

German-Ukrainian Academic Society, press-release 6 October 2016

Three bright Ukrainian PhD students bring it best to the point

The winners of the first PhD Thesis Presentation Contest in Germany have been announced



Photos: courtesy of *Vasyl Motuz (TU Cotbus)*.

On the 21st of September 2016 in Berlin the first PhD Thesis Presentation Contest took place as a part of the UkraineLab Forum's event "German-Ukrainian polyphony of scientific innovations: Hearing young voices". With this Contest we aimed to promote young scientists both from Germany and Ukraine and in doing so to contribute to raising the profile of the German-Ukrainian academic cooperation. Five finalists were Ukrainian PhD students carrying out their research at Freie Universität Berlin, Leuphana University, TU Darmstadt, University of Duisburg-Essen and the Wildau TU of Applied Sciences. The topics of fascinating and challenging five-minute talks ranged from atomic physics to political sciences, from law to biotechnology and material science. The jury, consisting of senior experts from different fields, awarded two first places to the best speakers representing natural sciences on one hand and social sciences and humanities on the other, and one second place:

- **Olena Lenchuk** (TU Darmstadt, Materials Science) for her presentation "How can we Design Advanced Engineering Materials?", the first place;
- **Oksana Huss** (INEF, University of Duisburg-Essen, Political Science) for her presentation "Opening the Black Box of Systemic Corruption", the first place;
- **Mykhailo Dumchev** (Leuphana University, Atomic Physics) for his presentation "Detecting Sub-atomic Particles: How we do this and why it is Important", the second place.

Both winners received valuable book prizes from the German-Ukrainian Academic Society. In addition, the generous monetary part of the prizes, – EUR 1500 for each of the first places and EUR 500 for the second place, has been endowed by Nomad Bioscience GmbH. This highly innovative biotechnology company was founded and is directed by Professor Yury Gleba, an active member of the Society. At the award ceremony one of the winners, Oksana Huss, shared her wish of not only studying, but actively supporting the anti-corruption activities in Ukraine, – specifically by donating her prize-money to the newly established Anti-Corruption Research and Education Centre in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Background information:

This Contest was organised by the **German-Ukrainian Academic Society**, a not-for-profit organisation constituted by a group of scientists in July 2016 in Berlin, Germany. It has been founded to support the Ukrainian Academic International Network (The UKRAINE Network) in and from Germany. The main goals of the Society and the Network are to (a) foster academic cooperation with Ukraine and its integration into the European Research Area; (b) improve knowledge about Ukraine abroad and *vice versa*; support (c) the career development of young researchers, and (d) reforms in Ukrainian science.

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8473594>

For more information and/ or to subscribe to receive the Newsletter: e-mail to scientists4ukraine@gmail.com

This event was held within the framework of the **UkraineLab Forum „UkraineLab: Playing Polyphony of the Society. Exploring the European Identity”** (19–22.09.2016, Berlin), and was organised in cooperation with the **MitOst e.V.** It was supported by the **Ukrainian Embassy in Germany.**

<http://www.mitost.org/>

https://issuu.com/inshaosvita/docs/programm_ukrlab_eng_web_site/1%e2%80%8b

Nomad Bioscience GmbH is a plant biotechnology company founded in 2008. The company is developing a broad range of biotechnology products manufactured in plants. Corporate offices are headquartered in Munich, Germany and the company's Research Division is located in Halle, Germany. NOMAD Bioscience GmbH has two subsidiary companies: Nambawan Biotech GmbH (Halle, Germany) and UAB Nomads (Vilnius, Lithuania).

<http://nomadbioscience.com>

Anti-Corruption Research and Education Centre in Kyiv, Ukraine (ACREC) is the first Interdisciplinary Research and Education Centre, where corruption is studied as a socio-political phenomenon. Based at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, ACREC provides short-term and long-term training and research programmes, aimed to prepare a new generation of Ukrainian professionals in the anti-corruption field as well as to conduct high-quality interdisciplinary research for good governance and sustainable state building in the country.

<http://www.ukma.edu.ua/eng/index.php/research/centres/interdisciplinary-anti-corruption-research-and-education-centre>