

HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN

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Concept



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♿ **Eingang:**
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I. Type and scope of the overall project

The project organizes bilateral seminars between the Humboldt University Berlin on the one hand and the partner faculty of a Central or Eastern European university on the other

- (1). The overall program is based on the principles of project studies. Independent student work is in the foreground
- (2). Scientific supervision will be provided by the teaching staff from the faculty
- (3). Each seminar has an overarching topic that is jointly determined by both partner faculties, which is to be treated in a comparative legal manner and gives students the opportunity to acquire a certificate of achievement (seminar certificate) required in their course of study through a scientific contribution.
- (4). The topics of the certain seminar groups are coordinated in such a way that, over time, a basis for comparison of different legal systems will be developed, at least in basic questions and individual sub-areas

1. Conducting bilateral seminars

From the German point of view, the aim of the bilateral seminars is to add a comparative law, project-oriented dimension to the course. The meetings are intended to arouse understanding for the social and legal changes in Central and Eastern Europe, impart basic knowledge of another legal system, thereby at the same time promote the critical examination of one's own legal system and make an overall contribution to the development of a common European legal culture.

The number of universities from Central and Eastern Europe participating in the project varies. The following have recently participated as exchange partners:

- the Faculty of Law of the Latvian University (LU) Riga
- the Faculty of Law of Ivane Javakishvili State University (TSU) Tbilisi
- the Faculty of Law of the Taras Shevchenko University of Kiev
- the Faculty of Law of the Russian-Armenian University of Yerevan (Slavonic)
- the Law Faculty of the Eötvös Lóránd University (ELTE) Budapest
- the Faculty of Law of Charles University in Prague
- the Faculty of Law of the University of Białystok

2. Student project study

The implementation of the program is based on the idea of project studies. On the German side, two student project managers are regularly responsible for the design of the individual exchange seminars, from the selection of the participants to the scientific and organizational preparation to the organization of the workshop itself up to the settlement of travel and subsistence expenses.

The idea of student project design has also met with approval at the partner faculties, especially among the students. The aim is a mirror-image organizational structure and intensive cooperation right from the preparatory stage. The seminar language is German or English.

3. Scientific supervision

The project was initiated by Professors Krauss (headed the Chair for Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure Law and Criminology in the 1990s) and Schlink (was Chair of Public Law until 2009 and is currently retired). Prof. Blankenagel, established the connection to the Linguistic University Moscow (MGLU), whereby this cooperation relationship unfortunately expired at the end of the 90s. Prof. Dr. Bernd Heinrich (now: University of Tübingen) was in charge of the project until 2015. The head of the project is currently Prof. Dr. Martin Heger, chairholder of Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure Law, European Criminal Law and modern legal history at the Humboldt University Berlin. The exchange program is very popular with students and a wide variety of professorships, primarily those of criminal and public law, are involved in its content.

4. Thematic and methodological limitation of the seminars

Each seminar deals with an overarching topic, predominantly - corresponding to the research area of the professors involved - with references to public law, criminal law and - more recently - civil law, commercial law and procedural law. The topic should be of general relevance for the countries concerned and take into account their different legal traditions. The European unification process is to be critically reflected on using concrete, practice-oriented questions. Problems of European and national constitutional law, migration, minority policy and internal security arise. The topics of the individual seminar groups are to be coordinated in such a way that at least basic questions and individual sub-areas are compared over time can develop on the basis of different legal systems.

II. The concept of exchange seminars

1. Bilateral cooperation

The cooperation with the Eastern European partners is as equal as possible. Ideally, this creates a mirror-image organization on the part of the partner faculty. A division of the seminar into a German and a foreign part corresponds to the bilateral character. Both seminars of one week each follow one another and are linked by a joint trip. The participants (around 20) come equally from both countries and are selected on site by the student organization team.

2. Student responsibility and professional support

Both the content and the organizational responsibility lie with a student team; one or two tutors selected by the student organizers are involved in the preparation of the content. The scientific management of the 14-day seminars lies with these tutors.

3. Working in small groups

The scientific work takes place in working groups (workshops) with equal representation, which discuss individual aspects of the selected subject area on the basis of the seminar presentations prepared by the students. These are made in a preparatory phase and their composition will remain until the end of the project. A tutor is assigned to each of them as workshop leader; he is either a lawyer with a university degree or (especially in the foreign faculties) an advanced, scientifically committed student.

4. Intensive preparation

The bilateral seminar is the highlight of the project. At least three months beforehand, an intensive preparation phase starts in which the working group works out its topics in joint meetings or in personal discussions with its tutor, contacts the corresponding working group in the partner country and discusses the seminar schedule. A collection of materials (reader) will be created as a working basis for all participants in each partner country.

5. Social framework

Intensive social contact between those involved is crucial for the success of the bilateral seminars. It is realized through joint travel, joint accommodation, meals and cultural activities. Joint accommodation in particular appears to be desirable. On the one hand, it accelerates organizational processes and facilitates cooperation; on the other hand, it reduces communication difficulties and promotes personal contacts. Overall, the community-oriented approach leads to a deeper understanding of a foreign host country and provides important impulses for the assessment of social and legal problems.

6. Journal

After completing the 14-day exchange seminar, each group creates an international journal. In it, the course of the seminar is documented with scientific abstracts, summaries of the excursions, lectures and discussions and reports on the cultural framework program and individual personal experiences.

III. Financing

Since 1997, the project has been financed as a "network" for the most part with third-party funds (more than EUR 500,000 in total). Among the numerous donors on the German side - in addition to the Volkswagen Foundation with the Jurextra project - above all the Robert Bosch Foundation (until 2002) and the Meyer Struckmann Foundation (2003 - 2021) here should be mentioned. The Law Faculty of the HU has taken over the travel expenses for the tutors for several years. The university and the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) as well as the IRZ (German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation) have already contributed with grants. A considerable portion comes from student own funds. The partner universities make every effort to continue the exchange and to provide financial support where possible.