



Dr. Andrea Despot has been Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future (EVZ) since June 1, 2020. A political scientist who holds a doctorate in Eastern European history, she is an expert on the region's society and history as well as on historical political education, the culture(s) of remembrance in Europe, and their contribution to European integration.

Photo: Raum 11/Amélie Losier

Prior to taking up her position at the EVZ Foundation, Dr. Despot served as the Director and Managing Member of the Board of the European Academy Berlin and oversaw the educational institution's portfolio of projects and activities as well as its strategic management (2017–2020). Since 2008/09, the political scientist and expert on Eastern European history was responsible for designing and developing educational offerings on European politics and history, for capacity building programs, and transnational encounters formats as deputy Director/Head of Studies. The specialist topics that Dr. Despot addressed included Germany's role in Europe, questions relating to European integration and development, as well as the EU's external relations.

She also served as a lecturer at the John F. Kennedy Institute at Freie Universität Berlin (2009–2015), at the Aleksanteri Institute at the University of Helsinki (2007), and at other educational organizations in Germany and Europe. Dr. Despot has frequently been a contributor, speaker, and moderator on expert committees and at conferences and public events; she is also regularly consulted by (international) media outlets.

Before taking up her role at the European Academy Berlin, she was entrusted with teaching and research duties as a research associate from 2001 to 2008, first at the University of Erfurt and then at Freie Universität Berlin. Her work focused on the history of conflicts in the (South)Eastern European region, Euro-Atlantic relations, and European transformation processes in the 19th and 20th centuries. Dr. Despot began a degree in political science, the history of Eastern and Southeastern Europe, and Slavic (Russian) studies at Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich in 1992, which she completed with a Master of Arts. She continued to develop her regional expertise at Harvard University, receiving her Master of Arts in "Regional Studies: Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia" in 2000 from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. In 2009, she obtained her doctorate in history (with an emphasis on Eastern and Southeastern Europe) from the Institute for East European Studies at Freie Universität Berlin with a thesis on relations between the US and countries in Southeastern Europe.

Press contact and interview requests

Katrin Kowark
Head of Public Relations / EVZ Foundation
Phone +49 (0)30 25 92 97-24
Mobile +49 (0)151 500 47 64
e-mail kowark@stiftung-evz.de