



Deutsches Studentenwerk

Supporting refugees from Ukraine – the perspective of student service organisations in Germany

Global Summit for Student Affairs

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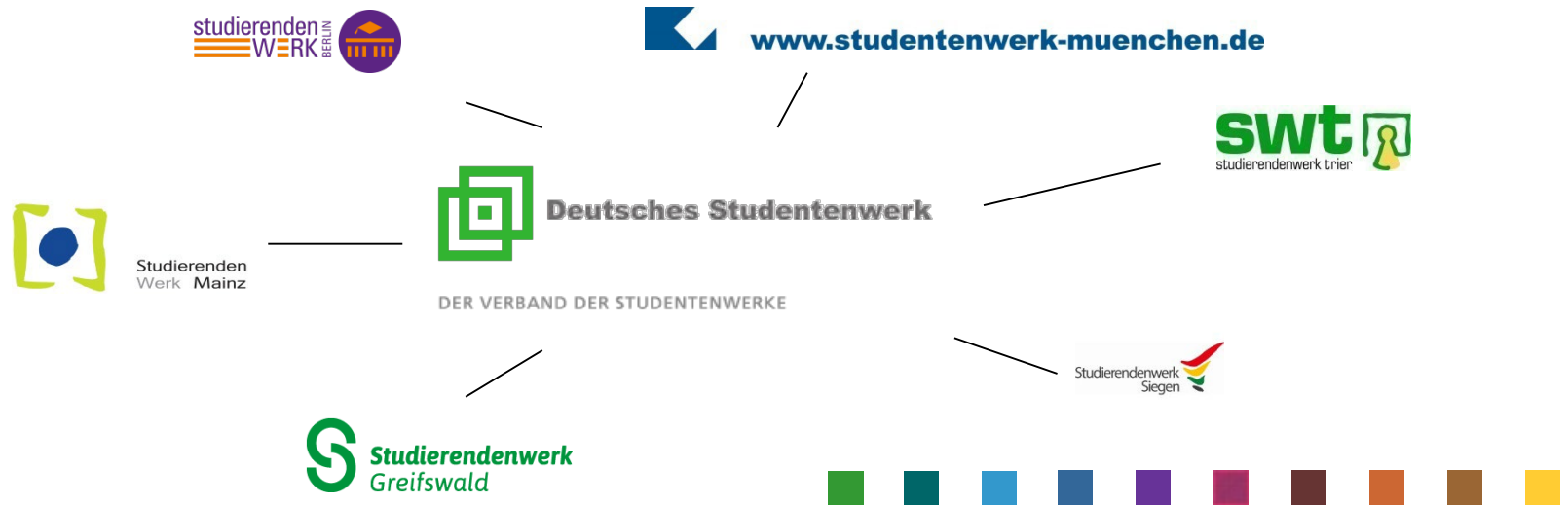
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DEUTSCHES STUDENTENWERK (DSW)

DSW is the national association of the 57 public student service organisations (STWs) in Germany





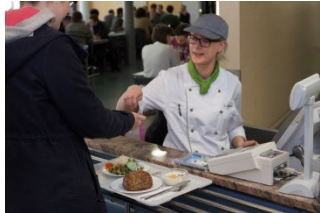
The 57 STWs

- support the economic, social, health and cultural needs of approx. **2.9 millionen students**

Residence Halls



Dining Services



Financial Aid (BAföG)



Counselling



Child Care





Some numbers....

- 2.9 mio students in Germany
- 320.000 international students
- 10.500 Russian and 6.500 Ukrainian students in Germany* (before the war)
- 14 mio refugees, 6.7 mio abroad, 3.6 mio in Poland**
- 800.000 refugees in Germany, 70% women, 40% children***

Sources: *Wissenschaft Weltoffen, Data for Winter Semester 2020/2021

** UNHCR

*** BMI Ausländerzentralregister – as of May 30, 2022



EU Temporary Protection Directive (TPD)

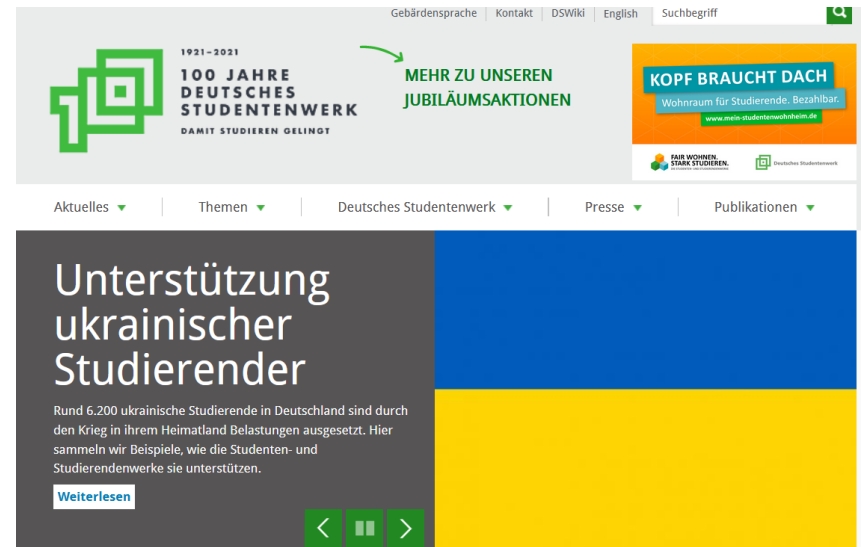
- activated for the first time in a situation of mass influx into the EU
- provides temporary residence and access to welfare benefits (ALG-II)
- free movement in EU until Aug 31, 2022
- approx. 800.000 refugees registered for protection under the TPD in Germany*
- not eligible for studying





STWs' emergency response

- Emergency housing and flexible solutions for rental contracts (delayed payments, flexible contracts)
- Social and psychological counselling (in English)
- Emergency grants
- Free food in dining halls
- Fundraisers
- Child-care





BAföG für Ukrainian students

- TPD activated §24 of German Residence Act (AufenthG) for the first time
- Federal financial aid (BAföG) available from June 1, 2022 for refugees with such temporary protection (§24 AufenthG)
- But.... standard requirements apply!





Barriers to BAföG

- Regular enrollment at a German HEI
- German language requirement (or English Master course)
- proof of insufficient parental income
- age limit
- no change of study course
- (way) too much bureaucracy.....???





DSW support for the STW network

- FAQs on residence and work regulations
- Online trainings and newsletters for STW staff
- Advocacy and lobbying for lean and flexible BAföG grants and loans





Further Academic Support

- extension of DAAD programmes (Integra, Welcome and Profi) by 9 mio €
- DAAD nat'l ac. contact point Ukraine
- new programs for digital learning and continuation of studies (Ukraine Digital, Digital Campus)





DSW Adocacy and Policy

- Federal support for services to refugee students should be irrespective of nationality (needs-based approach)
- Refugees of different nationalities and other conflicts equally need support (solidarity principle)
- too often, social factors limit academic access and student success



