

TH Wildau Successful kick-off for the "TH Wildau Sustainable Mobility Academy"

Our university receives project funding from the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) for the establishment of the "TH Wildau Sustainable Mobility Academy". The project is intended to promote internationalisation at TH Wildau through stronger international networking in teaching, degree programmes and administration. For this reason, the kick-off recently took place with local and regional partners and supporters from science, business and the surrounding communities.

The project focuses on

- promoting internationalisation at the university through stronger international networking in teaching, degree programmes and administration, and
- raising awareness of sustainable mobility

TH Wildau is one of only eleven universities of applied sciences in Germany and the only one in Brandenburg to receive funding for the establishment of the "TH Wildau Sustainable Mobility Academy" (SMA).

A Great Start

As part of the funding priority, the SMA is to become a flagship project for TH Wildau in the implementation of its internationalisation strategy and serve the four central fields of action, including campus, language, network and mobility.

The start of the project and the presentation of the activities planned for the future were celebrated on 26 January from 3 to 4:30 p.m. with a kick-off in the rooms of the Opportunity Lab (Opp:Lap) together with around 35 participants, including employees and teaching staff, as well as 14 practice partners and supporters from the region, to exchange ideas.

The audience was well known in the region: the mayors of Wildau, Eichwalde, Zeuthen and Schulzendorf were present, as were representatives of the Dahme-Spreewald business development agency. A DAAD representative from the Berlin office was also present, visiting the campus in Wildau for the first time.

Dr Jeffrey Wolf, Deputy Head of the International Office and Project Manager of the TH Wildau Sustainable Mobility Academy, said after the event: "We were very pleased that many of the mayors from the surrounding municipalities were present, as well as representatives from most of our practice partners in the region. It was also great to see so many colleagues from TH Wildau. Once again, we would like to thank everyone who supported our application and shared their thoughts about the academy with us. We look forward to working together when the Sustainable Mobility Academy starts its work."

What exactly is behind the "TH Wildau Sustainable Mobility Academy"?

The core of the SMA project is an international and interdisciplinary Sustainable Mobility Summer Conference (SMSC), which will be held in English at the TH Wildau for a fortnight in 2023 and 2024.

The SMSC will bring together lecturers and students, researchers and administrative staff of the TH Wildau and its international partner institutions as well as staff (members) of practice partners from the region for lectures, seminars, projects, business games, workshops and excursions.

The conference is complemented by a Continuous Exchange Network (CEN), which runs throughout the year and supports not only incoming students, i.e. students coming to Wildau from abroad, but also outgoing students, i.e. students going abroad, in continuously promoting the topic of "sustainable mobility" together with international partners.

Shaping exchange mobility sustainably

During the project period, various activities on campus will be supported to promote sustainable mobility. This is done in close cooperation with the sustainability management of TH Wildau in order to create a greater awareness of the fact that and how issues of sustainable mobility affect us all and can be implemented - starting with everyday (international) campus life.

Sustainable mobility as an umbrella topic leads our university both back to its very own roots on the campus area of a former railway factory and directly into the present and future of the surrounding, increasingly international Dahme-Spreewald and capital region.

Internationalising the new and the tried and tested

In addition to on-site activities, the SMA also includes digital offerings. These include, for example, a virtual "appetiser" programme and an online portal that continuously expands the opportunities for international interaction beyond the working meetings in presence. The innovative digital platform of Wildauer Maschinen Werke (WMW) will be consistently internationalised in the course of the project. A special regional focus is on partner universities from the European Higher Education Area, with which TH Wildau has launched a "European Neighbours Initiative" (ENI) since 2021.

Medium- and long-term goals

The model project is intended to have a broad impact on the university in order to address other future topics in engineering, natural sciences and economics more strongly beyond the project period. Furthermore, it is planned to expand the SMA into a certificate programme in order to create a permanent offer for the acquisition of micro-credentials (certificates for learning outcomes of short-term learning experiences / short courses) in the field of sustainability. The project started on 1 January 2023, ends on 31 December 2024 and has a total volume of around 400,000 euros.