

Three follow-up online meetings for the “Ukrainian-Bavarian Conference on Double Degree Programs”

In the spring, the follow-up event to last year's conference on double degree programs between Bavarian and Ukrainian universities took place. Mutual exchange on progress in establishing joint programs, helpful presentations and practical examples filled the two-hour program on three days.

In response to the feedback from the over 100 participants online and on site in Regensburg at last year's Ukrainian-Bavarian Conference on Double Degree Programs, BAYHOST planned a follow-up event for this year, which was held in the form of three online meetings. On April 30 and May 13 and 14, former participants of the conference, but also all those who were newly interested in the topic of Bavarian-Ukrainian double degrees, were able to discuss their experiences, ask questions and gain new information. The meetings were divided into three thematic sections – Economic and Legal Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Natural and Technical Sciences. A total of around 60 people, most of them from Ukraine, took part in the follow-ups.

In each of the three online meetings, an initial exchange between the participants was followed by presentations on various topics

that could be helpful in establishing new international projects. For example, Dr. Igor Taranov spoke about the opportunities that the Horizon Europe program can offer Ukrainian researchers to collaborate with their Bavarian partners in a joint project. Dr. Taranov is Head of the Department at the Horizon Europe Office in Ukraine (HEOinUA), which was just newly founded in September 2023. Dr. Oleksandra Laktionova and Vitaliy Nosok from the Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Science (MON) gave an overview of the current developments. BAYHOST and the Coordination Office for Ukraine itself informed the participants about funding opportunities, the German tax ID and a workshop on cooperation with Ukraine in the humanities, which will take place in Budapest in October 2024.

Another important point were practical examples of existing double degree programs, which could also serve as inspiration and a model for new programs. Dr. Nataliia Drozd (DD Master's in Finance with Nord University, Norway and their first joint PhD thesis in 2024) and Dr. Kateryna Kobchenko (development of the joint

Participants of the section „Humanities and Social Sciences” on May 13, 2024



Master's in the field of history with the University of Passau) reported on behalf of Taras Shevchenko National University in Kyiv. Prof. Iryna Zaretska from the V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University was able to present two success stories: the conference in May 2023 not only led to the establishment of a DD program with the University of Ulm, but is also in the development phase with the OTH Regensburg. For the National Technical University "Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute", Dr. Denys Meshkov presented the cooperation with the OVG University Magdeburg - there is even a German Technical Faculty in Kharkiv for the joint degree courses.

Two special examples have also been presented. BAYHOST alumna Andrijana Bakračević talked about her experiences with the joint PhD program (Cotutelle) in International Law at the University of Belgrade and FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg. Ms. Ilona Lechner from the Ferenc Rakoczi II Transcarpathian Hungarian College of Higher Education reported on the double degree programmes with universities in Hungary, with which the university supports the Hungarian minority in this part of Ukraine.

Interest in Bavarian-Ukrainian double-degree programs remains high, as this concept not only offers advantages for students, but also strengthens and consolidates cooperation between universities in both countries. Nevertheless, there are still obstacles that can delay the establishment of a new program - especially the question of funding, but also the different education systems in Ukraine and Bavaria.

Presentation by Dr. Igor Taranov, Horizon Europe Office in Ukraine, for the section "Economic and Legal Sciences" on April 30, 2024

