

ARTEM KOKOSH ▶▶

Lviv Polytechnic National University

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4785-2190>

Scientific and Educational Life of Ukrainians in Bavaria

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Abstract

The phenomenon of the Ukrainian national minority is well known in Bavaria. Despite the noticeable presence in Landtag, local universities, Bavarian Academy of Sciences, diplomatic offices and other institutions, they are not the most populous minority in the region. Moreover, in the early 2000s there was the Ukrainian school, Technical-Husbandry Institute and University which had the legal acts to offer education to not only Ukrainians but also to people of other nationalities. What opportunities are available to Ukrainians in Bavaria to benefit from favourable conditions and how is the local authority handling the matter of the Ukrainian institutions? The main objective of the research is to identify the main periods of Ukrainian presence in scientific and educational institutions in Bavaria, as well as research their status in the region. Moreover, the support of these institutions to Ukrainian refugees in 2022 will be studied. Examining the Ukrainian refugee situation in Europe, the article will also evaluate the utility of these institutions. As a final point, the study presents the capacity of these institutions to affect the integration of students into society nowadays.

Keywords: Ukrainians, national minority, refugees, Bavarian Ministries, university

Научная и образовательная жизнь украинцев в Баварии

Аннотация

В статье рассмотрен вопрос миграционного кризиса украинских беженцев в страны- Феномен украинского национального меньшинства хорошо известен в Баварии. Несмотря на заметное присутствие в Ландтаге, местных университетах, Баварской академии наук, дипломатических представительствах и других учреждениях, они не являются самым многочисленным меньшинством в регионе. Более того, в начале 2000-х годов здесь существовали украинская школа, ПТУ и университет, которые имели правовые акты, позволяющие обучать не только украинцев, но и людей других национальностей. Какие возможности есть у украинцев в Баварии, чтобы воспользоваться благоприятными условиями и как местная власть решает вопрос об украинских учреждениях? Основная цель исследования – выявить основные периоды присутствия украинцев в научных и образовательных учреждениях Баварии, а также изучить их статус в регионе. Более того, будет изучена поддержка этих учреждений украинским беженцам в 2022 году. Исследуя ситуацию с украинскими беженцами в Европе, в статье также будет оценена полезность этих институтов. И наконец, в исследовании представлена способность этих учреждений влиять на интеграцию студентов в общество в наши дни.

Ключевые слова: Украинцы, национальное меньшинство, беженцы, баварские министерства, университет

Introduction

Bavaria became the second home for Ukrainians fleeing World War II and trying to find the protection. Generations of Ukrainians living in Bavaria since 1945 as well as those who came to Germany later last century are the main part of the Ukrainian national minority. Hence, thousands Ukrainian refugee learners had a need to continue their studies in schools and universities. Since 1945 representatives of different scientific schools and professors of Ukrainian institutions in exile have established the unique Ukrainian educational and scientific centre in Bavaria that still continues its activity. Less than 80 years later Ukrainians met the same problem to find the protection in time of Russo-Ukrainian war and Germany was one of the countries hosting majority of refugees in 2022. As last century there

are many school-aged children and students of universities who need to continue study process.

Majority of Ukrainian learners and scholars in 2022 have found their temporary protection in Munich. This city was the centre of Ukrainian social life in 20th century when Ukrainians establish their educational, scientific, cultural, sport institutions and churches. Having received the official permit to provide educational process in Ukrainian, they still have the University where Ukrainian students come to study. The Ukrainian Free University is recognized and the problem of Ukrainian learners is well known in the land so that education and science of Ukrainians are of particular interest. Comparison of educational life of Ukrainians in Bavaria with the definition of displaced persons after World War II and in time of Russo-Ukrainian war shows all evolution of policy towards rights of displaced persons (DPs) to access to education.

Keeping policy of integration into German society through education, Bavarian Ministry of Science and Arts did not consider a need to give priority for particular conditions for the Ukrainian national minority or migrants. This was the main problem Ukrainian higher education in Bavaria has not received any financial support recently. The situation changed after Russian invasion to Ukraine in February 2022. Ukrainian students having residence and those who came to Germany fleeing the war were given additional opportunities to apply for universities and have scholarships. Such policy also changed the position towards the Ukrainian University in Bavarian educational system.

Formation of educational and scientific institutions of Ukrainians

After World War II, Bavaria became one of the main DP centers in the post-war Europe. A lot of Ukrainians tried to reach the region looking for better life in protection of American army. At the end of the war in Europe these people had the status of displaced persons and had to be repatriated to their previous places of residence. The risk of being back to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) was the main Ukrainians had in the post-war Europe. The life of DPs in Bavaria was characterized by the temporary condition of stay in camps. (Dr M.M., n.d., p. 174). The main part of Ukrainians

came to Bavaria from Bohemia and Moravia, the USSR and different parts of Germany.

One of the problems for the Ukrainian refugees was the choice of a city in Germany. Due to the fact that Augsburg was less damaged by the war than other cities, thousands Ukrainians came there housing in DP camps of Sommerkaserne and Haunstetten. In the latter, in the period from 1945 to 1947 the number of Ukrainians reached about 2 thousand people. However, in Sommerkaserne this indicator was twice larger. In the period from 1945 to 1949 almost 4 thousand Ukrainians with majority of young people lived there. In addition, there was a good food supply in the local camps (*DP camps Augsburg Papers 1945–1947*, 2017).

3 thousand refugees received protection in Munich and could establish their social, cultural and educational life in Karlsfeld camp. Due to the decision of American military administration to compactly accommodate Ukrainians scattered in 16 camps in Munich, Karlsfeld, in fact, was a small Ukrainian town. The camp administration, which was finally formed on August 14, 1945, consisted of 149 people and included 11 departments. In August 1945, in the DP camp lived 2,921 persons, among them were 2,303 Ukrainians. In a few weeks, at the beginning of September, the total number of refugees increased to 4,085, and the number of Ukrainians was 3,770. In autumn, Ukrainian DPs opened a kindergarten, public school, gymnasium, teacher's seminary, trade, tailoring, music, drama schools, an art college, driving courses and English language training in Karlsfeld (Vynytsky, 2001, p. 10–11). Moreover, a higher school of self-education, better known as People's University, also worked in the camp, which later became the first working place for scientists who arrived there. However, in May 1946, the camp was closed, and Ukrainians were housed in Berchtesgaden, Mittenwald and Freimann camps. Due to its proximity to Munich, the largest number of representatives of the academic community resided in the latter: in late spring 1946, there were about 6 thousand residents and most of them were Ukrainians.

One more centre of Ukrainian refugees was Bayreuth, a southern Bavarian city located 70 kilometers from Nuremberg in the Rother Main basin. Leopold Kaserne was the main camp for Ukrainians there and consisted of 25 three-storey brick barracks, which, at one time, had rooms for 30 soldiers and,

smaller in size, for senior officers and sub-senior officers. At some periods, the population of the camp was almost 4 thousand, with majority from Western Ukraine. Bayreuth, like many other Bavarian cities, was destroyed by the war: 471 people were killed in the air raids, 40 percent of public and 35 percent of residential buildings were destroyed (Lyktei, 1995, p. 16).

The number of Ukrainian young people of 200 thousand was the main reason to provide educational life in Bavaria. Moreover, there were enough professors and scientists who could teach young learners. In the capital city first meetings of professors took place in Maria Tomashivska's apartment at Johannisplatz 6 (now Max-Weberplatz). The rector's office on Johannisplatz was officially opened on December 1, 1946 (Kokosh, 2021, p. 52). In October 1945, the Rector of the Ukrainian University issued a commission to Professor Ivan Mirchuk to represent the University in American and German institutions. From the letters of contemporaries, the idea of the Ukrainian Free University was positively received by Bavarian government officials and in autumn 1945, the educational process began. In November 1945, the Senate instructed to submit for approval the curriculum in the current academic year and, at almost the same time, a memorandum was submitted to the Central Representation of Ukrainian Emigration in Frankfurt. In its turn, the Central Representation of Ukrainian Emigration recognized the University as an institution of the humanities (Kokosh, 2021, p. 54–55). At the end of the same year, the University was allowed to use partly a school at Versailerstrasse, 4.

Similar to Munich, the Ukrainian Technical and Husbandry Institute was planned to be open in Plattling. On June 12, 1945 in a wooden barrack on Grabenstrasse, the senate had decided to continue the educational training in Bavaria. However, realizing that the development of the Institute had to take place in more developed city with Ukrainian refugees, on June 18, 1945 the Senate decided to change the city for Regensburg. At the same time, a delegation of the Institute went to Munich, Augsburg and Nuremberg (Kokosh, 2018, p. 135). Having got the permission of American military administration the Institute began study process in December 1945. (Maruniak, 1985, p. 170–171). The structure of the institute in Bavaria was represented by five faculties of agronomy and forestry, engineering, economics, veterinary medicine (four-year programs of study) and pharmacy (a three-year

program). Formation of the Ukrainian University took place 79 kilometers from Munich – in Augsburg. No later than in September 1945, the process of creating Ukrainian High School University training began in Sommekasserne. Simple in their structure it consisted of historical and philological as well as natural and mathematical departments (Kokosh, 2021, p. 60).

Most of Ukrainian students lived in camps. The main camp for Ukrainian students was situated at Fürichstrasse, 53 in Ramerdorf district of Munich. The building of a German school, with meager maintenance and modest food supply, was a center of the Ukrainian student community in Munich. The camp was often the first stop for Ukrainians fleeing the Soviet occupation zone. In their needs students were supported by subsidies from the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and the International Refugee Organization, or aid of the Union of Ukrainian Student Organizations.

All schools that worked in DP camps till 1947 had to provide education for children of DPs and were not included to the educational system as German schools. The exception was Ukrainian school Ridna Shkola founded in 1967. This was the only school in Munich that could provide the official study process in Ukrainian. However, all the students of school should have attended lessons in German schools and in the afternoon they continued lessons in Ridna Shkola. When Ukraine has proclaimed the independence Ukrainian students also could study at school as well as children of the Ukrainian national minority. The building of the school situated at Isarring 11 was bought by Monsignor Yosyph Slipy (Ridna Shkola).

Policy towards education for Ukrainian migrants and refugees

As many other lands in Germany, Bavaria had already met the problem of refugees and adopted policy towards them. In the middle of 2021 Germany gave temporary protection for almost 1,24 million refugees and 233 thousand asylum seekers (UNCHR). In this statistics Bavaria had one of the leading places among the regions of housing and accommodation of refugees. Since Russian invasion to Ukraine in February 2022, the choice of Bavaria among Ukrainians was not the exception though Germany does not border Ukraine. In 2022 Germany was the second state after Poland in the EU to take in Ukrainian civilians and in 2023 it became the first one. Currently 1,034

million Ukrainian refugees stay in Germany, while in Poland 993 thousand (Refugees from Ukraine in the EU, 2023). Due to the survey of the German Institute for Economic Research, Institute for Employment Research and Ministry for Migration and Refugees in summer 2023, 44 percent of refugees wish to stay in Germany. In comparison with the same survey of summer 2022, there were 39 percent of those who would like to stay. Ukrainian refugees do not even consider integration courses to be the problem of their current temporary living. In total less than 20 percent of Ukrainian refugees had average or good knowledge of language on entering. Hence majority of them had to attend language training to stay on in Germany and receive job or enter university (*Close to half of Ukrainian refugees in Germany hope to stay*, 2023).

The waves of migrants and refugees have changed the number of population in Bavarian cities. Officially in Bavaria live 13,140 million people, 12,6 percent of them are foreigners. In the capital city of Munich live 1,5 million citizens with the main residence. In details 71,5 percent are Germans and 28,5 percent are non-Germans. It means all citizens are included in Germans statics, in spite of their nationality. Ukrainian migrants who received the residence in Bavaria coming there to study or to work represent foreigners (The Free State of Bavaria, 2023). In 2022 more than 152 thousand Ukrainians received temporary protection in Bavaria. They were housed in initial reception centers, collective accommodation centers and decentralized accommodation places.

Social conditions of all the Ukrainian refugees coming to the European Union since February 24, 2022 were regulated by the EU directive on the temporary protection introduced on March 4, 2022. Due to this document, Ukrainians received access to labor market, social welfare, medical care, education etc. The temporary protection was initially granted for a year and has been extended till 4 March 2024.

Some of refugees housed on Isarring. Till 2016 there was a Saturday school of the Ukrainian national minority in Munich. In 2017 the school began to work at the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church of Theothokos. There was an attempt to organize Ukrainian kindergarten in 2017, but due to requirements of Bavarian Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs, teachers working there should have had a German diploma, as a result no

one speaking Ukrainian and having the diploma of a German university was found. However, Ridna Shkola is a dormitory for Ukrainian students. A lot of those who study at the Ukrainian Free University live here. Also, many Ukrainian actors, writers or scientists who come to Munich stay at this place. Such famous writer as Maria Matios or prominent scientist professor Oksana Franko visited this institution. The administration of Ridna Shkola always helps students to accommodate and fulfill all the necessary documents to get residence. Students living here can have food for free.

Integration of Ukrainian refugees in Bavaria is regulated by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees as well as Bavarian State Ministry of the Interior, for Sport and Integration. The problem of Ukrainian education and science is regulated by Bavarian Ministry of Science and Arts in the field of higher education and by Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs in the field of school teaching.

Access to all levels of educational system was one of the measures provided by Germany. Bavarian Ministry of Science and Arts, however, did not regulate the support of Ukrainians in higher education. Majority of German universities offered online courses and programs. This measure allowed the students who could not leave Ukraine due to restrictions to cross border to continue study process. Unlike higher educational system of other EU states, not all German universities provide specific financial support for Ukrainian refugee learners (*Supporting refugee learners from Ukraine in higher education in Europe*, 2022, p. 10).

More measures were provided in school education for Ukrainian children. In 2022 only 39 percent of school-aged children attended schools in Germany. It meant that from 290 thousand children only 113 thousand were enrolled in study process. On the one hand, those school-aged children among Ukrainian refugees in spring 2022 continued to study online in Ukrainian schools. On the other hand, this practice meant social passivity of refugees' school-aged children that provided some social problems with integration into German society. German education system does not have any policy on determining newly arrived learners' educational and personal needs. This is the main decision of Standing Scientific Commission of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of lands that issued guidance note on support for children and youth from Ukraine with

a rapid integration of children in regular school forms (*Supporting refugee learners from Ukraine in schools in Europe*, 2022, p. 9–11).

In March 2022 Bavarian Ministry of Education agreed the plan of secondary school education for Ukrainians. After three months of refugee family in Bavaria all the children must attend lessons in German schools. If parents want to apply for school earlier, such children will be accepted to study process. Realizing majority of Ukrainian children do not speak German, the Ministry provided language training for preschoolers as well as German lessons and language support. Some experience was got in 2015–2016 when Germany had met the problem of Ukrainian learners in primary and secondary schools.

Among Bavarian universities the Ukrainian Free University offers educational process for Ukrainian migrants. It consists of faculties of Ukrainian Sciences, Philosophy, Law and Economics. The study process at the university is provided for students of master and doctoral levels. This is the only institution where students are taught in Ukrainian. Language is the main issue the University cannot enroll many students. Some subjects are offered in English or German but they are minority. More students entering the University do not speak German and this fact does not allow the students to be integrated into German speaking society. Till February 2022 the Ukrainian Free University was not highly appreciated by Bavarian Ministry of Education due to the Bavarian Integration Act. Therefore, those who would like to get the residence and stay in Bavaria must learn German to have opportunities to study and work (Bavarian State Ministry of the Interior, for Sport and Integration. *The Bavarian Integration Act*, 2017). In spite of practice to teach foreign languages, in 2017 the University excluded them from study process. The foreign languages were included to the program by Dr Artem Kokosh, the head of the branch office of the University in Ukraine.

Since Russian invasion Bavarian Ministry began new policy towards the University. In March 2022, Minister of Science Markus Blume visited the University and promised to give the financial aid of 100 thousand euro to the University (Bavarian Ministry of Science and Arts. *Blume sagt bis zu 100.000 Euro Nothilfe für Ukrainische Freie Universität München zu*, 2022). The visit of the Minister was followed by meetings with Bavarian officials in Munich. Having new opportunities to provide educational process, the

University increased the number of students. However, a lot of students entering the Ukrainian Free University in spring 2022 applied for study to be able to cross EU borders and leave Ukraine till June 2022 when Ukrainian authority prohibited to leave country for all male students. In February 2022 before Russian invasion there studied 220 students and in February 2023 at the university studied 474 students.

Ukrainian students speaking German, however, still choose state universities where they receive support. Since 2022, the Technical University provided financial support and counseling services for all Ukrainian students studying or applying at the university while the Ludwig Maximilian University had counseling for current students in priority. In summer semester 2022, the Technical University offered the integration program for students who could not finish study process in Ukrainian universities. Such students were registered as guest auditors and were able to attend courses and take exams (Integration program for refugees from Ukraine, 2022). Later on, the Ludwig Maximilian University offered short-term scholarships of 650 euro per month for a period of three months for Ukrainian students (Short-term scholarships for Ukrainian students, 2023). These offers make more students apply to study there. Ukrainian civilians are officially among 18 percent of students at the Ludwig Maximilian University and among 29,7 percent at Technical University. In case of the Ukrainian Free University the quantity of foreigners is approximately 93 percent. Majority of those students at the Ukrainian Free University came from Ukraine and represent Ukrainian migrants.

Young learners among the Ukrainian national minority in Bavaria usually choose to study at the state universities mentioned above. From private interview, the author was convinced that Ukrainian youth changed priorities. Till 1990ies it was really prestigious to study at the Ukrainian Free University. Ukrainians from America and Europe came to study here while those from the Soviet Union could not do it. Some years there were only students from Ukraine. It means the University was not taken into account by the Ukrainian national minority in Germany as well as foreigners to apply.

Conclusions

Ukrainian educational and scientific life in Bavaria today is not so representative as it was last century. As there is no Ukrainian school young generation of the national minority is integrated in German educational process. Ukrainian school-aged children of migrants and refugees received access to secondary education in German schools. The policy towards universities allows the Ukrainian Free University to provide study for students as higher education is in responsibility of Bavarian Ministry of Science and Arts, however, school education is in responsibility of Bavarian Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs. It is the main reason the policy towards educational institutions differs. However, the educational process of refugees and migrants should meet the requirements of the Integration Act. Study process in Ukrainian does not allow students to be integrated into society. This problem explains more students apply to study at the Universities with the high level of integration.

Since Russian invasion to Ukraine in 2022, the policy of Bavarian Ministry of Science and Arts changed. The University was visited by the Minister and got the financial support. However, all the meetings with Bavarian officials dealt with the problem of Ukrainian refugees. It shows the University was considered to be the centre of social work with refugees. However such meetings did not impact the policy of the University in such integration field. The language of study process still does not allow students of the University to be integrated into society in spite of providing study process in German in higher education is part of state policy of Bavaria.

Bavarian Ministry of Science and Arts agreed particular policy of universities to enroll Ukrainian students since Russian invasion to Ukraine in 2022. Hence Bavarian universities provided scholarships and different programs for learners from Ukraine. Such policy allowed almost half of Ukrainian refugees to decide to stay in Germany being integrated into society. As a result, today it is obvious that part of Ukrainians coming to German cities since 2022 will make attempts to have permanent residence and even receive citizenship that probably will change the definition of refugees to new members of the Ukrainian national minority.

DR. ARTEM KOKOSH

Department of Political Science and International Relations
Lviv Polytechnic National University
Stepana Bandery St. 12, Lviv, Lviv Oblast 79000 (Ukraine)
akokosh22@gmail.com

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