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Ukranian German Teaching Network for a Digital Transformation of Environmental Education

Project hosted by the Faculty of Forest and Environment

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Background and fundament

Digitalisation of the learning and teaching surrounding to meet the expectations and needs of today's students and lecturers is an effective way to adapt to the circumstances, irrespective of the challenges of crisis phenomena.

Starting from September 2022 ***Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development*** *(Eberswalde, Germany),* ***National Transport University*** *(Kyiv, Ukraine),* ***Odessa State Environmental University*** *(OSENU),* ***Lviv State University of Physical Culture*** *(LSUPC),* ***Zhytomyr Polytechinc State University*** *(ZPSU) and* ***Ukrainian National Forestry University*** *(Lviv, Ukraine) – are jointly collaborating on a project which is targeted on the development of sustainable network for digitalisation in higher education.*

This project is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

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Main objective and tasks

The objective of the project is to **improve learning and teaching experience at the Ukrainian partner institutions by means of advanced approaches and tools in e-education** for existing courses in environmental science degree programmes.

Tasks

- **Analyzing and evaluation of needs in digital teaching and learning competences** for environmental science degree programmes in Ukraine.
- **Digitalisation and modernisation** of selected courses.
- **Expanding professional competencies of Ukrainian lecturers** with respect to e-learning
- Strengthening interdisciplinary and international **cooperation**
- **Implementation of training courses** at the Ukrainian partner institutions.

Activities

- **Training workshop** for Ukrainian lecturers on the digital transformation of educational environmental courses.
- **Digitalisation, pilot introduction, evaluation and adjustment** of selected training courses.
- **Survey with students and lecturers of Ukrainian universities about their needs** in digital teaching and learning competences.

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Previous project progress – survey and focus groups results

176 Bachelor and Master students with 51 lecturers belonging to 9 Ukrainian institutions including 10 Ukrainian students currently studying at the HNEE (full study and Erasmus exchanges programmes) have responded to the surveys. This analysis discovered the effectiveness and pitfalls of distance learning in Ukraine in times of crises (combining learning experience during the ongoing war in Ukraine and pandemic COVID-19).

General results

- 57% of respondents stated **that distance education in the environmental science degree programmes is efficient enough** in comparison with traditional (face-to-face) learning.
- The majority of students and lecturers have said that they have their **own pace comfortably through online learning** and teaching, the opportunity to **combine education with work and scientific activity** as well as the possibility to stay in a safe place.
- Due to the war in Ukraine approx. **45% respondents feel emotional & psychological stress impacting their learning and teaching**.

Student´s claims

- too many theoretical and practiceless lessons
- lack of work in groups, project tasks as well as interactive activities during online classes
- low variety of learning materials formats.

Lecturer´s claims

- lack of experience in introducing interactive tasks/activities and implementation "learning-by-doing" approach in online mode
- low experience with design of creative case examples and complex tasks for work in groups as skills in visualisation of learning materials to attract student's attention
- "passive consumption" of knowledge by students instead of active involvement into learning process though critical thinking and creativity.

Previous project progress - Courses improvement

Course title	University offering	TN	Statement on the creditability incl. number of ECTS as well as the course(s) of study
Methods of Environmental Information Processing	NTU	50	4 ECTS, Study Programme “Ecology”, BSc.
Environmental Impact Assessment	NTU	25	6 ECTS, Study Programme "Ecology", MSc.
Corporate Social Responsibility	UNFU	50	3 ECTS, Study Programme , Management of Organizations and Administration, MSc.
Geoecological Informatics	NTU	50	4 ECTS, Study Programme “Ecology”, BSc.

Objectives achieved and to be achieved

- Internal methodology seminars with lecturers and professors since September 2022
- Workshop in December 2022 on advancing online teaching competences for Ukrainian lecturers
- Challenges of follow-up project

Thank you for your attention

DAAD

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