feel connected to the Solidarność ethos (Basil Kerski, Director of the European Solidarity Centre). More information at: <https://ecs.gda.pl/en/ecs/>

CSW ŁAŻNIA. CCA LAZNIA (Centre for Contemporary Art) as its primary objective aims at the presentation and dissemination of the universal values of contemporary art as part of the world's cultural heritage. Our mission is to present the latest artistic phenomena in their process of transformation, to respond to the cultural and civilizational phenomena of the modern world – while at the same time to educate within this scope through the use of new media and technologies. The goals of the institution are realized through the organization of exhibitions, performances, interventions in public space, workshops, scientific conferences, lectures, concerts and film screenings, as well as through publishing, international exchanges, artistic residences and innovative educational programs.

The most important issues present in the CCA LAZNIA program include diverse and multi-faceted combinations of art and science, the phenomenon of art modifying urban tissue, experimental music and films, video art, artistic events at the junction of disciplines, and cooperation to benefit local communities. By addressing issues often involving ethical and moral norms, through considerations conducted within the framework of artistic projects, we hope to enable our audience to engage both their doubts and dreams through art, while at the same time to respond to the real problems and needs of Dolne Miasto and Nowy Port.

CSW ŁAŻNIA is currently one of Poland's most important institutions engaged in contemporary art. It is also becoming more and more recognized around the world.

The program of CCA LAZNIA is based on four pillars: 1/Art in public space. 2/Art and science. 3/ International exchange/residences. 4/Education.

Summarizing our vision: "Culture isn't for everybody – it's for each of us. And its task is to present each of us – not only a chosen 'culturally competent' few – with the chance to fulfil our personal potential."

<https://www.laznia.pl>

WL4 – ART SPACE. WL4 is a group of independent artists not associated with any institution, for whom art is the overriding value. Our group includes mature artists and those just starting their creative path, working in various areas of art. Our diversity is our strength. WL4 is 14 resident painters and sculptors, graphic artists and photographers, people promoting art and working in its various areas. WL4 is the "Mleczny Piotr" building on the premises of the Imperial Shipyard in Gdansk. Our special location on the premises of the former Gdańsk Shipyard on the natural walking trail from the Old Town to the ECS gives us the opportunity to create an interesting proposition for both tourists and art connoisseurs. The space we have and the green belt right next to the new Motława promenade give us the opportunity to create an outdoor gallery of sculptures and objects also visible to yachts and ships entering the Gdansk marina. WL4 is a Cultural Space created for the implementation of partner projects and activities on a local and international level. We organize joint exhibitions, symposia, workshops, concerts, performances, etc. WL4 is an Open Space for cooperation with entrepreneurs and patrons, cultural institutions, offices and local governments in individual and group projects. WL4 ART SPACE – RESIDENCE: We invite residents to the place we are creating, hoping that it will be an interesting proposition for artists and artistic groups wishing to establish cooperation (Adriana Majdzińska, Ph.D., profesor of the Academy of Fine Arts in Gdansk, President of the "WL4 – ART SPACE" Association Centre). More information at: www.wl4.pl

SCAPE: the international research group "Studies of Conflict, Art and the Political in Education" (SCAPE) was inaugurated in Sweden in May 2008. The research group brings together education scholars who share an interest in the constitutive role of difference and disagreement in a vibrant political sphere. The members of SCAPE share an interest in conceptions of democratic politics as involving disagreements and struggles over the power relations in society and attendant ethico-political values. They are concerned that the more deliberative approaches see conflict only as counter-productive to democratic dialogue, and even as indicative of communicative breakdown. Instead, the participants believe that some kinds of conflict are not only inevitable but, in fact, valuable for and constitutive of democracy itself. More information at:

<https://blogs.ubc.ca/scape/2015/09/13/hello-world/>