

Press release

Evangelische Hochschule Berlin (EHB)

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EHB launches international project TRACE for trauma-informed higher education with Ukraine

With the TRACE project, the Protestant University of Applied Sciences Berlin (Evangelische Hochschule Berlin) is strengthening its international collaboration in higher education. Together with Lviv Polytechnic National University, innovative teaching formats focusing on trauma-sensitive and diversity-oriented counseling are being developed.

Evangelische Hochschule Berlin (EHB) has received funding from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for its new project TRACE (Trauma-Responsive Approach for Counseling and Empowerment). The aim of the project is to support the reconstruction of the Ukrainian higher education system in cooperation with Lviv Polytechnic National University – with a particular focus on trauma-sensitive counseling and diversity competence.

The four-year project will begin in July 2025 and is funded through the DAAD program “German-Ukrainian Higher Education Network,” supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The program promotes the integration of Ukrainian universities into the European Higher Education Area and contributes to rebuilding efforts in the wake of the Russian war of aggression.

Objectives and Content of the TRACE Project.

TRACE takes a multidimensional approach and is aimed at both students and faculty members from both institutions. The plan is to jointly develop innovative, English-language teaching, learning, and publication formats on trauma-sensitive and diversity-oriented counseling—offered both digitally and in person.

Key components of the project include joint teaching at both universities, reciprocal mobility programs for students and faculty, virtual exchange formats with standardized ECTS recognition, annual International Summer Schools at EHB starting in 2026, the establishment of a sustainable alumni network, and the implementation of train-the-trainer programs.

The developed content will be permanently integrated into the curricula of both universities. In addition, TRACE will create synergies with existing initiatives, such as EHB’s DAAD-funded project BRIDGES, which is establishing an international focus within social work studies.

Project Leadership and Implementation.

TRACE is led by Dr. Alla Koval, Professor of Social Work Methods, and Dr. Dietrun Lübeck, Professor of Psychology. “We are pleased to contribute to academic resilience and international solidarity through TRACE—and thus also to the future of Europe,” says Prof. Dr. Koval.

The project is coordinated administratively by the International Office of EHB.

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