Hybrid Mobility Experiences: Translating Ukrainian Literature on the War in Donbas with German and Ukrainian Students

Oksana Molderf, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv
General conditions

DAAD funding programme: East-West Dialogue

Project budget: 39.502,48 Euro

Project duration: 12 months (2021)

Participants: 10 Ukrainian and 10 German students
Concept background

...75 years of peace in Europe...

...Ukraine is Europe too and we have a war since 2014...
Project goals

- To make German readers aware of the problems of the ongoing war in Ukraine;

- to have a significant selection of modern Ukrainian authors translated into German for the first time and to publish it as an anthology;

- to promote professional cooperation between German and Ukrainian academics;

- to promote academic exchange and networking between German and Ukrainian students;

- to provide German students with professional expertise and relevant contacts that will help them expanding their future professional focus by Ukraine-specific topics;

- to establish a permanent faculty partnership between the Faculty of Philology of University of Leipzig and the Faculty of Foreign Languages of Ivan Franko National University of Lviv.
Steps in the project

1. Selection of participants
2. Kick-off meeting (getting to know each other, presentation of the work steps)
3. Working sessions (presentation of texts and authors and justification of the selection; workshop discussions)
4. Workshop in Lviv
5. Working sessions (preparation of the anthology for printing)
6. Workshop in Leipzig
7. Book presentation
Hybrid mobility

Online
- Selection of participants
- Kick-off meeting
- Working sessions
- Cooperation of the project team

Offline
- Workshop in Lviv+online
- Workshop in Leipzig
- Book presentation in Leipzig
- Enjoying real communication and exchange
Online

About 700 emails
Never less than 90 min Zoom
Offline
Positive effects of hybrid mobility

- Online meetings save time and money for travelling, it helps to avoid overstretching of the project budget;

- Flexibility in formats makes it easier to respond to the challenges of the circumstances (covid-19, war etc.);

- Offline phases were received very positively after the tiredness of online life/studying and have become the highlight of the project;

- The country studies component could be preserved; concrete encounters with the objects that have a direct connection to the project topic could be ensured.
It was a pleasure to be able to attend this project!
And we are very happy about our book!
“Of course, that was very emotional work. Nevertheless, it was shocking to have seen the war so clearly through the books”, Maximilian Weise, Bachelor student of Eastern Slavic Studies (UoL).

Impressions from the project

„Due to the cooperation with colleagues from abroad and the ongoing mentorship of teachers, I gained valuable scientific experience, was able to fulfil my professional translation potential in practice. Moreover, within the project I met a lot of wonderful interesting people we still keep in touch with and that is one of the most precious things in the international projects”, Sofia Hreskiv, Master student of Intercultural Communication and Translation (IFNUL).
Future plans
Thank you for your attention!