TEDxKielUniversity goes into the next round. On December 3rd the local installment of the world renowned conference to promote promising ideas opened its doors for the second time to talk about the clash of “Dreams vs. Realities”. Applications for spots as speakers and audience are now available.

A good idea, if nobody will ever hear it? The US-based organization “TED” asked itself this question in 2004 and answered it by creating a world renowned series of talks, presentations and lectures to promote promising ideas. The most important factor in this endeavor, aside from world class speakers with amazing ideas, is the internet. “Today, every TED Talk is posted to YouTube and can be watched all around the globe for free. The talks have become so popular that some are even used as teaching material in schools and universities all over the countries. However, when it comes to Germany, the spark, ‘didn’t really catch on’. ‘Sadly, a lot of people here don’t know about TED’, says Marika Fiedler, a student at Kiel University and member of a team of volunteers who are trying to change that.

Last year the group hosted TEDx KielUniversity, their first so-called TEDx-event: An independently organized series of talks under the license of TED. 100 people attended the event in the Kieler Kulturforum and listened to inspiring talks ranging from “The Power of Nudges” to “Challenging the Way We Look at Science”. The successful premiere taught them a lot, but was only a test run compared to this year’s plans: “We will move to a bigger venue, provide more tickets and focus on local speakers. We really want to show what Kiel University has to offer in terms of interesting topics and ideas. With TEDx, we have the possibility to give our smart people and their great ideas a platform”, says co-organizer Ulf Evert.

The long-standing cooperation in Kiel and Rennes has started in 1984 as a simple conference. Since then it has become a platform for the exchange of ideas and has continued to grow. This year it has developed into a TEDx event. “We were surprised to see the interest in the TEDx-programme. We are in the fortunate position of having a large number of students coming from both universities who are interested in presenting their ideas and in creating a TEDx-like event in their own community.” says Henry Weidemann, the PhD-candidate in Art History who organized the event as a team that consists of last years’ speakers,IPAddress founders, who want to create a TED-like platform for the exchange of ideas. This is how Professor Joachim Wolf, who succeeded his colleague Albers as foreign exchange officer of Kiel University’s Institute of Political Science in 2003, described the setting-up of the character of this agreement. According to Wolf, the exchange was not only a matter of scientific excellence, but also a question of sharing the experiences of students.

Nearly 20 years have passed since the Franco-German Exchange Agreement was signed. Students from both universities have spent one semester at the partner university and attend five to six lectures - these academic achievements were then also recognized at their home university. “Today this cooperation is far more than spectacular, but at that time most universities were very reticent when it came to recognizing foreign achievements.” This is how Professor Joachim Wolf, who succeeded his colleague Albers as foreign exchange officer of Kiel University’s Institute of Political Science in 2003, described the setting-up of the character of this agreement. According to Wolf, the exchange was not only a matter of scientific excellence, but also a question of sharing the experiences of students. The students got to know the country, the people and new methods. The two institutes complemented each other in terms of content, as Rennes is strongly positioned in fields like human resources management and international taxation and Kiel offers a broad spectrum in the field of technology and industry management.

It was only logical to develop the cooperation further. In 2003 the two universities established a double degree programme providing participans with qualifications in both countries. Accordingly, students have to do more work towards it. The stay at the partner university now lasts two rather than one semester and the number of examinations has doubled, too. Professor Joachim Wolf describes the demand for this programme as “really high”.

If successful, they end up with two Master’s degrees: a general degree students collect a Master of Marketing or a Master of Science in Economics. For some time now, the Franco-German cooperation has included postgraduate studies in Medicine and Business Administration as Master of Science in Economics. The PhD-candidate in Art History holds the license to host the event as a team that consists of last years’ speakers,IPAddress founders, who want to create a TED-like platform for the exchange of ideas. This is how Professor Joachim Wolf, who succeeded his colleague Albers as foreign exchange officer of Kiel University’s Institute of Political Science in 2003, described the setting-up of the character of this agreement. According to Wolf, the exchange was not only a matter of scientific excellence, but also a question of sharing the experiences of students.

Nearly 20 years have passed since the Franco-German Exchange Agreement was signed. Students from both universities have spent one semester at the partner university and attend five to six lectures - these academic achievements were then also recognized at their home university. “Today this cooperation is far more than spectacular, but at that time most universities were very reticent when it came to recognizing foreign achievements.” This is how Professor Joachim Wolf, who succeeded his colleague Albers as foreign exchange officer of Kiel University’s Institute of Political Science in 2003, described the setting-up of the character of this agreement. According to Wolf, the exchange was not only a matter of scientific excellence, but also a question of sharing the experiences of students. The students got to know the country, the people and new methods. The two institutes complemented each other in terms of content, as Rennes is strongly positioned in fields like human resources management and international taxation and Kiel offers a broad spectrum in the field of technology and industry management.

It was only logical to develop the cooperation further. In 2003 the two universities established a double degree programme providing participans with qualifications in both countries. Accordingly, students have to do more work towards it. The stay at the partner university now lasts two rather than one semester and the number of examinations has doubled, too. Professor Joachim Wolf describes the demand for this programme as “really high”. And, if there were no language barrier, he is convinced that a considerably greater number of students would take part. “Kiel students often lack the required French language skills”, explains Wolf. They are necessary, however, as the French touch-up staff usually only teach in their mother tongue. On the other hand, French students with amazing ideas, is the internet. “Today, every TED Talk is posted to YouTube and can be watched all around the globe for free. The talks have become so popular that some are even used as teaching material in schools and universities all over the countries. However, when it comes to Germany, the spark, ‘didn’t really catch on’. ‘Sadly, a lot of people here don’t know about TED’, says Marika Fiedler, a student at Kiel University and member of a team of volunteers who are trying to change that.

Last year the group hosted TEDx KielUniversity, their first so-called TEDx-event: An independently organized series of talks under the license of TED. 100 people attended the event in the Kieler Kulturforum and listened to inspiring talks ranging from “The Power of Nudges” to “Challenging the Way We Look at Science”. The successful premiere taught them a lot, but was only a test run compared to this year’s plans: “We will move to a bigger venue, provide more tickets and focus on local speakers. We really want to show what Kiel University has to offer in terms of interesting topics and ideas. With TEDx, we have the possibility to give our smart people and their great ideas a platform”, says co-organizer Ulf Evert. Evert and Fiedler are experienced with great scientific talks. They both work as organizers for the Science Show and Event also teaches presentation techniques at Kiel University. Speakers who may give their talks to the TEDx audience profit from their knowledge and are trained by the professionals. Taylor Clarke, who gave one of last years’ talks, knows the pressure of speaking in front of cameras as well as a live audience. “I think the important thing I took away from it is that it forces you to develop unshakable confidence in your idea and self. When you believe your idea has value, and it’s worth all the efforts, people’s reactions are more positive. You’re filled more with conviction than fear on stage.”

The long-standing cooperation between business administration institutes in Kiel and Rennes has produced a well-established double degree programme.

Muthesius University in Kiel. Marine science education in Kiel trains young scientists to research the role of the oceans in global change, in climate change and in sustainable management of marine resources. Basic fundamental research is combined with applied science in an international framework with partners from industry and public life. The Integrated School of Ocean Sciences (ISOS) established through the Cluster of Excellence “The Future Ocean” provides PhD candidates with interdisciplinary education outside of curricular studies. The programme supports the doctoral candidate through supplementary training in networking, supervision, mentoring and mobility, the advisors through transparency and support of doctoral training in their research proposals and the contributing institutions by ensuring excellence and innovation in marine doctoral education. Over 150 PhD candidate members from six faculties form a large interdisciplinary network. At the ISOS, they sharpen their scientific profiles. Once they have joined the defence of their PhD thesis, a look beyond university is valued as a great asset in academic discourse. Doctoral degree students from both sides can gain something from this.

For applications, tickets and further information visit www.tedxkieluniversity.com.

Martin Geist
www.earthman.at; uni-kiel.de
www.sciences-rennes.fr/en/