Ulm University is receiving funding by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for the expansion of international partnerships

Ulm University is receiving 850,000 Euros for the expansion of international partnerships. The federal funds were distributed by the German academic exchange service (DAAD) in the frame of the programme “Strategic Partnerships and Thematic Networks”. Within the next four years, in this way, the relationships with the partner universities in China, Russia and Egypt are further expanded.

“With this money, we could further deepen the projects of cooperation together with our foreign partner universities and in this way really stimulate international collaboration”, Dr Lücker, director of the International Office of Ulm University explains. The joint projects are funded reciprocally by the partners.

According to the co-applicant for this project, Professor Ulrich Stadtmüller, teaching and Research will profit equally from the expansion of these strategic partnerships. The Vice President for Teaching and International Affairs explains: “We want to run joint master and PhD programmes with these very good universities. Their aim is also to be more internationally competitive by the more intensive exchange in research.”

Focuses of the cooperation are civilization diseases such as diabetes and cardiac diseases as well as research questions from molecular medicine and on energy storage and transformation.

The “Strategic Partnership” is titled “Serving the community – educating the global world”. “Of course we pursue a certain educational mandate by the intensification of our international relationships. In the end, from a global point of view, also the community can profit from this”, Dr Lücker explains. During the first year of funding, the connection of the bilateral relationships is focused on; already in the second year, there will be joint meetings of all partners from Russia, Egypt and China.

For cooperation, established, internationally highly renowned partner universities with which there has been a long-term and successful partnership were chosen. Strategic partners of Ulm University in the frame of the programme are Southeast University (SEU) in Nanjing and Shandong University in Jinan. The partner universities in Russia and Egypt are Lomonossov Moscow State University and Cairo University.

For recruiting students, PhD students and young researchers, such strategic partnership are of significant importance”, professor Kay Gottschalk from the Institute of Experimental Physics confirms. “By this international cooperation which is very successful already now, we are also going to strengthen areas such as bio and nano sciences in teaching and research”, the physicist explains further on. A good example for this is the international course of study Advanced Materials located at this institute, which is very popular among foreign students. All in all, the percentage of foreign students at Ulm University is 12 per cent now.
Moreover, the selection of the partner countries fits well to the strategy of internationalization of the federal state and is of significant importance also externally. Not least China, Russia and Egypt are important trade partners for the whole of Germany and the companies in the region which are strong in export”, Professor Karl Joachim Ebeling, president of the university makes clear. Moreover, such exchange programmes bind international specialists to the region. As highly qualified employees they are very welcome at the job market here. Professor Ebeling is sure that a stronger internationalization also helps the regional economy in this way.

But also for students and young researchers of Ulm University, this is a good opportunity to gain international experience and to think out of the box”, the director of the international Office thinks. Dr Lücker is proud that they succeeded in receiving such a high-quality international funding programme as the only university in Baden Württemberg besides Hohenheim University. Only 21 of the originally 145 programme applications were granted by the German Academic Exchange service.

(press release 13/02/2013 by Andrea Weber-Tuckermann)