

**MODUS International Conference**

**Recognition Culture in Higher Education. International Perspectives on  
Lifelong Learning and Student Mobility**

**11-12 December 2023, Bonn, GSI Conference Center**



# **Promoting Virtual Exchange in Teacher Education through Cooperation and Training of University Lecturers – the Project “Lehramt.International” at University of Education Weingarten**

**Session 3 – Transforming mobility through virtual exchange 12/12/2023;  
10.00–11.00 a.m.**





# Agenda

- Political and professional background: Why internationalization of teacher education?
- Project framework: How to promote Virtual Exchange (VE) as part of internationalization of teacher education?
- Project activities: What strategies and activities are being carried out?
- Project achievements: What are the outcomes?
- Challenges & lessons learnt within the project: What are the experiences so far?



# Political and professional background: Why internationalization of teacher education?

## Professional key competencies of teachers:

- Dealing with culturally heterogeneous learners
  - Manage linguistic and cultural diversity, understand prejudices/stereotypes and educate for justice, peace and tolerance  
(KMK, 2000; KMK, 2004/2019)



## For teacher training, this implies:

- Guaranteeing the acquisition of key competencies  
(Bildungsplan Baden-Württemberg, 2016)



**Intercultural experience is indispensable!**

(HRK, 2013)

# Political and professional background: Why internationalization of teacher education?



## Possibilities for intercultural experience within teacher training:

- Internationalization abroad: Semester / internship abroad
- Internationalization@home: Intercultural / international / virtual learning opportunities



## Challenges for the organization of teacher training:

- (Non)-Flexibility of curricula, support of professionalization, intercultural and digital competences of university staff, semester times, language, financing, recognition, etc.



DAAD Germany launched **project “Lehramt.International”**



# Political and professional background: Why internationalization of teacher education?



University of Education Weingarten (UEW)  
receive **project funding**

## Background UWE

- University of education: Mainly **teacher training** programs
- 3.100 students in total (2023): **2.130 teacher students** (2023)
- Student exchange: **40 outgoing** students; **20 Incoming** students (2023)



# Project framework: How to promote VE as part of internationalization of teacher education?



## Initial situation/hurdles at UEW

- Internationalization abroad & at home on site -> Pandemic **promotes online formats**
- Back to onsite teaching -> **Risk of losing** all online formats
- Promising experience but little expertise -> **Support required** for professional realization



**Idea:** Pilot project to try out and establish VE as part of internationalization at home

# Project framework: How to promote VE as part of internationalization of teacher education?



## Pilot Project:

- **Funding** by: German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
- **Time** frame: 2023-2024 (second project phase)
- One project **goal**: Foster internationalization at home through Virtual Exchange (VE) together with six partner Universities
- **VE**: learning opportunities in which learners with different cultural backgrounds are guided to learn together online by means of different methods (O'Dowd, 2023)





# Project activities: What strategies and activities are being carried out?

## Strategies and activities within the project:

- **Inspire and motivate** for the goal to establish VE:  
→ **kick-off meeting, good practice...**
- Facilitating getting to know each other and **making contacts**:  
→ **networking week, zoom meetings...**
- Learning and **training opportunities** as well as individual coaching:  
→ **networking week and further trainings/coachings...**
- Enabling the **exchange of information**:  
→ **Newsletter, online platform...**
- Create a contact and **support structure**:  
→ **project staff from University of Education Weingarten**



# Project achievements: What are the outcomes?



## Outcomes: VE

- **Four VEs** in winter semester 23/24;  
**one as BiP**
- **Three VEs** (maybe one BiP) are in planning for summer semester 2024

## Outcomes: more general

- Two further international lecturers engaged and five lecturers from UEW
- One newly conformed student exchange agreement



# Project achievements: VEs running in the winter semester 2023/24



| Project: ILaP+                                                                       | Project: ILaP+                                                                                                          | Project: ILaP+                                                                                     | Project: ILaP+                                                                                                         | Project: ILaP+                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Partners &amp; Lecturers:</b> PHW & all partner Unis; Gabriella von Lieres        | <b>Partners &amp; Lecturers:</b> PHW & UFSC, Sabine Lang                                                                | <b>Partners &amp; Lecturers:</b> PHW & UFSC; Dr. Schweigkofler-Kuhn & Prof. Weininger              | <b>Partners &amp; Lecturers:</b> PHW, ULE, UdeC, UoB; Prof. Theilmann, Dr. Fernandes-Raga; Prof. Arenas; Prof. Villard | <b>Partners &amp; Lecturers:</b> PHW & Sakhnin College; Gabriella von Lieres & Dr. Manal Yazbak Abu                                             |
| <b>Title of course &amp; Credit points:</b> Building Bridges across Cultures; 3 ECTS | <b>Title of course &amp; Credit points:</b> Globalisierung und Kultur als Herausforderung für Lernen und Lehren; 3 ECTS | <b>Title of course &amp; Credit points:</b> Phonetik, Phonologie und Grammatik für DaF/DaZ; 3 ECTS | <b>Title of course &amp; Credit points:</b> Observing and learning from the past to protect our future: water; 3 ECTS  | <b>Title of course &amp; Credit points:</b> Advanced Foreign Language Teaching Culture: Integrating the SDGs & Culture in EFL classroom; 3 ECTS |
| <b>Field/Subject:</b> English; Education                                             | <b>Field/Subject:</b> Education; German as a Foreign Language                                                           | <b>Field/Subject:</b> German                                                                       | <b>Field/Subject:</b> Physics                                                                                          | <b>Field/Subject:</b> English                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Semester turnus:</b> every semester                                               | <b>Semester turnus:</b> every semester                                                                                  | <b>Semester turnus:</b> winter semester                                                            | <b>Semester turnus:</b> winter semester                                                                                | <b>Semester turnus:</b> every winter semester                                                                                                   |
| <b>Teaching language:</b> English                                                    | <b>Teaching language:</b> German                                                                                        | <b>Teaching language:</b> German                                                                   | <b>Teaching language:</b> English                                                                                      | <b>Teaching language:</b> English                                                                                                               |
| <b>Type of VE:</b> synchron only                                                     | <b>Type of VE:</b> synchron & asynchron                                                                                 | <b>Type of VE:</b> synchron & asynchron                                                            | <b>Type of VE:</b> BiP (synchron, asynchron, physical)                                                                 | <b>Type of VE:</b> BiP (synchron, asynchron, physical)                                                                                          |

# Project achievements: VEs planned for summer semester 2024



| Project: ILaP+                                                                                                                                           | Project: ILaP+                                                                                               | Project: ILaP+                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Partners &amp; Lecturers:</b> PHW & UFSC; Gabriella von Lieres & Dr. Rosane Silveira                                                                  | <b>Partners &amp; Lecturers:</b> PHW & Sakhnin; Prof. Massler & Dr. Manal Yasbak                             | <b>Partners &amp; Lecturers:</b> PHW & NOVA; Dr. Spägele & Prof. Chamberlin |
| <b>Title of course &amp; Credit points:</b><br>Advanced Foreign Language Teaching Culture: Integrating the SDGs and Culture in the EFL classroom; 3 ECTS | <b>Title of course &amp; Credit points:</b><br>Advanced Literary Studies: Multicultural Literature; 3/4 ECTS | <b>Title of course &amp; Credit points:</b><br>to be announced              |
| <b>Field/Subject:</b> English                                                                                                                            | <b>Field/Subject:</b> English                                                                                | <b>Field/Subject:</b> Chemistry                                             |
| <b>Semester turnus:</b> every summer semester                                                                                                            | <b>Semester turnus:</b> summer semester 2024                                                                 | <b>Semester turnus:</b> summer semester 2024                                |
| <b>Teaching language:</b> English                                                                                                                        | <b>Teaching language:</b> English                                                                            | <b>Teaching language:</b> English                                           |
| <b>Type of VE:</b> synchron & asynchron                                                                                                                  | <b>Type of VE:</b> synchron & asynchron                                                                      | <b>Type of VE:</b> synchron & asynchron (probably BiP)                      |



# Challenges & learnings within the project: What are the experiences so far?

## Challenges

- Personal hurdles: motivation, interest, willingness, ...
- Capability hurdles: didactic skills, technical skills, language skills ...
- Organisational hurdles: semester times, shared learning platforms, data protection regulations ...
- Structural hurdles: curriculum, recognition for academic achievement ...

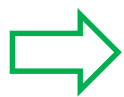


# Challenges & learnings within the project: What are the experiences so far?



## Lessons learnt:

- Personal hurdles: role models, opportunities to meet (in person), personal and thematic interest...
- Capability hurdles: training, coaching, work shadowing, offer language support options / tandems...
- Organisational hurdles: flexibility, support through additional staff (Hiwis), support by team / superiors...
- Structural hurdles: commitment of all stakeholders involved, facilitation through ministerial decisions, require a lot of time...



**Acceptance of certain given limitations**  
**Financial and human resources are helpful**  
(e.g. coordination office for VE)

# Your questions...





Thank you for your attention!

