



# Croatian-Bavarian Higher Education Day

June 5th and 6th, 2025, at the University of Regensburg

## Concept

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Croatian-Bavarian academic cooperation is based on 41 partnerships. 8 Bavarian universities, 9 universities of applied sciences and one university of music have partnerships with Croatian institutions. On the Croatian side, seven state universities have partnerships with Bavarian institutions as well as the Croatian Catholic University and four private institutes of higher education.

The most popular Croatian partner university is the University of Zagreb (10 partnerships), followed by the University of Split (8 partnerships).

Croatian-Bavarian cooperation covers all academic fields from humanities, economic and legal sciences to natural sciences and engineering. Also, the forms of cooperation are manifold and include an exchange of students and lecturers, summer schools and seminars, conferences and research projects funded from national and European sources.

In October 2023 the University of Zagreb invited BAYHOST to present its services and funding programs to faculty and management of the University of Zagreb. The BAYHOST presentation at the University of Zagreb was connected with additional visits at some other Croatian universities and research institutes and resulted in many proposals from the Croatian side that were met with great interest in Bavaria. This shows that there is still a high potential for increasing cooperation between Bavaria and Croatia.

With the Croatian-Bavarian Higher Education Day, BAYHOST would like to explore possibilities of cooperation in promising fields like digital humanities, artificial intelligence and others and give a better insight into the rich academic landscape in Croatia and vice versa. In order to support academic cooperation in a sustainable way, the program will include a meeting of rectors and vice-rectors, workshops in different academic fields, information on funding opportunities and a session for individual meetings.

## The Organizers

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### **BAYHOST (Bavarian Academic Center for Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe)**

The Bavarian Academic Center for Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe (BAYHOST) promotes academic exchange between Bavaria and countries in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe. BAYHOST supports Bavarian universities and universities of applied science through its specific

competencies; by supporting their collaboration with academic organizations in its partner countries and by establishing new partnerships.

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## **University of Regensburg**

Within Bavaria, the University of Regensburg plays a central role in academic cooperation with Croatia. In 2024 the University of Zagreb and the University of Regensburg concluded a strategic partnership. Their partnership has already been existing for many years and includes joint activities of different faculties on both sides. For example, in November 2024 Zagreb and Regensburg organized the symposium “Innovation in chemical sciences” in Zagreb. Joint projects in education, research, outreach but also campus culture can be financially supported in the framework of the strategic partnership. The partnership includes mobility of students, junior and senior researchers.

In 2023 the first CROATICUM in Germany has been opened right at the University of Regensburg in order to provide courses of Croatian language, business communication and culture.

Also, in 2023, the University of Zagreb and the University of Regensburg have founded a joint center for German and European Studies in Zagreb with a regional focus on Southeastern Europe. The center is supposed to be a flagship project for cooperation between Germany and Croatia and within Southeastern Europe.

The EUROPAEUM (East-West-Centre) of the University of Regensburg and the International Relations Office of the University of Zagreb have implemented the “tandem” project which means that students from Regensburg and Zagreb are working in pairs during a one-week stay in each city. Each participating student investigates a topic related to the partner country and gets support from the partner student from the other country. This concept is now transferred to the level of young researchers as well which includes a 4-weeks stay in Regensburg and Zagreb.

Besides, the University of Regensburg also cooperates with the University of Rijeka and the Juraj Dobrila University of Pula. The Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies in Regensburg (IOS Regensburg) develops research projects and exchanges young researchers with all of the University's of Regensburg three partner universities in Croatia, and beyond that also with other academic institutions in Croatia.