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|  | Scientific - didactic workshop  **"Ukrainian as a Foreign and Heritage Language in Germany"**  17.-18. November 2017 |

From 17 to 18 November 2017, 28 participants from 20 institutions in Germany, Switzerland and Austria met in the Embassy of Ukraine in Berlin to discuss current issues in the field of practical teaching of Ukrainian as a foreign or heritage language. The focus was on methodology and didactics of teaching Ukrainian both to children and to adult learners, as well as the increasing the opportunities for improving knowledge of Ukrainian language in German-speaking countries. This workshop aimed to bring together the key actors from Saturday/Sunday schools, secondary schools and universities and to make recommendations to the Government of Ukraine to improve the framework of teaching Ukrainian language abroad.

This workshop was organized by the Institute of Slavic Studies of the University of Greifswald (which has the only chair in Germany dedicated to Ukrainian language and Ukrainian studies) in cooperation with the German-Ukrainian Academic Society and the German Association of Ukrainists on the occasion of the Year of the Ukrainian Language in Germany 2017-2018.

**Conclusions and Recommendations**

**Proposals of how to improve the current situation of Ukrainian as a foreign/heritage language in German-speaking countries (Germany/ Austria/ Switzerland)**

The Ukrainian Government should provide financial and administrative/political support with regard to

* Measures that aim to strengthen the position of the Ukrainian language and Ukrainian studies in general as an integral and inalienable/ permanent part of the curriculum at German/ Austrian/ Swiss universities (in the realm of Slavic studies, history, regional studies etc.), e.g. by providing (co-)funding of positions for (permanent) lecturers of Ukrainian at German/ Austrian/ Swiss universities (cf. comparable programs for fostering Slovenian as a foreign language abroad, coordinated by the Center for Slovenian as Foreign and Second Language in Ljubljana: <http://centerslo.si/en>; DAAD-Lektoren: <https://www.daad.de/ausland/lehren/daadlektoren/de/>; Institut Francais: Bilingual education; Digital education programs; Learning French at the higher education level; Working in the French Language: <http://www.institutfrancais.com/en>)
* Establishment of an award for the best BSc, MSc and PhD thesis, where the topic of research relates to study of Ukrainian language, literature, history, etc., based on an annual competition (could be organized at embassies worldwide, in cooperation with scholar societies such as Shevchenko Scientific Society: <http://shevchenko.org/>, German-Ukrainian Academic Society/ The UKRAINE Network: [www.ukrainet.eu](http://www.ukrainet.eu), The British-Ukrainian Society: <http://www.britishukrainiansociety.org/>, etc.)
* Support of the organization of workshops on didactical and methodological issues of teaching Ukrainian as a foreign/ heritage language for lecturers of Ukrainian working in schools or universities in Germany/ Austria/ Switzerland, at least on an annual basis
* Establishment and maintenance of a permanent platform for exchange of information regarding new developments in teaching Ukraine as a foreign/heritage language, thus providing teachers of Ukrainian as a foreign/ heritage language in Germany/ Austria/ Switzerland the possibility to establish networks and to stay in contact with their colleagues (cf. for Polish Studies: <https://www.pol-int.org/en>)
* Development of new textbooks and teaching materials that reflect the current state-of-the-art with regard to foreign language teaching methodology, e.g. by publishing a periodical journal or editing periodical publications dedicated to issues of teaching and learning Ukrainian as a foreign/ heritage language (cf. comparable projects for fostering the learning and teaching of German as a foreign language like „Deutsch perfekt“: <https://www.deutsch-perfekt.com/>)
* The organization of joint events that target the whole community of learners of Ukrainian as a foreign/ heritage language in Germany/ Austria/ Switzerland (e.g. by offering grants for regular joint summer schools for teachers/ learners of Ukraine in different places of Ukraine)
* Establishment of a contact bureau/ point which helps to organize internships at Ukrainian institutions or companies for students of Ukrainian/ Ukrainian Studies from German/ Austrian/ Swiss universities or heritage language schools, thus providing an opportunity to improve their Ukrainian language skills and improving their employment prospects.

**Results of the working group I „Teaching Children Ukrainian as a Heritage Language“**

Moderator: **Olena Just** (Ukrainian Saturday School/Ukrainische Samstagsschule München e.V.)

**Needs of the Ukrainian schools in Germany:**

Support of the Ukrainian schools by Ukrainian government/ Embassy of Ukraine is needed in the following

* Provision of teaching and learning materials for Ukrainian (as a suggestion: the Ukrainian schools (e.g. Saturday schools, parent initiatives, etc.) apply for the books and workbooks (these are needed annually) stating the ISBN via the Embassy and the corresponding books are delivered to the corresponding schools)
* Financial support of the teachers and schools offering Ukrainian lessons in the diaspora
* Announcement of offers/ advertisements for the schools and educational offers both online on the embassy websites and on paper in all consulates in Germany
* A contact person at the Embassy who is responsible for the schooling issues. This should be clearly communicated and presented both internally and externally (website, etc.)
* Official request by the Embassy on the occasion of the Year of the Ukrainian language in Germany to ALL federal states about the state of legislation in these federal states in relation to the native language instruction and the situation with the Ukrainian (Saxony/ Dresden as a best practice example)
* Financial and logistic support for the organization of continuing education courses for teachers of Ukrainian in Germany, including closer cooperation and coordination with the Department of Education of the Ukrainian umbrella organization (Dachverband der ukrainischen Organisationen in Deutschland e.V.)
* Provision of funding for the development of the requirements and tests for the teaching and learning objectives for Ukrainian in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

**Cooperation with Slavists/Ukrainists and Certification:**

* Network formation and establishment of regular communication between the Ukrainian schools and Slavic Studies/ Ukrainian lecturers
* Organization of the information sessions on the study of Slavic Studies and possible professional occupations with a focus on Ukrainian Studies for the graduates of the Ukrainian schools in Germany
* Development of the requirements for the teaching and learning objectives for Ukrainian as a foreign or native language according to the European Framework of Reference for Languages for all levels (A1 -C2): <http://www.europaeischer-referenzrahmen.de/sprachniveau.php>
* Development of tests for Ukrainian as a foreign or heritage language in Germany for all levels (A1-C2), with certificates that are recognized in Ukraine

**Cooperation with schools**

* Network building and establishment of regular communication between the Ukrainian schools and among teachers of Ukrainian, e.g. in an annual meeting (at the Embassy or one of the consulates).

**Further-reaching recommendations:**

* Development of an interactive ONLINE Ukrainian course based on modern teaching methods, taking into account the age and language proficiency level of learners and target groups (children versus adult learners, casual versus professional usage, etc.)
* Improved promotion of the MUSH - "міжнародна українська школа": <http://ukrintschool.org.ua/about.html>
* Dissemination of the information about language competitions in Germany, where e.g. knowledge of Ukrainian language as a foreign language can be tested: <https://www.bundeswettbewerb-fremdsprachen.de/>
* Broader dissemination of information about contests of Petro Yatsyk Fund: <http://www.petro-jacyk-foundation.org/university-programs/harvard-university.html> and other similar competitions.

**Results of the Working Group II: Teaching Ukrainian as a Foreign or Heritage Language for Adult Learners**

Workshop leaders: **Dr. Svitlana Adamenko**, University of Göttingen, Department of Slavic Studies &

**Prof. Dr. Bernhard Brehmer**, University of Greifswald, Department of Slavonic Studies

**Structural problems:**

* Very small groups of students (usually numbers below 10 students per group, with further decreasing numbers in groups at advanced level)
* Very heterogeneous groups of learners (students with/ without prior basic knowledge of Ukrainian, students with/ without substantial knowledge of another Slavic language, students with/ without philological background, etc.)
* Variable number of teaching hours per week (from two to six teaching hours per week for beginners, lower number of hours for more advanced learners)
* Courses are not always guaranteed for every teaching term, criteria for establishing courses in Ukrainian are often dependent on various factors (overall number of participants; number of participants who need courses in Ukrainian as official part of their study program/curriculum etc.)
* Precarious contracts of lecturers of Ukrainian: only few have a permanent position as lecturers of Ukrainian, most of the permanent lecturers have to also teach other languages in parallel as well (mostly Russian); most lecturers of Ukrainian are employed on the basis of a temporary teaching assignment (*Lehrauftrag*) on a rather low remuneration basis (i.e. only teaching hours are paid for, preparation hours or taking exams is not compensated for).

**Practical problems (didactics, methodology, teaching materials etc.)**

*(1) Problems related to heterogeneity of students:*

* Language of teaching should be Ukrainian, only at the very first stage of teaching German should be used for explaining grammar/ vocabulary; a rather early transition to Ukrainian terminology is advisable
* Students with prior knowledge of Ukrainian should be integrated into the courses, e.g. by taking on the role of an „expert“, as co-teachers, etc.
* Measurements for improving homogeneity of learners (e.g. advanced learners in beginner’s courses should be granted a possibility to take the exam only)

*(2) Problems related to promotion of Ukrainian as a foreign language:*

* Advertising the study of Ukrainian (or Slavonic philology in general) at schools, offering free lessons of Ukrainian for high school pupils
* Organizing „Open days“ or „Nights of Ukrainian language and culture“ at universities or public institutions in larger cities, with innovative elements of teaching Ukrainian for beginners
* Including Ukrainian language/ literature/ history into special offers for a lay audience at universities (e.g. summer schools, child universities)
* Offering of special courses (certified) in Ukrainian language for students of non-philological programs
* Organizing events (e.g. in form of public lectures) with invited speakers who can serve as best practice examples (i.e. professionals, whose knowledge of Ukrainian turned out to be an important factor for their career development)
* Attract new audiences for learning Ukrainian as a foreign language (e.g. foreign spouses of Ukrainians).

*(3) Problems related to establishment of professional networks:*

* There should be regular meetings for professionals on teaching Ukrainian as a foreign language (dedicated annual workshops on didactical problems of teaching Ukrainian as a foreign/ heritage language)
* Need for establishing some sort of an organization of German teachers of Ukrainian as a foreign/ heritage language (cf., e.g., Association of Teachers of Polish as a Foreign Language in Germany, with regular publications, meetings, etc.)
* Establishing a newsletter for teachers of Ukrainian in Germany/ Austria/ Switzerland
* Organization of joint summer schools for German teachers and learners of Ukrainian as a foreign language (thus bringing together not only teachers, but also learners from different institutions in Germany/ Austria/ Switzerland)
* Establishing contacts to other Ukrainian diasporas or associations of teachers of Ukrainian abroad (especially Poland, UK, Canada, USA, Australia)
* Establishing contacts to other associations working with/on Ukraine (e.g. Association of Ukrainian Students in Germany as possible multipliers).

*(4) Problems related to teaching materials and teaching methodology:*

* No up-to-date textbook on Ukrainian as a foreign language for learners who form the target of university courses in Germany (again, heterogeneity of learners as a crucial problem)
* New materials of teaching Ukrainian as a foreign language needed, which should include
* Lessons on creative writing
* Using new media (youtube spots: cf. Goethe Institut New Zealand “Lifeswap” blog: https://www.goethe.de/ins/nz/en/kul/sup/lsw.html, apps), modern songs, videos
* CDs for testing listening comprehension
* Word lists, well-arranged overviews (tables) of grammatical patterns
* Language games
* Texts that can be used to motivate students to practice their communicative skills
* Up-to-date material on contemporary Ukrainian culture
* Exercises, which target intercultural knowledge in general
* Additional materials for teachers
* Integration of teaching of Ukrainian history/ culture into curricula format (as separate courses or an integral part of language courses):
* Using of films
* Inviting guest lecturers on different topics related to Ukraine
* Developing strategies on addressing difficult issues (e.g. current war in Ukraine)
* Integration of daily news into lessons
* Integration of history of German settlers in Ukraine