

Ukrainian-Bavarian Higher Education Day

October 1st and 2nd, 2018 at Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg

SECTION 2: RESEARCH COOPERATION

Panel discussion on research cooperation between Ukraine and Germany (Summary)

Moderation

Maxim Gatskov, BAYHOST

Participants

Prof. Dr. Sergey Dashkovskiy, Institute of Mathematics, Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg (JMU)

Dr. Stefan Lorenzmeier, Faculty of Law, University of Augsburg

Dr. Oksana Seumenicht, Co-Initiator of the UKRAINE Network, Managing Director of the German-Ukrainian Academic Society e.V.

Dr. Philip Pfaller, Scientific Officer, Socio-economic Sciences & Humanities / Security Research, Bavarian Research Alliance (BayFOR)

Dr. Jörn Achterberg, Director, International Affairs, DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft)

Minutes

Joint research projects should be based on a win-win cooperation for each partner. It would be wrong to estimate Ukraine's scientific potential by its poor economic conditions. DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) supported 56 Projects with Ukraine in the last 3 years. It published a Call for Joint German-Ukrainian Project Proposals in Physics and Mathematics and supported the Establishment of a National Research Foundation of Ukraine (NRFU). Furthermore, a delegation to Odessa was organized.

The most popular research areas in Ukrainian-German projects are presently materials sciences, mathematics, physics, chemistry, archaeology and sociology.

The UKRAINE Network initializes new projects and offers support for all researchers interested in academic cooperation. Thanks to international research cooperation every researcher can get an access to research centers and infrastructures providing a major input to their research area.

Research cooperation means both helping each other and learning from each other and sharing experience, like, for example, between the Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg and its Ukrainian partner universities.

Researchers interested in establishing new collaboration may address the Bavarian Research Alliance (BayFOR) with a clearly stated idea. BayFOR can assist them in looking for partners, developing the idea and finding opportunities how to realize it.

In order to find the right project partners, the so-called match-making, the participant portal of the European Research Framework Programme HORIZON 2020 offers a partner search website. Hundreds of research projects are listed on this platform. Researchers can join very specific groups and indicate topics for research cooperation.

Many Ukrainian researchers still underestimate the potential of taking the initiative, simply by contacting foreign colleagues, going to conferences, reading articles about their topic.

BAYHOST developed a higher education and research map („Kompetenzatlas“) on its website where it is possible to go to different Ukrainian cities, see the universities and their research focuses.

When applying for financial support, the quality of the application plays an important role. The applicants have to learn what the committees like to read and what they do not like to read.

There is a big difference between salaries in Germany and Ukraine. This also happens to appear in joint research projects which should not be the case. Obviously researchers' salaries are limited by administrative rules on the Ukrainian side, not by research funds. In order to facilitate international research cooperation the relevant rules should be changed.