Dear colleagues,

With this issue of our Newsletter we inform you about the founding meeting of the German-Ukrainian Academic Society, the forthcoming Final of the PhD Thesis Presentation Contest in Berlin, as well as draw your attention to some relevant funding opportunities.

With kind regards,

Dr. Oksana Seumenicht
International Relations Manager, Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine, Berlin

Professor Olga Garaschuk
Chair of the Institute of Physiology II, Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen

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Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Oleksandr Skorohod (Head of the Young Scientists’ Council, NASU), Yana Liaško (Zentrum für das deutches Recht, Taras-Shewchenko Universität Kiew) and Oksana Huss (University of Duisburg-Essen) for their valuable contributions to the LinkedIn group discussions also mentioned in this issue of the Newsletter.
COMMUNITY CORNER

The GERMAN-UKRAINIAN ACADEMIC SOCIETY has been constituted in Berlin

On 11 July 2016 in Berlin the founding meeting of the German-Ukrainian Academic Society (Die Deutsch-Ukrainische Akademische Gesellschaft) has been held. 16 scientists and academic professionals came together in order to found an organisation, which as a legal entity (e.V.) will support the goals of the UKRAINE Network in context of the German-Ukrainian academic cooperation. At the meeting the board members were elected: Prof. Olga Garaschuk (University of Tübingen) as the President, Prof. Matthias Epple (University of Duisburg-Essen) as the Vice-President, Dr Oksana Seumenicht (MDC, Berlin Buch) as the Managing Director, and Dr Nelia Wanderka (Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin) as the Treasurer. Currently the legal process of the society’s registration is on the way, and it is planned to share further information on how to become a member and support the Society in the near future – watch this space!

JOIN US AT the FIRST PhD THESIS PRESENTATION CONTEST’s FINAL on 21 September 2016

Venue: Impact Hub Berlin, Germany, Friedrichstrasse 246, 10969 Berlin

Time: 18:00 – 21:00

Registration per email: lazarenko.olesia@gmail.com (Dr. Olesia Lazarenko, Berlin-Brandenburg Regional Group).

Introducing our PhD student-finalists:

- Oksana Huss (University of Duisburg-Essen, Political Science): “Opening the Black Box of Systemic Corruption”
- Mykhailo Dumchev (Leuphana University; Atomic Physics): “Detecting Sub-atomic Particles: How we do this and why it is Important”
- Myroslav Kryven (Würzburg Universität; Mathematics): “Mathematical Models to Explain and Influence Patterns in Nature”
- Anna Grebinyk (Wildau TU of Applied Sciences; Biotechnology): “Nanofootball Against Cancer”
- Oleh Vovk (FU Berlin; Law): „Don’t Hate the Rainbow”
Presentations of young postdoctoral scientists:

- Dr Volodymyr Dekhtyarenko (G.V. Kurdyumov Institute for Metal Physics, NAS of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine, the winner of the Young Scientists Competition, carried out by the Foundation for Fundamental Research in Ukraine, 2016): “Novel Hydrogen Storage Materials for the Environmentally Friendly Vehicles”
- Dr Viktor Kyrychenko (Zhytomyr Ivan Franko State University, Ukraine; Sociology): “Ukraine on the Way to Inclusive Society”
- Dr Kateryna Loza (University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany): “On the Behavior of Silver Nanoparticles in Complex Media”
- Dr Andrii Malenko (Glushkov Institute of Cybernetics, High Performance Computing Laboratory, Kyiv, Ukraine): "Pixelated Realities: Preservation of Cultural Heritage"

Keynote Talk by Prof. Yury Gleba (Nomad Bioscience GmbH): “Plants as molecule factories”


AWARDS, EVENTS & PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

Myroslava M. Mudrak & Tetiana Rudenko awarded one of the Alfred H. Barr Jr. Awards (USA)

2016 Alfred H. Barr Jr. Award for Smaller Museums, Libraries, Collections, and Exhibitions was awarded to Myroslava M. Mudrak and Tetiana Rudenko for "Staging the Ukrainian Avant-Garde of the 1910s and 1920s" (The Ukrainian Museum, NY). "Myroslava M. Mudrak and Tetiana Rudenko have edited a publication that represents the essence of what the Barr award is intended to celebrate: solid, pioneering research that results in profound art historical revelation. That this scholarship is brought to bear on an understudied, indeed, almost overlooked chapter on European Modernism—at least in Europe and the United States—makes their publication doubly revelatory."

www.collegeart.org/awards/awardees
www.ukrainianmuseum.org/news.html#item3

Ministerial meeting in Berlin aims at strengthening the bilateral cooperation in higher education, science and technology

At the meeting with her Ukrainian counterpart Lilija Hrynewytsch on 12 July in Berlin, Federal Research Minister Johanna Wanka pledged support to Ukraine, noting that this historical period of upheaval in Ukraine also offers a variety of opportunities. Furthermore, on 13 July 2016, the 11th meeting for scientific and technological cooperation between the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (MES) took place in Berlin-Adlershof. The aim of the "Action Plan Ukraine" of the Federal Government is to support Ukraine’s political and economic stabilisation. In this context the BMBF is funding a number of activities to strengthen the reform efforts of the MES quickly but also sustainably, with priority measures aimed at supporting structural changes in Ukraine such as evaluation procedures of the National Academy of Sciences and strengthening the German-Ukrainian jurisprudential dialogue. In total 78 applications were submitted to a recent joint German-Ukrainian call.
German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier visited University of Greifswald and confirmed his support of the Ukrainian Studies at the university

„Es ist speziell die Lehre der Ukrainistik, die die Universität Greifswald auszeichnet. Denn hier werden ukrainische Sprache, Literatur und Kultur in einer für Deutschland einzigartigen Weise vermittelt. Das ist richtig und wichtig und das muss so bleiben, denn gerade mit Blick auf die Krisen in unserer Nachbarschaft brauchen wir genau diese Regionalkompetenz mehr denn je. Deswegen freue ich mich, dass wir im vergangenen Jahr gemeinsam mit dem Land Mecklenburg-Vorpommern die Zukunft dieses einzigartigen Profils der Ukrainistik hier in Greifswald sicherstellen konnten“, so Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

www.uni-greifswald.de/informieren/medieninformationen/vortrag-steinmeier.html

Study “#EngageEUkraine. Engagement of Ukrainians in Poland and Germany” has been published

Within the framework of the joined project “Ukrainians in Poland and Germany – Civic and Political Engagement, Expectations, and Courses of Action” of the Institute of Public Affairs (IPA), Warsaw, and the Institut für Europäische Politik (IEP), Berlin, the complete study has now been published in German and in Polish. Based on a series of in-depth interviews with members of the Ukrainian diaspora living in Poland and Germany regarding their views on the Ukraine Crisis and the future of Ukraine, including the question of EU-membership as well as their readiness to support the democracy movement in Ukraine, the authors of the study analyse various forms of civic engagement of Ukrainians living in Poland and Germany, specific obstacles they are facing and similarities as well as differences in Germany and Poland. The study was funded by Deutsch-Polnische Wissenschaftsstiftung (DPWS).


Vladimir Betz and a new era of neuroscience

Do you know Betz’s Giant pyramidal cells? Most probably yes – especially if you have studied a life science subject or neurosciences, to be precise. Do you know that they were discovered in Kyiv? Most probably not. Check this insightful article in “Brain”: Kushchayev et al. (2012) The discovery of the pyramidal neurons: Vladimir Betz and a new era of neuroscience:

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=The+discovery+of+the+pyramidal+neurons%3A+Vladimir+Betz+a nd+a+new+era+of+neuroscience


(Video-report: Igor Magrilov, berlin-visual.com) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdOoBYJt98M
(In German) www.kooperation-international.de/detail/info/wissenschaftlich-technologische-zusammenarbeit-wtz-mit-der-ukraine-auf-hochkurs.html

https://www.bmbf.de/de/die-ukraine-als-partner-in-bildung-und-forschung-3107.html
The first German-Ukrainian Summer Workshop “Perspectives for young scientists in life sciences: mastering global challenges of the modern society”

25-31 July 2016, Ivano-Frankivsk (Ukraine), photos courtesy of Volodymyr Luschak/ Vasyl Stefanyk Prykarpattian National University, more photos: https://yadi.sk/d/okZLFm46toV7C

25 enthusiastic PhD students and young scientists from all over Ukraine as well as from Germany had a unique opportunity not only to hear about the latest developments in modern biomedical sciences from top researchers from Germany and Ukraine, but also gain practical skills in interdisciplinary laboratory courses, learn about the German research landscape and international funding opportunities, discuss current challenges faced by the Ukrainian education and science system and propose their ideas for its reformation. As a result, a ‘white paper’, containing a series of recommendations was produced and will be communicated to the Ministry of Science and Education and other stakeholders. This workshop was organized by the Department of Biochemistry & Biotechnology, V. Stefanyk Prykarpattian National University, Tübingen University and the German-Ukrainian Academic Society/ The UKRAINE Network, and was supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) from the funds of the German Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

(More information, in Ukrainian):
Videos (in Ukrainian and English): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqBogxtcmSA
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hzl2Pbdkiso&feature=youtu.be

Summer School "Perspectives for Young Researchers in Science and Education"

23-31.08.2016, clockwise from top left: European Parliament, Council of Europe, Lecture by Prof. Z.Z. Zyman (Kharkiv) in Essen, University of Duisburg-Essen. Photos: courtesy of M. Epple (Univ. Duisburg-Essen)

27 young scientists from different research areas from Belarus, Poland and Ukraine came together for this rather different summer school. First, the participants spent two days in Strasbourg, visiting the European Parliament, the European Council and the European Court of Human Rights. Thereafter they had an intensive week in Essen learning about a broad range of topics - the different political systems and international cooperation, research ethics, participation, diversity and gender equality, etc. – all important elements of a successful scientific career. This workshop was funded by the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service).

(in German) https://www.uni-due.de/de/presse/meldung.php?id=9516
NEWS FROM UKRAINE

The First Contest of Young Scientist’s Projects Organised by the Ministry of Education & Science of Ukraine

On August 15, 2016 was held the final meeting of the Selection Committee for the selection of young scientists’ projects from the researchers who work (study) at HE and research institutions managed by the Ministry of Education and Science (MES). The Ministry has received 439 projects from young scientists of 114 universities and research institutions. The evaluation of the projects was organized by the young scientists from Young Scientists’ Council of MES. In total 79 projects were selected to receive state funding of UAH 12 million for two-year duration.

Ministry of Education and Science: New Deputy Minister Appointed

On August 23, Inna Sovsun, the first deputy minister has left the Ministry of Education and Science. Volodymyr Kevtunets was appointed as the new first deputy minister. Mr Kevtunets is Ukrainian politician, a member of the People’s Movement of Ukraine (Ukrainian: Народний Рух України, Narodnyi Rukh Ukrajiny), and a member of the parliament of the 2nd convocation. He has obtained his PhD in Physical and Mathematical Sciences (1982) and is a member of the Ukrainian Mathematical Society.

International scientific conference "Kazimir Malevich: Kyiv Aspect", Kyiv, 6-9 October 2016

"We will talk not only about the later period of 1928-1930 years, because many things link Malevich with Kyiv. I primarily mean the very fact of his birth here, childhood, family ties, studying at Murashko school”, said the organiser and the editor of the book “Казимир Малевич. Київський період 1928-1930” Tetiana Filevska to the Ucrinform correspondent.

Ukrainian Scientists Worldwide invites to a discussion of the proposal of the Regulation for the National Council of Ukraine on the Development of Science & Technology/ Обговорення проекту Положення про Національну раду України з питань розвитку науки і технологій:

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A SELECTION OF RELEVANT FUNDING & SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

Jobs for #Ukrainians: Experts Returning from Germany to Ukraine - CIM / GIZ
CIM Returning Experts program details:  
www.cimonline.de/en/aspirant/61.asp  
www.zav-reintegration.de/en/Stellen/Country?id=UA

The British Council Ukraine invites applications for the Programme for International Offices of Universities: Apply by 14 September
British Council Ukraine is inviting heads and staff members of International Offices / Centres of Ukrainian universities to take part in the programme “International Offices: Best Practices”. The programme is run with the support of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and aims at professional development/ capacity building of international offices in Ukrainian universities.  
www.britishcouncil.org.ua/en/programmes/education/international-offices

IncoNet EaP Call for EU-Eastern Partnership Twinning Teams: Apply by 30 September
The main goal is to identify EU and Eastern Partnership cooperation teams and to support the preparation for proposals of open and upcoming calls of the Horizon 2020 focusing on the three societal challenges: 'Climate Change', 'Health' & 'Energy'. The duration of the twinning projects is 15 Oct. to 30 Nov. 2016. The grants will be paid in lump sums of 2,000 Euro for each project.

EU “SPREADING THE EXCELLENCE & WIDENING PARTICIPATION”, Call for “Teaming Phase 1” grants: Deadline 15 November 2016
Topic identifier: WIDESPREAD-04-2017
Teaming will support the creation of new centres of excellence or upgrading the existing ones in low R&I performing countries, building on partnerships between leading scientific institutions and partner institutions in low R&I performing countries, that display the willingness to engage together on this purpose. Under Phase 1, successful applicants will receive a grant of EUR 400 thousand for 1 year, to produce an extensive, detailed and robust Business Plan for the setting-up / upgrading of a Centre of Excellence. Those successful in Teaming Phase 2 will receive a new 5-7 year grant, which will provide substantial support for the start-up and implementation phase of the future Centre of Excellence.

Grants for Summer Schools/ Symposia/ Networks
DAAD Grants for Summer Schools in Germany: Apply by 26 September 2016
German Higher Education Institutions can apply.

Volkswagen Foundation Grants for Symposia and Summer Schools
No deadline for summer school grants, annual deadline for symposia: 1 October.
Funding can be made available for symposia, workshops, and conferences (up to 250 participants) as well as summer schools (max. 60 participants). The initiative is thematically
open and not confined to any particular subject area. The basic criteria are: (i) an interdisciplinary and international context, (ii) active participation on the part of young researchers (PhDs and post-docs), and (iii) a significant number of female scholars and/or scientists among the speakers and participants.


DFG (Germany) grant for scientific networks: no deadline

For up to 3 years funding for travel and maintenance costs for 3-6 meetings of network participants (incl. international members) and for up to two guests per conference as applicable, miscellaneous costs (coordinative activities) and a publication allowance.


Funding for Individuals/ Fellowships

*Fully Funded Postdoctoral Fellowships in Austria, 2017: Apply by 1 October*

The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) provides 12-24 months fellowships to international scholars to conduct their own research in collaboration with one or more of IIASA’s research programs or special projects. The IIASA conducts research into the critical issues of global environmental, economic, technological, and social change.

www.iiasa.ac.at/web/home/education/postdocs.html

*Volkswagen Foundation 'Freigeist' Fellowships in Germany: Apply by 13 October 2016*

The ‘Freigeist’ scheme is open to all disciplines and topics. The main focus is on junior researchers (up to 5 years of postdoctoral experience) working at the borders of neighbouring fields or disciplines. The ‘Freigeist’ initiative offers freedom for creative thinking, whilst at the same time providing security for at least 5 years and in the long run the opportunity to establish a career within a scientific research organization or university in Germany. The initiative even incorporates the possibility to apply for additional components during the funding period (e.g. funding of staff positions, travel expenses etc.).


*Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellowship (USA): Apply by 15 October*

The program offers practitioners, scholars, and journalists from around the world the opportunity to spend five months in residence at the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), in Washington, D.C., in order to undertake independent research on democracy in a particular country or region.

www.ned.org/fellowships/reagan-fascell-democracy-fellows-program/applying-for-a-fellowship/

*BAYHOST 1-year Scholarships for Graduates from CEE Countries: Apply by 1 December*

Scholarships are meant to finance doctoral or postgraduate studies at Bavarian universities. The objective of the annual scholarship program is to support scientific cooperation and academic exchange between Bavaria and Central-, Eastern- and South-eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Croatia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Serbia or Ukraine).

www.uni-r.de/bayhost/english/scholarships/study-in-bavaria/index.html
FEBS Collaborative Experimental Scholarships for Central & Eastern Europe: apply at any time

For current PhD students, for up to 3 months.
www.febs.org/our-activities/fellowships/collaborative-experimental-scholarships-for-central-eastern-europe/guidelines/

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (Germany) Georg Forster Research Fellowship for researchers from developing countries, no deadline

Support for individual researchers for research stays in Germany (6 - 24 months, could be split into 3 periods for senior researchers). Proposal should be relevant for the continued development of the country or region of origin.
https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/georg-forster-fellowship.html

A SELECTION OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

UkraineLab Forum: поліфонія активізму та дослідження європейськості
19 – 22/09/2016
Berlin, Germany

21/09/2016; 18:00 – 21:00
Organised within the framework of the UkraineLab Forum
Venue: Impact Hub Berlin, Germany, Friedrichstrasse 246, 10969 Berlin
Registration by 18/09: lazarenko.olesia@gmail.com

DAAD Proposal Writing Workshop for Young Researchers
4/10 in Kharkiv
5/10 in Kyiv
6/10 in Lviv
The workshop is geared towards young researchers (Ph.D. students, junior faculty) who intend to apply for DAAD scholarships or seek to develop academic cooperation projects with German universities.
Apply by 19 September: Dr. Oksana Schwajjka, projekt@daad.org.ua
https://docs.google.com/document/d/12KtzOlwQ89M9OmFPP5rRLtVdAkelOyE7RM6FNvmmU/edit

International Young Scientists Forum on Applied Physics and Engineering (YSF-2016)
10 – 14/10/2016
Kharkiv, Ukraine
This Forum will bring together young scientists from a broad range of fields to the National Technical University "Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute" (NTU "KhPI")
http://www.ysc.org.ua
QUICK & USEFUL

10 Changes That Will Shape the Higher Education Future

By downloading this higher education future white paper, you will:

- Learn to use innovative digital systems to streamline the educational process
- See the potential research opportunities that have come from this digital shift
- Create educational products built for success in the global marketplace

http://info.unit4.com/higher-education-future_LP.html

MIT OpenCourseWare: a web-based publication of virtually all MIT course content

“The idea is simple: to publish all of our course materials online and make them widely available to everyone” (Prof. Dick K.P. Yue, MIT School of Engineering). 2340 courses available. Since September 2002, OCW materials have been translated into at least 10 languages, including Ukrainian.

http://ocw.mit.edu/about/

HHMI Career Development Resources (video and books available for download), e.g.

- Making the Right Moves: A Practical Guide to Scientific Management for Postdocs and New Faculty
- Writing a Letter of Recommendation

https://www.hhmi.org/programs/resources-early-career-scientist-development

Global Scholars helps Ukrainians get into top Western schools


www.ukraineglobalscholars.org/

DAAD PhDGermany Database: Doctoral Positions in Germany

https://www.daad.de/deutschland/promotion/phd/en/13306-phdgermany-database/

PhD Programmes in Berlin, Germany: www.doctoral-programs.de

New Web-portal „Ukraine in Deutschland“: http://ukraine-initiativen.de
MAIN GOALS of the UKRainian Academic International Network (The UKRAINE Network):

- FOSTER academic cooperation with Ukraine
- IMPROVE knowledge about Ukraine abroad and vice versa
- INCREASE visibility of Ukrainian scientists and their achievements
- SUPPORT career development of the Network members and early-career researchers in Ukraine
- SUPPORT reforms in Ukrainian science

If you support our goals and interested to join the UKRAINE Network or wish to subscribe to this newsletter – contact us by email: scientists4ukraine@gmail.com or join our LinkedIn group: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8473594. The Network web-site is currently under construction – if you are interested to support its development – do get in touch!

REGIONAL CONTACTS:

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**Stuttgart/ Tübingen:** Olga Garaschuk, olga.garaschuk@uni-tuebingen.de

**UK Chapter:** Dmitri Finkelshtein, d.l.finkelshtein@swansea.ac.uk

THEMATIC GROUP on FUNDING

This working group aims to monitor and share the information on relevant funding opportunities, offer the expertise on grant writing and review process, organise thematic workshops, as well as support applications for funding to support the Network and individual projects. Contact: Oksana Seumenicht and Nataliya Butych.

If you are keen to start a group in your city/region devoted to a specific topic or to initiate some Network activities – do get in touch!