Darmstadt, 25 August 2026

Schedule of the International Autumn School at h_da / EUt+
from 19th until 25th October 2026

Foster Futures: Reforming Care for Ukraine's War-Affected Children and Youth

Location: Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences / European University of Technology, Department of Social Work, Adelungstraße 51, 64283 Darmstadt, Building E10

Monday, 19 October 2026 (Building E10, Room 3.10)

8.30-9.00 Registration and Coffee

9.00-9.30 ***Opening Remarks and Welcome Address**

- **Prof. Dr. Katrin Luise Läzer** (Head of the Project, h_da / EUt+)
- **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ruslan Zhylenko** (Head of the Project, UzhNU)
- **Prof. Dr. Arnd Steinmetz** (President of h_da / EUt+)
- **Jochen Partsch** (Chair of the Board of the PDUM Association—Partnership Germany–Ukraine/Moldova; Former Mayor of the City of Science Darmstadt)
- **Prof. Dr. Christian Brütt** (Dean of the Department of Social Work h_da/EUt+)
- **Annabelle Bijelic** (Head of International Office, h_da / EUt+)
- **Prof. Dr. Yvonne Franke** (Head of the Institute for Social Work and Social Politics, h_da / EUt+)
- **Prof. em. Dr. Angelika Groterath** (Guest of honor, h_da / EUt+)

9.30-10.00 Introduction, discussion of expectations, announcement of the evaluation process of the Autumn School

10.00-11.00 **Group Discussion and Sharing (1)**

11.00-11.30 Coffee break

11.30-13.00 ***Non-governmental Community Services for Internally Displaces Persons (IDP) Children in Western Ukraine**, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ruslan Zhylenko, UzhNU

13.00-14.30 Lunch break

14.30-16.00 ***Migration, Family Separation, and Loss from a Psychoanalytic Perspective,** Prof. Dr. Katrin Luise Läzer, h_da/EUt+

16.00-16.15 Coffee break

16.15-17.45 ***From Evacuation to Empowerment: Deinstitutionalization and Family-Based Care for Ukraine's War-Affected Children**, Mrs. Svitlana Yakimelina, Service for Children of Zakarpattia Oblast Military Administration, Ukraine (online-hybrid)

Tuesday, 20 October 2026 (Building E10, Room 0.02)

8.45-10.15 **Group Discussion and Sharing (2)**

10.15-10.30 Coffee break

10.30-12.00 ***Adoption and Foster Care, Confidential Birth and Baby Hatch in German Law,** Prof. Dr. Angelika Nake, h_da/EUt+

12.00-14.00 Lunch break – Lecturers' Welcome Gathering: Start of the New Winter Semester Building E10, Room 3.10

14.00-15.30 ***Environmental Provision and Affective Experience: Conditions and Drivers of Emotional Development**, Prof. Dr. Leopoldo Fulgencio, University of São Paulo, Brazil

15.30-16.00 Coffee break

16.00-16.45 ***Strong in the Storm: A Family-Focused Prevention Program for Children of Parents with Mental Disorders in Psychiatric Care**, Prof. Dr. med. Yvonne Grimmer, h_da/EUt+

16.45-17.30 ***Prevention Programs in Transcultural Contexts Working with Ukrainian Refugee Children aged 0-3 Years and their Parents – Family-centred Care Approaches**, Dr. med. Alexander Moldavski, Mr. Mahmud Ben Dau, Zentrales Institut für Seelische Gesundheit (ZI) / Central Institute of Mental Health (CIMH), Mannheim

Wednesday, 21 October 2026 (Building E10, Room 0.02)

9.00-10.30 **Group Discussion and Sharing (3)**

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-12.30 ***Mediative Approach for Successful Community Integration of Internally Displaces Persons (IDP) Children**, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Oleksandr Katsora, UzhNU

12.30-14.00 Lunch break

14.00-15.30 ***Psychoemotional Resilience in War: Balneotherapy, Loss Processing, and Workplace Mental Health Strategies for Veterans and Families**; Mr. Petro Luchka, The Tree of My Life, Ukraine (online-hybrid)

15.30-16.00 Coffee break

16.00-17.30 **Field trip around the Campus and the City of Darmstadt from the Perspective of German Social Work Students**

Thursday, 22 October 2026 (Building E10, Room 0.02)

8.30-10.00 **Group Discussion and Sharing (4)**

10.00-19.00 **Field trip visiting institutions in the Rhine-Main-Metropolitan-Region**

11.00-12.30 **Foster Care from the Perspective of Municipal Social Services in Germany**, Nadia Alwan-Häfner, Youth Welfare Office of the City of Science Darmstadt (Address: Jugendamt der Wissenschaftsstadt Darmstadt, Frankfurter Str. 71, 64293 Darmstadt, Raum Lichtwiese 0.22, Erdgeschoss)

14.30-16.00 **Supervised and Protected Contact for Children and Their Families When Coping Resources Are Exhausted in Highly Distressed Family Systems**, Dr. Marianne Rauwald, Institut für Traumabearbeitung und Weiterbildung / Institute for Trauma Processing and Continuing Education Frankfurt am Main (Address: Waidmannstr. 25, 60596 Frankfurt am Main)

16.00-19.00 Exploring the City of Frankfurt Main

Friday, 23 October 2026 (Building E10, Room 0.02)

9.00-10.30 **Group Discussion and Sharing (5)**

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-12.30 ***Nature- and Adventure-Based Therapy (N-AT): Global Experience, Methodology, and Relevance in the Context of Ukraine**, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Viktoria Riul, UzhNU

12.30-14.00 Lunch break

14.00-15.30 ***Community Based Approaches Supporting War-Affected Children, Youth and Families and Family Foster Care in Italy**, Prof. Dr. Viviana Langher, Sapienza University Rome, Italy

15.30-16.00 Coffee break

16.00-17.30 **Meeting of all Professors of the International Autumn School: Internationalization of Universities. Current and Future joint Collaboration Projects**

Saturday, 24 October 2026 (Building E10, Room 0.02)

9.00-10.30 **Group Discussion and Sharing (6)**

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-12.30 ***Fixing our Broken Relationship with Nature. From engineered Nature-based Solutions towards integrated, multifunctional Blue-Green Infrastructures,** Prof. Dr. Jochen Hack, h_da/EUt+

13.30-17.00 **Experiencing and Observing Nature**
Field trip into the nature near Darmstadt, Prof. Dr. Jochen Hack, Prof. Dr. Katrin Luise Läzer, h_da/EUt+

17.00-18.00 **Final Reflection, Closing and Evaluation of the Autumn School**

Sunday, 25 October 2026

11.00-14.00 **Visiting UNESCO Cultural Heritage of Darmstadt**
Mathildenhöhe and Museum „Künstlerkolonie“

We aim to offer all lectures marked with an asterisk (*) online. Please use the following Zoom link according to the schedule

Central European Summer Time CEST/MESZ (UTC+2):

https://h-da-de.zoom.us/j/97581298067

The participation at the International Autumn School is free of charge.

Location: Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences / European University of Technology, Department of Social Work, Adelungstraße 51, 64283 Darmstadt, Building E10.

For any questions, please write to Prof. Dr. Katrin Luise Läzer: katrin-luise.laezer@h-da.de

Summary of the DAAD-project and the 7-Day International Autumn School

Project:

Foster Futures: Reforming Care for Ukraine's War-Affected Children and Youth

Cooperating universities:

- **Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences / European University of Technology (h_da/ EUt+)**
- **Uzhhorod National University, Ukraine (UzhNU)**

Further cooperating partner universities:

- **Sapienza University Rome, Italy**
- **University of São Paulo, Brazil**

Cooperating institutions:

- **Municipal Social Services, Youth Welfare Office of the City of Science Darmstadt**
- **Central Institute of Mental Health (CIMH) / Zentralinstitut für Seelische Gesundheit (ZI) Mannheim**
- **Institute for Trauma Processing and Continuing Education, Frankfurt am Main**
- **Service for Children of Zakarpattia Oblast Military Administration, Ukraine**
- **The Tree of My Life, Ukraine**

Grant doner:

DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst German Academic Exchange Service

Federal Foreign Office

Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space

PROJECT SUMMARY

Background:

Ukraine faces a humanitarian crisis with over 105,000 children in institutional care before the war, exacerbated by massive internal displacement—millions of internally displaced persons (IDPs)—and the orphaning of 11,700 children due to conflict. Mental health issues affect half of 13-15-year-olds with sleep disorders and PTSD symptoms, compounded by domestic violence and trauma among IDP families, wounded military personnel, and their families (Abudladze, 2024).

Project aims and content:

This HAW International project initiates a **strategic partnership between Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences / European University of Technology (h_da/ EUt+)** and its partner university **State University Uzhhorod National University, Ukraine (UzhNU)** and organisations in Germany and Ukraine (e.g., child welfare NGOs, administration bodies, ministries, psychotherapeutic clinics) to support Ukraine's reform from institutional to family-based care, targeting foster family development, early intervention, and mental health services.

The centerpiece is a comprehensive **7-day international Autumn School** scheduled for October 19-25, 2026, hosted at h_da/EUt+ in Darmstadt, Germany. This event will convene 20 participants equally split between the two universities: professors and BA Social Work students, and international visiting professors from the Sapienza University Rome, Italy, and the University of São Paulo, Brazil. The program integrates lectures, interactive workshops, field trips, and networking sessions focused on trauma-informed foster care, deinstitutionalization strategies, family-based child welfare reforms, and mental health support for war-affected children and youth.

Further key activities include collaborative development of a **concept/strategy paper titled *"Foster Care: Expertise in War-Affected Child Welfare,"*** professional exchanges on internationalization challenges during conflict, and practical training modules drawing from German and Ukrainian contexts. Students of Social Work and colleagues at h_da/EUt+ will gain expertise in war-affected child welfare through teaching and practice. For UzhNU and their students of social work and colleagues, the Ukrainian capacities for institutional care reduction with orphans in family care will be strengthened through teaching, research, and practice.

Lecturers

Mrs. Nadia Alwan-Häfner, is the Head of Department, Municipal Social Services, Youth Welfare Office of the City of Science Darmstadt and a Diploma-qualified Social Pedagogue and Personal Coach. She has worked in the field of educational assistance and child welfare for 20 years.
Her responsibilities include coordinating procedures under Section 8a of the Book VIII of the German Social Code (SGB VIII) and implementing consultation services under Section 8b for institutions based in Darmstadt. She also delivers professional presentations on child protection and provides training for educational professionals.
As Head of Municipal Social Services, Nadia Alwan-Häfner supports professionals working in district-based social services and foster-care services. Her leadership responsibilities include case consultations, case presentations, case management, child-protection procedures, and proceedings before the family courts. She also coordinates interdisciplinary working groups involving physicians, family-court judges, schools, and other organizations. Her work focuses particularly on safeguarding children's rights and strengthening cooperation between the institutions involved in child protection. Over recent years, she has played a leading role in developing and optimizing these interinstitutional structures to promote sustainable child protection in the City of Science Darmstadt.
Nadia.Alwan@darmstadt.de

Mr. Mahmud Ben Dau is a child and adolescent psychiatrist and psychotherapist with a MBBCh degree from Libya at the Central Institute of Mental Health (CIMH) (ZI) in Mannheim, where he also serves as Head of the Transcultural Outpatient Clinic within the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. His clinical work focuses on providing psychiatric and psychotherapeutic care to accompanied and unaccompanied refugee and migrant minors, as well as their families. His approach emphasizes close interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral collaboration with local authorities, social services, schools, therapists, pediatricians, and other professionals involved in the care and support of young refugees and migrants.
Mahmud.BenDau@zi-mannheim.de

Prof. Dr. Leopoldo Fulgencio, is Associate Professor (Tenured) at the Institute of Psychology, University of São Paulo (USP), Brazil. His research focuses on psychoanalysis, philosophy of psychoanalysis, and theories of emotional and human development, with particular emphasis on Winnicott and Freudian epistemology.
He has served as Editor of *Natureza Humana* -- Journal of Philosophy and Psychoanalysis and has coordinated national research working groups in psychoanalysis and philosophy. He was Coordinator of the Graduate Program in School and Developmental Psychology at USP (2017–2022) and Head of the Department of School, Developmental and Personality Psychology (2022–2024).
He received the Jabuti Prize (2015) for *The Fabrication of the Human*. His recent publications include *Psychoanalysis of Being* (Routledge, 2026), the two-volume study Winnicott & Company (Blucher, 2022), and the two-volume study Psychoanalytic Theories of Development (Blucher, 2022; 2025; being translated into Chinese). His 2025 article "Ontological psychoanalysis and types of experience of being" in the *International Journal of Psychoanalysis* was selected for inclusion in the IJP Yearbook in Spanish and Italian.
lfulgencio@usp.br

Prof. Dr. med. Yvonne Grimmer, is a Professor of Social Medicine and Health Sciences at the Department of Social Work at Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences, Germany, and a child and adolescent psychiatrist. Her work focuses on the intersection of the healthcare system and youth welfare services, particularly in the areas of prevention, child protection, and support for children of parents with mental health conditions and substance use disorders. She is the founder of the "Stark im Sturm" project, in which family and child liaisons at psychiatric clinics identify children of parents with mental health and substance use disorders as early as the parents' treatment and connect them with support services. In this way, they prevent the children from becoming the next patients.
yvonne.grimmer@h-da.de

Prof. Dr. Jochen Hack is a professor of Climate-resilient Urban Water Management at the Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences, Germany and the European University of Technology. From 2018 to 2022 he was Full Professor of Digital Environmental Planning and leader of the inter- and transdisciplinary research group SEE-URBAN-WATER at Leibniz University Hannover, Germany. Before he was an Assistant Professor of Ecological Engineering at TU Darmstadt, Germany, where he had earned his diploma in civil engineering and a doctorate (Dr.-Ing.) from the TU Darmstadt.
Prof. Hack specializes in blue-green infrastructure, nature-based solutions, and climate-resilient urban development, with expertise in planning, designing, and modeling such systems. His research integrates Geoinformation Systems (GIS) and numerical modelling to foster participatory planning and positive human-nature relationships. He has extensive international experience, particularly in Latin America, and collaborates with global institutions.
Since 2024, he is a member of the interdisciplinary Doctoral Centre Sustainability Sciences (HAW Promotionszentrum Nachhaltigkeitswissenschaften), State of Hesse.
jochen.hack@h-da.de

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Oleksandr Katsora is an Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology and Social Work at Uzhhorod University, Ukraine. His academic and research interests focus on the development of social services and the field of mediation, with particular attention to how these areas can strengthen community well-being and social cohesion. Through his academic position, he combines teaching with ongoing research, contributing to the broader understanding of social work practice and conflict-resolution approaches in Ukraine.
For more than 10 years, Oleksandr has worked as a Project Coordinator at Kolping Ukraine, a non-governmental organization. In this role, his work spans several key areas of activity: capacity building and training for civil society organizations, development and improvement of social services, promotion of mediation practices, and the design and management of grant-funded projects.
oleksandr.katsora@uzhnu.edu.ua

Prof. Dr. Katrin Luise Läzer is a Professor of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology at the Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences, Germany and the European University of Technology. She is a psychologist, psychotherapist and psychoanalyst (DPV/IPA).
Aiming to ground psychoanalysis with empirical evidence and to bridge psychiatric and psychoanalytic perspectives, her research centers on neurodevelopmental disorders and psychoanalytic treatment. She focuses on early life experiences conducting studies on attachment and parenting, as well as the impact of violence, flight, migration, poverty and vulnerably on the next generation.
Since 2018, she has been the study coordinator of the international B.A. Social Work PLUS Migration and Globalization, and a member of the commission of the interdisciplinary Doctoral Centre for Social Work (HAW), State of Hesse. As a psychoanalyst, she is affiliated to the Anna Freud Institute Frankfurt and the Frankfurt Psychoanalytic Institute.
katrin-luise.laezer@h-da.de

Prof. Dr. Viviana Langher is a Full Professor of Clinical Psychology at Sapienza University of Rome, Italy, and Chair of the Master's Degree Program in Clinical Psychology**.** She has been studying psychoanalysis for over twenty years, with a particular focus on Kleinian thought and the work of Ignacio Matte Blanco. Her research spans infant studies in experimental settings, parent–adult child attachment, and psychoanalytic perspectives on communities, institutions - especially educational and health -, and systems of coexistence. She is committed to advancing women's issues, addressing both violence against women and career development, for which she has designed a brief psychoanalytically oriented intervention model. Since January 2025, she has served as a Board Member of the Order of Psychologists of Lazio.
viviana.langher@uniroma1.it

Mr. Petro Luchka is a cognitive behavioral therapist and psychologist. He is an acting member of Ukrainian Institute of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Petro Luchka is a medical assistant and a cleric of Mukachevo Greek-Catholic Eparchy. He has three years long experience of providing psychological support for Ukrainian defenders at the non-governmental organization Tree of My Life.
petroluchka@gmail.com

Dr. med. Alexander Moldavski, MSc, is a consultant psychiatrist at the Central Institute of Mental Health (ZI) Mannheim, where he leads the research group on transcultural psychiatry. His work bridges clinical care for people with migration and refugee backgrounds and research on access barriers, culturally adapted interventions, and digital approaches to mental health support. Together with Ukrainian partners, he coordinates international training and capacity-building initiatives for services working with war-affected children, youth, and families.
At the ZI Mannheim, a Minecraft-based group intervention offers Ukrainian children in outpatient child and adolescent psychiatric care a familiar, low-threshold digital space in which therapeutic work — on emotion regulation, cooperation, and shared narrative — can take place alongside play rather than in a conventional talking format. In parallel, a Baden-Württemberg-funded project culturally adapts *Semillas de Apego*, a group programme originally developed for conflict-affected caregivers in Colombia, for Ukrainian parents in Germany, strengthening caregiver mental health and the parent–child relationship as an indirect route to supporting young children.
Alexander.Moldavski@zi-mannheim.de

Prof. Dr. Angelika Nake is a professor of Family Law, Youth Welfare Law, and Guardianship at the Department of Social Work at Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences, Germany. She is a specialist in family law, international matrimonial property law, family and youth welfare law, guardianship law and related topics such as children's rights, child protection and early intervention.
Before being appointed professor, she worked as a lawyer and ran her own law firm specialized in family law and medical law. She has also been a certified mediator and coach since 2020. Her academic expertise relates in particular to family law with a European focus, such as matrimonial property law.
From 2005 to 2013, Prof. Dr. Nake was a member of the Federal Executive Committee of the German Women Lawyers Association (djb), where she headed the Commission for Civil, Family and Inheritance Law and the Law of Other Forms of Cohabitation. This activity demonstrates her strong commitment to the advancement of women in law and her expertise in legal policy issues.
angelika.nake@h-da.de

Dr. Marianne Rauwald, is a psychological psychotherapist, psychoanalyst (DPV/IPA) and Director of the Institute for Trauma Processing and Continuing Education in Frankfurt. Her work focuses on psychodynamic psychotraumatology, complex trauma and highly distressed family systems, with broad international experience in trauma-related projects and training.
rauwald@institut-fuer-traumabearbeitung.de

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Viktoria Riul is an Associate Professor with the Department of Sociology and Social Work, Uzhhorod National University in Ukraine. Her scientific interests are a wartime migration, socio-cultural adaptation of internally displaced persons (IDP) and their families, their integration into a new environment, studies of the needs and problems of displaced people, and an analysis of integration related social practices. Her special focus is IDP children, in particular their socialization and challenges to their adaptation to a new environment. Currently she is involved in the short-term rehabilitation programs of the UN Population Fund for women and families who experienced Russian captivity.
viktoria.riul@uzhnu.edu.ua

Mrs. Svitlana Yakimelina – the head of the Service for Children of Zakarpattia Oblast Military Administration, Ukraine. She has 32 years of experience in various public social services for children and youth, in particular center of social services for children and youth and commission on minors.
The Service for Children of Zakarpattia Oblast Military Administration is responsible for two institutions of social protection of children: Center of Social and Psychological Rehabilitation of Children (Batevo, Berehovo district), which provides services for 40 children, and Zakarpattia Center of Social and Psychological rehabilitation (Svaliava, Mukachevo district), which provides care for 20 children.
Besides these, the Service for Children is responsible for:
- Implementation in Zakarpattia region of public policy in the fields of social protection of children, prevention of child neglect and homelessness;
- Coordination of local self-governance, public authorities, companies, agencies, and organizations of all types of property in the field of children rights protection, in particular of orphans, children deprived of parental care; prevention of child neglect and homelessness;
- Due legal procedures in the processes of guardianship and care, adoption, fostering (foster families and family type foster homes);
-Control over living conditions and education of the children in the institutions for orphans and children deprived of parental care; special institutions and agencies of social protection for children of all types of property;
-Registry of the children in difficult life situations, orphans, children deprived of parental care, adopted children, fostered children, lodged in social rehabilitation centers.
usn-tsa@carpathia.gov.ua

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ruslan Zhylenko is an Associate Professor with the Department of Sociology and Social Work, Uzhhorod National University in Ukraine. His research interests focus on community social work, civil society organizations as providers of social services, and social adaptation of ex-servicemen.
Besides the University, he is managing the Carpathian Foundation. It is a grant-making organization which provides financial and technical assistance to grassroots CSOs in the areas of social protection (children, vulnerable and marginalized groups, social entrepreneurship) and community development. The Foundation is focused on support for organizational development of CSOs providing direct services to the clients.
ruslan.zhylenko@uzhnu.edu.ua