

TH Wildau participates in the 2nd Annual European Neighbours Initiative (ENI) Consortium Meeting in France

On 15 – 16 May, 2023, TH Wildau participated in the 2nd Annual European Neighbours Initiative (ENI) Meeting hosted this year by Université Jean Monnet in France. The inaugural meeting was held in October of last year on TH Wildau's campus. All 6 current member institutions participated this year in France. Dr. Jeffrey Wolf, Deputy Head of the International Office and the project manager for the ENI, and Dr. Christian Hederer, Professor of Economics and International Economic Policy, as well as director of studies of the master's programme in European Management, represented TH Wildau.

The European Neighbours Initiative (ENI), established in 2021, is an informal consortium of European higher education institutions, committed to European values and the importance of sharing knowledge and experience among like-minded institutions.

On the first day, a series of workshops were held on the Roanne campus of UJM, covering online virtual collaboration, summer school and staff weeks, and potential academic partnerships. After work was completed for the day, the French hosts organised a vineyard tour in the hills surrounding Roanne.

The second and final day was held on the UJM campus in Saint-Etienne. The highlight of that day was a presentation, delivered virtually by Prof. Dr. Marcus Frohme, to the entire group of ENI attendees. Prof. Frohme initiated a very active discussion with his idea for using the ENI as a framework for 'Science for Peace'. Inspired by the promotion of peace in Europe (all the way back to Abbé de Saint Pierre in the 18th-century), the project idea would be to foster cooperation between the ENI-participants and participants from universities in countries that are currently in conflict, or near-conflict, including, for instance, Serbia and Kosovo, or Armenia and Azerbaijan. ENI participants were intrigued and promised to bring Prof. Frohme's idea back to their home institutions for further discussion.

At the end of the day, enthusiasm for the ENI was high, and several paths for concrete collaboration were established, including agreement to participate in a joint staff week this December, as well as to jointly organise a Blended Intensive Programme among all ENI partners in 2024.