



Slovenian-Bavarian Scientific Forum

27-28 may 2021 in Regensburg

Concept

Academic cooperation between Slovenia and Bavaria

At present, Slovenian and Bavarian institutes of research and higher education maintain 26 partnerships. 8 Bavarian universities, 7 Bavarian universities of applied sciences and 2 Bavarian art academies cooperate with Slovenian partner institutions. Almost all of them have a partnership with the University of Ljubljana (16), while 8 of them cooperate with the University of Maribor. The University of Regensburg is the only one having partnerships with all 3 Slovenian state universities: University of Ljubljana, University of Maribor and University of Primorska in Koper.

Apart from students' exchange, Slovenia and Bavaria actively cooperate in research. In 37 HORIZON 2020 projects both institutions from Slovenia and Bavaria were involved. The projects covered a wide range of topics in fields like digitalization (e.g. in industrial production and agriculture), renewable energy and energy efficiency, nanotechnology, advanced materials, health research and sustainable economy. The research topics reflect well the fact that Slovenia is very much orientated towards a green economy.

The potential for enhanced research cooperation between Slovenia and Bavaria

Within the Interreg Alpine Space programme the project S3-4AlpClusters analyzed strategic areas for cross-regional cooperation in the Alpine Space. Slovenia and Bavaria participated in this project through the Slovenian Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy and the Bavarian Research Alliance. The project showed that Slovenia and Bavaria have complementary competences and capacities in several fields, among them advanced materials for manufacturing, smart materials, smart mobility, mechatronics, e-health and bioenergy.

A study on the potential of cooperation between economy and science in the new EU member states in Central and Southeastern Europe in 2017 came to the conclusion that Slovenia was the only country that could be characterized as a "strong innovator".

Higher education and research in Slovenia

Slovenia is actively involved in the Bologna process and as a member of the European Union committed to the objectives of the Lisbon Strategy. According to Eurostat there was 42.7% of 30 to 34 years old in Slovenia in 2018 who have attained tertiary education.

Three public and three private universities as well as further higher education institutions in Slovenia offer a wide range of bachelor, master and doctoral programs in English language. Research in Slovenia

is carried out both at the universities and at 16 National Research Institutes and the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and the Arts (SASA).

Slovenian-Bavarian Scientific Forum

The Slovenian-Bavarian Scientific Forum aims at initiating further academic cooperation, especially in research, and strengthening already existing partnerships. The program includes talks on a strategic level, three research workshops in promising fields, an introduction to the Slovenian and Bavarian system of higher education and research as well as information on funding possibilities.

The forum is jointly organized by the Slovenian Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and BAYHOST (Bavarian Academic Center for Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe). BAYHOST promotes academic exchange between Bavaria and countries in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe. It supports Bavarian universities and universities of applied science through its specific competencies; by supporting their collaboration with academic organizations in its partner countries and by establishing new partnerships.