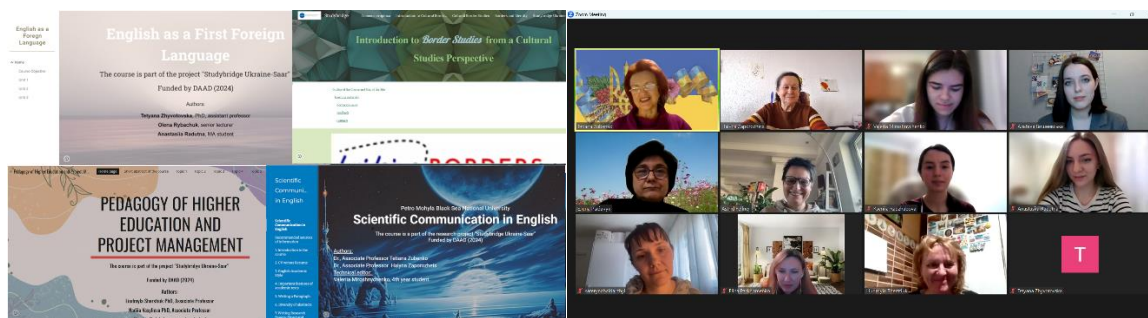


Phase 3 (2024)

At the beginning of 2024, many lecturers and students from PMBSNU were still in different places, and even for those physically in Mykolaiv, the uncertainty of the situation and location of the University close to the battlefield did not allow for “regular” teaching, so most courses were taught online. To overcome the challenges that Ukrainian higher education had, the English group continued working on the digitalization of the main courses for the students in English Philology as well as on the revision and extension of already prepared theoretical courses in the first and second phases due to the changes in the curricula. The previously developed courses were taught, the course materials were expanded, i.e. further interactive activities and videos were added to the ones already available. In Phase 3, we aimed to expand the audience for some of the courses and thus developed courses for PhD students, continued working on important courses for the BA and MA levels in English Philology. The following courses were digitalized during this period:

- Business English (BA program)
- English as a First Foreign Language, B2+, C1 levels (Part 1)
- Introduction to Border Studies from a Cultural Studies Perspective (MA program)
- Pedagogy of Higher Education and Project Management (MA program)
- Scientific Communication in English (PhD program)

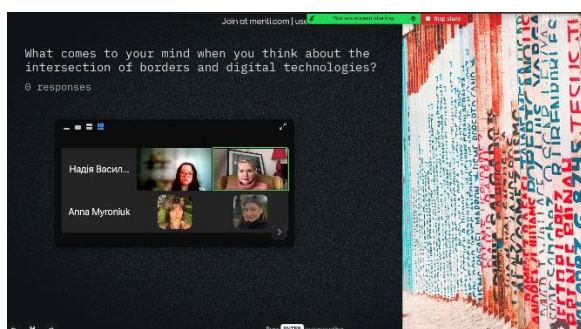
The expansion of the project scope in July–December 2024 was possible thanks to the supplement to the approved project and contributed significantly to the program and specific project objectives. Several new measures were introduced within the supplement to the project: virtual teaching and working meetings at Saarland University.



Virtual Teaching

To meet the demand for new courses in Digital Humanities, lecturers from Mykolaiv who have fled and now are at Saarland University taught virtually two courses together with their colleagues in Ukraine. The course “Digital Cultural Studies and AI” focused on the production and construction of culture in the digital age, and the course “Intercultural Business Communication and AI” examined the dynamic relationship between intercultural communication and AI and explored how AI technologies are revolutionizing intercultural communication in various domains.

Thus, in 2024 the Studybridge team developed, revised, expanded, and implemented virtual and hybrid courses for the partnering Ukrainian higher education institution which enabled students of Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University to continue their studies. Online scholarships allowed indigent students to continue attending courses and to broaden their research and project participation skills.



Work Meetings and Workshops at Saarland University (July, October 2024)

During the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, it is more important than ever to maintain the existing contacts and establish new ones, to enrich the cooperation between the scholars who are currently located in Ukraine, the displaced scholars, and colleagues abroad. That is why work meetings and workshops within the project were planned to enhance and expand the existing collaboration. Such work meetings conducted in offline and hybrid formats are fundamental for the success of the project. As onsite meetings could not be conducted in Mykolaiv, the in-person meetings and hybrid workshops at Saarland University provided an opportunity to implement the necessary project activities.

Hybrid workshops, onsite working meetings, and individual consultations of Ukrainian participants were organized in July and October at Saarland University. The Ukrainian lecturers were given individual possibility to observe the classes, discuss the curricula of the English Department and methods of teaching foreign languages and literature with experts from Saarland University. The expertise and training workshop for the professionalization of digital teaching was provided by two experts from Saarland University in a hybrid format. Graduate Translator Eva Nossem conducted the workshop on Digital Teaching at Saarland University and Dr. Elisabeth Venohr presented Best Practices in Digital Learning Settings. The experts discussed contexts and factors that influence digital teaching, introduced different learning apps, educational escape rooms, and provided examples of their usage in foreign language digital teaching and learning settings. In July, the Ukrainian guests visited the University of Luxembourg (Belval Campus) and had a tour of the Learning Center. During the expertise and training workshop for the professionalization of digital teaching in October, the participants could also present their courses (BA, MA, and PhD levels) and receive first-hand expertise and recommendations for improving and implementing their work.



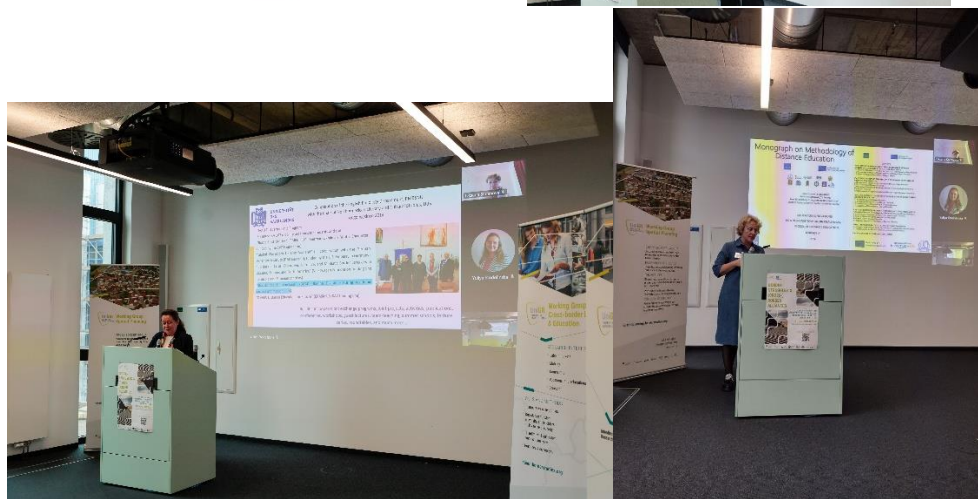
Studybridge Team at Ukrainian Days in Saarland (September 2024)

In September 2024, Prof. Dr. Astrid M. Fellner, Dr. Halyna Zaporozhets, Dr. Yuliya Stodolinska, and Dr. Svitlana Kot presented the Studybridge project at the Scientific networking conference of the German-Ukrainian Academic Society “Ukrainian Days in Saarland.” The team summarized the results of Studybridge and other joint international multidisciplinary projects and outlined the prospects for future cooperation.



Presentation of Project Results at the UniGR-CBS Jubilee conference (October 2024)

The Studybridge project team organized the panel “From “Biopolitics of Borders” to “Border Chronotopes”: 10 Years of Partnership between Saarbrücken and Mykolaiv” at the UniGR-CBS Jubilee Conference: 10 Years of Border Studies in the Greater Region “Border Struggles and (Cross-)Border Alliances.” This panel presented the prominent international and interdisciplinary research and teaching projects that step-by-step helped build strong cross-border alliances between the scholars and students of the two universities.



Visit of the First Vice-Rector of PMBSNU Prof. Dr. Kotlyar at Saarland University

During his visit to Saarbrücken in November–December 2024, the Vice-Rector of PMBSNU Prof. Dr. Yuriy Kotlyar participated in important meetings with the Vice-President for Internationalization and European Relations at Saarland University Prof. Dr. Dominik Brodowski, the Chair of North American Literary and Cultural Studies Prof. Dr. Astrid M. Fellner, the Scientific Coordinator of the Uni-GR Center for Border Studies at Saarland University Dipl.-Üb. Eva Nossem, and the Coordinator for Mobility with Eastern Europe Dr. Ekaterina Klüh. The representatives of the two universities discussed the current results of the Studybridge project and the possibilities for expanding collaboration not only between the different faculties of the two universities but also with other Ukrainian universities.



Prof. Dr. Yuriy Kotlyar also presented the documentary “Mykolaiv. The 303rd Day of the War. Memories of a Historian about the Recent Present” for students and staff of the university. The film screening prompted a lively scientific discussion, addressing the challenges of Mykolaiv during the war, the problems of rebuilding Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University.

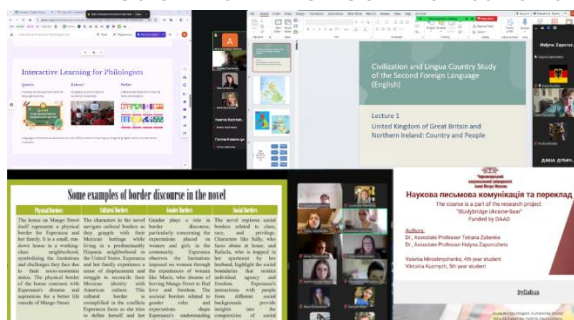


Extension of Phase 3 (2025)

The increasingly critical situation in Ukraine, especially the question of sufficient energy supply, shows how important this project remains for teaching and thus for students and academics in Ukraine. In January–June 2025, we extended the measures of the main project description for 2024 and of the supplement to the project description for July–December 2024. The extended measure of the main project “Grants for students” allowed indigent students to continue attending classes and to enhance their research and project participation skills despite the limitations caused by the war.

During the final phase, the English group continued the work on supporting the educational process in Ukraine by revising, digitalizing, and virtually teaching the courses that are vital for the BA, MA, and PhD programs at PMBSNU. The following courses were digitalized and/or revised during this period:

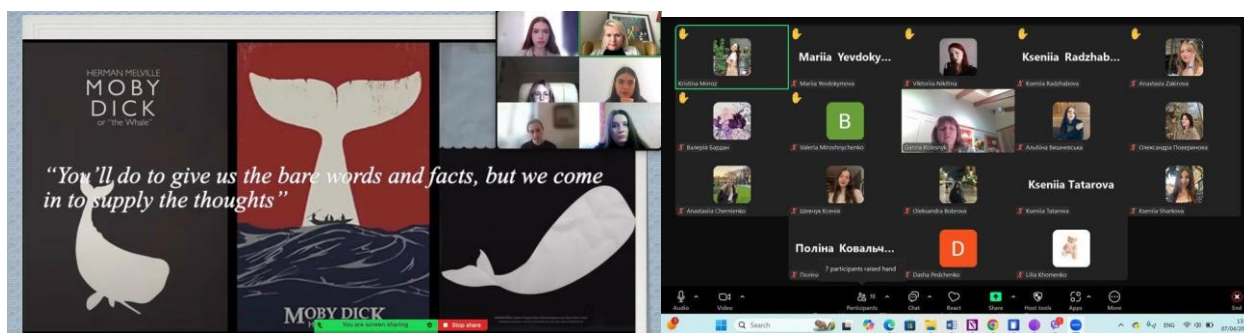
- English as a First Foreign Language, B2+, C1 levels (Part 2)
- “Civilization and Lingua Country Study of the Second Foreign Language (English)” (BA program)
- “Scientific Written Communication and Translation (in English)” (MA program)



Virtual Team Teaching

Cross-border team teaching and course revision was implemented by adding the new joint course “Introduction to Border Studies from a Cultural Studies Perspective” to the MA program. This course was digitalized in 2024. In the second semester of the academic year 2024–25, it was taught in a hybrid format by a German-Ukrainian team (Prof. Dr. Astrid M. Fellner from Saarland University, one teacher from PMBSNU currently in Ukraine, and one Ukrainian teacher currently in Europe). This course was planned as a pilot collaborative course at PMBSNU. The acquired team-teaching experience may be later implemented at other universities in case of extending the scope of the project and adding new educational partners.

Besides that, virtual teaching for students of PMBSNU was implemented by Ukrainian teachers who are now in Europe together with the teachers currently in Ukraine. In the second semester of the academic year 2024–25, the following courses were part of team teaching: “Outline of American Literature,” “Anglophone Literatures and Film,” “Civilization and Lingua Country Study of the Second Foreign Language (English).”



Study Visits at Saarland University (April–May 2025)

In April–May 2025, the Chair of North American Literary and Cultural Studies and the UniGR-Center for Border Studies at Saarland University hosted 6 scholars from PMBSNU as part of the Studybridge Ukraine-Saar Study Visits. The training organized as part of the planned working meetings consisted of an expertise and training workshop for the professionalization of digital teaching, individual consultations with experts from Saarland University, and academic activities tailored to the field of expertise of each participant. The Ukrainian lecturers had an excellent opportunity to observe the teaching practices, to discuss the curricula of the English Department and methods of teaching foreign languages and literature with experts from Saarland University. The participants also presented their courses, discussed the current achievements and challenges of the jointly developed, digitalized, and taught courses, and received first-hand expertise and recommendations for improving and implementing their work during individual consultations.



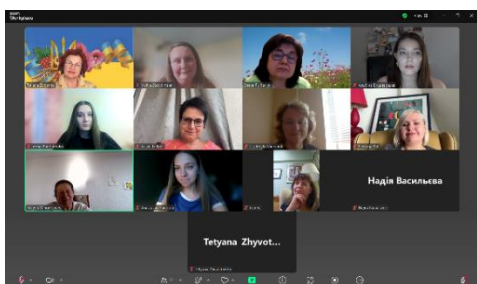


Project Meetings

Within the framework of the Studybridge project, regular online, hybrid, and onsite working meetings fostered an engaging interactive environment to plan and fulfill educational activities, support the digitalization processes, and communicate with experts across borders. In May 2025, during the Study visits at Saarland University, the project team organized a final onsite working meeting in Saarbrücken where participants from all three phases summarized the results of the three-year project and discussed the future opportunities for collaboration.



At the end of June 2025, the participants of the third phase of the Studybridge project met online to present the courses that were digitalized during this period and to share the impressions and knowledge gained during the Study visits at Saarland University. The working meetings promoted closer interactions between the faculties in teaching and research as well as long-term cooperation between the two countries in the field of Humanities.



Student Feedback

The feedback from the students at PMBSNU has been overwhelmingly positive. They profited from online courses because they could embark on their studies independent of their location at the moment and have constant access to the course materials. The teaching models dedicated to foreign language studies developed jointly by all project participants contributed to the networking of Ukrainian and German scholars and students. The project strengthened cohesion despite great geographical distances and was also excellently suited to facilitate a long-term study and work perspective on a European level.



STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

- “I enhanced my knowledge in the usage of interactive platforms such as Quizlet, Educaplay, Interacty, LearningApps, etc.”
- “Thanks to the DAAD financial scholarship, I was able to improve my professional skills as a tutor. Since I believe that you should always learn and develop, I have purchased and successfully completed several courses and webinars on teaching English.”
- “The DAAD financial scholarship enabled me to purchase a laptop, which has been invaluable for my online studies. Having access to this essential tool significantly facilitated my educational process, allowing me to work more efficiently with various documents, files, and web pages.”
- “This project has given me a lot of inspiration for further exploration of how different courses can be rightly digitalized, thus short but informative and interesting.”
- “I would love to see more initiatives like this. Projects like Studybridge build a strong sense of community among professors, lecturers, and students, and they offer a unique opportunity to contribute to something meaningful and engaging.”



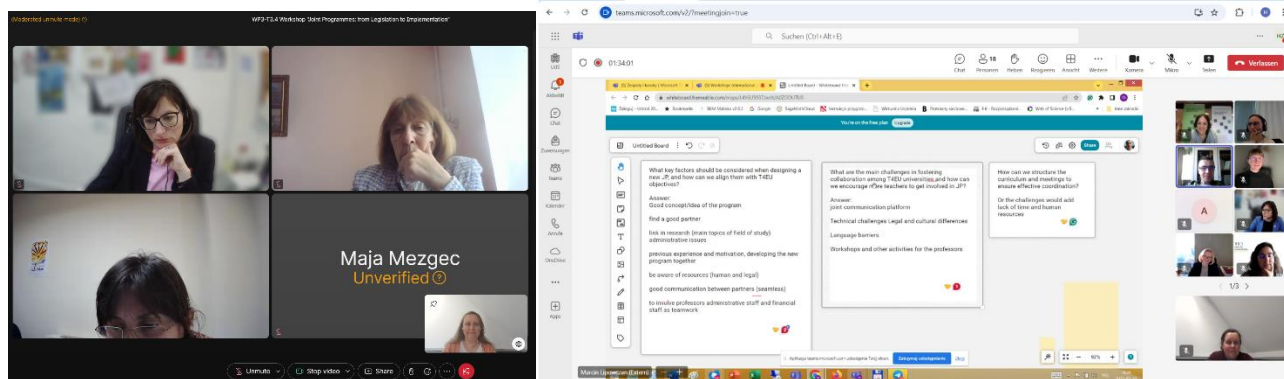
STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

- “The DAAD financial scholarship was a significant support during my studies. [...] This financial assistance created a favorable environment for learning and personal development.”
- “As a future educator (as I hope to be), this experience was truly enlightening. It was incredibly valuable to observe how educational programmes are structured and how different language skills can be effectively targeted to help students succeed.”
- “This experience deepened my understanding of the university education process and provided me with practical skills for my future career as an educator.”
- “The DAAD financial scholarship gave me the opportunity to continue my studies and apply for a language test, which was an essential step in my academic journey.”
- “Participation in the Studybridge Ukraine-Saar project was incredibly beneficial for my future career as a philologist and translator. [...] The project also deepened my understanding of interdisciplinary collaboration and how technology can complement linguistic and translation studies.”

Project Coordination and Consolidation of Results

The Studybridge project aimed to enhance long-term cross-border cooperation and to show how digital spaces bridge borders between academic traditions and different disciplines. During the concluding phase of the DAAD funding line Ukraine Digital, the Studybridge project coordinators at Saarland University continued to administrate the project, consolidated the already achieved results, strengthened and expanded the existing academic cooperation. To achieve the set aims, the project coordinators established the parameters that required further revision, development, and collaboration. They analyzed the acquired experiences and best practice cases of other successful international projects and alliances, which Saarland University and PMBSNU, as well as other German and Ukrainian

universities (i.e. Transform4Europe Alliance, DEFEP (Distance Education for Future (Erasmus+ KA2)), Eastern Partnership (DAAD), etc.) are involved in so as to outline the necessary measures for building long-lasting relationships.



The members of the project actively participated in conferences, workshops, and summer schools in Germany, Ukraine, the US, and Spain to maintain the visibility of the project activities and to disseminate the project results. In the future, all this will provide a strong foundation for building the network of higher education institutions within Ukraine and internationally.

