
People

Based at each partner university, a **team of five coordinators** make sure processes and collaboration within the network run smooth. Together with the Heads of the International Offices, they form our CENTRAL Executive Committee. Regular meetings of this managing group facilitate mutual exchange of ideas, balancing of wants and needs as well as careful planning of upcoming activities.

The general network's coordination is a rotating role that passes on after four years. After a very successful period at the [University of Vienna](#), Charles University takes over the presidency on **November 12th, 2024**. You can find information about the CENTRAL Ceremony for this occasion [here](#)

Team of International Coordinators

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CENTRAL Ambassadors

Ambassador Emil Brix

Dr. Emil Brix, born 1956 in Vienna, diplomat and historian, is the Director of the Diplomatische Akademie Wien – Vienna School of International Studies since 2017. After joining the Austrian diplomatic service in 1982, Mr Brix worked as political secretary for the parliamentary group of the Austrian People's Party. In 1986, he was appointed Head of Cabinet at the Ministry of Science and Research. From 1990 until 1995, he served as Austrian Consul General in Cracow, Poland. Subsequently, he was Director of the Austrian Cultural Institute in London, a position he held for four years. In 2002, Mr Brix was appointed Director-General of Foreign Cultural Policy at the Ministry for European and International Affairs of Austria. After serving five years as the Austrian Ambassador to the UK from 2010-15, he became Austrian Ambassador to the Russian Federation in 2015. He is deputy chairman of the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe and member of the governing board of the Austrian Research Association. He holds a PhD from the University of Vienna and was awarded Dr. hc. by the University of Drohobysch, Ukraine and by the University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania. He is an alumnus of the Diplomatische Akademie Wien and published numerous books and articles on Austrian and European history of the 19th and 20th century.

Ambassador (rtd) Andreas Meitzner

Mr Meitzner was born in 1956. As a law graduate of Bonn University, he joined the German Diplomatic Service in 1982. He served at the German Embassies in Montevideo, Panama, Lisbon and Prague before returning to the Auswärtiges Amt (Federal Foreign Office) in 2005 as Head of Human Resources Division. After an assignment as Deputy Ambassador at the German Embassy in Warsaw, he became Ambassador and Deputy Director-General for Foreign Cultural Policy at the Auswärtiges Amt in 2012. In 2015, he was transferred to Moscow as Deputy Ambassador at Germany's largest diplomatic mission abroad. In 2017, Mr Meitzner was appointed German Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark. Since his retirement in 2020, Mr Meitzner is engaged – among other volunteering activities – as Programme Director for young foreign diplomats at the Diplomatic Academy in Berlin. He is a member of the German Council on Foreign Relations.

Governance Board

CENTRAL is governed by a **Board of (vice) rectors**, one of each partner university. This steering group oversees the mission and general strategy of the network. They also give impetus content-wise, by jointly defining CENTRAL Agenda that sets the scene for multifaceted research and outreach activities within the partner institutions.

Prof. PhDr. Eva Voldřichová Beránková, Ph.D. Charles University
Vice-Rector for International Affairs
Dr. Yoan Vilain, LL.M. Humboldt University, Berlin
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Prof. Dr. Manuela Baccharini University of Vienna
Vice-Rector for Research and International Affairs