

University Consortium, FU Berlin Module, 21-25 November 2016

„European Challenges and the Future of the EU: the East-European Dimension“

The impact *Brexit* will have on Europe and its future remains difficult to assess. *Brexit* is, however, only one of the many challenges to which the EU is currently exposed and must seek to tackle. Some of these challenges - which will provide a key focus during this intensive week at FU Berlin - are outlined briefly below:

- Eroding solidarity and growing ‘Euroscepticism’ among EU member states’ peoples (most recently manifested in the UK’s decision to leave the EU).
- An increase in support for populist parties, politicians and movements in nearly all of the EU member states, and not only those in Eastern Europe.
- A ring of countries bordering the EU with various challenges and crises affecting Euro-Atlantic security (e.g. the Syrian civil war, authoritarian regimes, such as in Turkey, the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, failing states, massive economic problems and corruption, etc.).
- The threat of terrorism.
- The challenge of an increasingly assertive and authoritarian Russian leadership on EU borders.
- The evolving nature of Germany’s pivotal position at the heart of Russian-West relations, especially after *Brexit*.

Students participating at the UC Module at FU Berlin will discuss and work on these topics to various degrees and in a range of academic settings. An intensive focus will be on Russia and its internal developments and on how to deal with its current foreign policy. In this regard, it is also crucial to discuss in what ways Russia, and Russia and the West in cooperation, can contribute to the resolution of international problems and crises. In addition, challenges faced by other Central and Eastern European countries and other EU member states will be discussed in relation to the challenges mentioned above.