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## Bavaria's external relations

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**Importance.** The current state of Bavaria's foreign relations and their main problems are considered, and ways to solve them are proposed. A special emphasis is placed on the role of Bavaria in solving the federal tasks of Germany in the field of foreign policy, for this purpose the concept of auxiliary paradiplomacy by Y.G. Akimov is used. The relevance of the study is dictated by the lack of work in the scientific field representing a relevant and modern analysis of the state of Bavaria's foreign policy. The purpose of the research is to update the study of Bavaria's foreign relations at the present time. The high level of institutional development, the complexity and interconnectedness of the implemented programs at the level of this federal state are emphasized.

**Materials and Methods.** The main materials are the official Ministries websites of Bavaria and representatives of the Land abroad, as well as reports of the EU commissions on interregional cooperation. To solve the tasks set, the institutional method is used in the context of considering the main actors of Bavaria's foreign policy and their functions, as well as the "case-study" method for analyzing cooperation between Bavaria and the Czech Republic.

**Results and Discussion.** Using the example of the Strategy for the Development of Relations between Bavaria and the Czech Republic from 2019, the multifactorial nature of Bavaria's external relations, as well as a well-thought-out institutional design of cooperation, are demonstrated.

**Conclusion.** The Bavarian model can be successfully implemented in other regions (including Russia) seeking greater global cooperation. This model is contrasted with the traditional model of development of external relations of subnational actors, focused mainly on trade; its advantages are emphasized

**Keywords:** Alpine region, Bavaria, international relations, paradiplomacy, auxiliary paradiplomacy, trade, Czech Republic

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## Внешние связи Баварии

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**Актуальность.** Рассмотрены современное состояние внешних связей Баварии и их основные проблемы, предложены способы их решения. Отдельный акцент сделан на роли Баварии в решении общефедеральных задач ФРГ в сфере внешней политики, для этого используется концепция ауксилиарной парадипломатии Ю.Г. Акимова. Актуальность исследования продиктована отсутствием в научном поле работы, представляющей релевантный и современный анализ состояния внешней политики Баварии. Цель исследования – актуализация изучения внешних связей Баварии в настоящее время. Подчеркнут высокий уровень институционального развития, комплексность и взаимосвязанность реализуемых программ на уровне данной федеральной земли.

**Материалы и методы.** Главными материалами послужили официальные сайты министерств Баварии и представительств Земли за рубежом, а также доклады комиссий ЕС по межрегиональному сотрудничеству. Для решения поставленных задач использовался институциональный метод в контексте рассмотрения основных акторов внешней политики Баварии и их функций, а также метод “case-study” для анализа сотрудничества между Баварией и Чехией.

**Результаты исследования.** На примере Стратегии развития отношений между Баварией и Чехией от 2019 г. продемонстрирована многофакторность внешних связей Баварии, а также продуманный институциональный дизайн сотрудничества.

**Выводы.** Баварская модель может быть успешно имплементирована в других регионах (в том числе и российских), стремящихся к большей глобальной кооперации. Эта модель противопоставляется традиционной модели развития внешних связей субнациональных акторов, ориентированной в основном на торговлю; подчеркиваются ее преимущества.

**Ключевые слова:** Альпийский регион, Бавария, международные связи, парадипломатия, теория ауксилиарной парадипломатии, торговля, Чехия

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### IMPORTANCE

The foreign policy activity of subnational actors in international relations, which originated during the Second World War, has gone a long way in its development. From the twinning ties of war-affected cities, paradiplomacy has developed into an independent phenomenon that plays a significant role in the modern world. The term itself appeared in the 90s of the XX century

thanks to I. Duhachek. In the same years, due to the end of the cold war, the role of paradiplomacy increased markedly [1, p. 67]. Currently, the German lands are one of the most active actors in inter-regional and cross-border cooperation. A large number of works have been devoted to the study of their interregional relations, however, due to the instability of the current configuration of the international system of communication between subjects and other ac-

tors in world politics, they are undergoing a constant transformation and, as a result, need constant study and analysis. For example, certain provisions of the articles by K.V. Bogdanov and I.A. Kuzmin, considering the cooperation of Bavaria with Russia [2, p. 477], have lost their relevance due to current interstate relations. A number of provisions of the important work of P. Fischer's "Regional Relations of Bavaria" (*Die regionalen Beziehungen Bayerns*) is also outdated [3]. In particular, the researcher did not pay attention to the non-European contacts of Bavaria, considering them insignificant in comparison with the processes within the European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area (EEA).

To achieve the goal of the study, which is to update the study of Bavaria's foreign relations, it seems necessary, firstly, to analyze the main areas of foreign relations and point out the roles of ministries and other administrative and legislative bodies involved in them. Secondly, it would be useful to demonstrate the implementation of these areas through the example of the relations between Bavaria and the Czech Republic.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The analysis of the current state of Bavaria's foreign relations is based on the concept of auxiliary diplomacy proposed by Yu.G. Akimov in his article titled "Auxiliary Diplomacy: Using the External Relations of subnational units to solve national foreign policy problems (Past and Present)" [1]. This concept, which states that federal centers use their subnational entities to achieve their foreign policy objectives, and it contributes to a better understanding of Bavaria's specific foreign policy approach [4, p. 39].

The actual basis for the study was the websites of ministries, agencies and special programs, external representations of Bavaria abroad, statistics from the information resources of the Ministry of Statistics of Bavaria and international institutions, mainly the EU, regulatory documents (the Constitution of Germany and the Lindau Agreement, the Strategy of inter-

regional Development between Bavaria and the Czech Republic), reports as regional authorities, so is the EU.

To achieve the goal and objectives, an institutional method was used, which allows us to reveal the role of Bavarian actors in the external activities of the Land, and the "case-study" method, which allows us to study in more detail the cooperation and its results between the Czech Republic and Bavaria.

## RESEARCH RESULTS

The following areas of Bavaria's foreign relations can be distinguished: politics, economics, environmental protection, and humanitarian cooperation.

Before considering the goals and objectives of Bavarian foreign relations, as well as analyzing their effectiveness, it is logical to stipulate that, according to the German Constitution, "Maintaining relations with foreign states is the responsibility of the Federation"<sup>1</sup>, and in order to conclude agreements in the field of international cooperation, the federal government must obtain permission from Berlin.

Given the aforementioned reservations about the powers of the lands, their political contacts should be considered in the context of Germany's common foreign policy. At this stage, the main goal can be seen as maintaining stable cooperation within the EU, it's possible expansion at the expense of the Balkan countries (Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and Macedonia), Eastern Europe (Ukraine and Moldova), as well as establishing and developing relations with new potential suppliers due to Russia's departure from the European hydrocarbon market. It is worth noting that Bavaria has already been involved in programs related to improve the level of education in the newly joined EU countries such as Poland and the Czech Republic in 2003, and also con-

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<sup>1</sup> Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany, May 23, 1949 (Article 32). 1000 Key Documents on German History in the 20th century. Available at: URL: <https://www.1000dokumente.de/> (accessed: 23.01.2024).

ducted trainings for judicial system employees<sup>2</sup>. Currently, assistance is being provided to potential member states such as Ukraine and Turkey. To achieve these goals, Bavaria can assist the federal center and the EU in fulfilling a number of tasks, namely: strengthening cooperation with border regions, regions of EU member states, and regions of countries applying for EU membership; establishing strong contacts with non-European countries rich in resources. Cooperation with non-EU partners, in particular, with South Africa and other African republics; and helping to establish imports of natural resources. However, it should be noted that such cooperation must be mutually beneficial. Otherwise, otherwise it will be of a neocolonial nature. The Ministry of Economy, Regional Development, and Energy of Bavaria emphasizes the desire to deepen the digitalization in the region, and maintain a socially responsible market economy<sup>3</sup>.

Bavaria's foreign economic activity is highly diversified, but the main area of cooperation between Bavaria and other territories is economic cooperation. The economy of Bavaria is one of the largest not only among the German lands, but also among other regions of the EU member states. In addition, it is characterized by a large proportion of high-tech industries: microelectronics, optics, chemical industry, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment manufacturing, as well as service sectors: banking, insurance business<sup>4</sup>. As of 2022, Bavarian real GDP was 716.78 billion euros<sup>5</sup>, which sets the country's

economy apart from many national economies in the EU. For example, Poland's GDP in the same period was 654 billion euro<sup>6</sup>, and Sweden's was 563 billion euro<sup>7</sup>. Comparing the figures for Bavaria with those for small EU countries, we will see that Latvia's GDP in 2022 did not exceed 39 million euros<sup>8</sup>, while Malta's did not exceed even 17 million euros<sup>9</sup>. Bavaria grew by 7.56 % (54.19 million). Exports at the end of last year amounted to 216.46 billion, while imports totaled \$250.63 billion<sup>10</sup>.

The high level of technology development, involvement in European and global economic chains, and cultural diversity form a unique approach to participating in international cooperation. Bavaria actively cooperates with the EU member states, as well as with their regions and municipalities, on the one hand, and actors not participating in the European integration associations on the other.

Thus, today Bavaria has special relations with the following non-European regions: Shandong and Guangzhou (China), Quebec (Canada), the Western Cape Province and Gauteng (South Africa), São Paulo (Brazil), Georgia (USA). In addition, Bavaria takes part in the Regional Leaders Summit every two years, which hosts meetings between the leaders of Guangdong, Quebec, Bavarian, Georgian, São Paulo, and Upper Austrian. At these summits, they discuss issues such as economic development, social

<sup>2</sup> Unterstützung der EU-Beitrittsvorbereitungen mittel- und osteuropäischer Länder // BMU-Zeitschrift "Umwelt". URL: [https://www.bmu.de/fileadmin/Daten\\_BMU/Download\\_PDF/Europa\\_International/tw\\_artikel\\_pl\\_cz\\_bf.pdf](https://www.bmu.de/fileadmin/Daten_BMU/Download_PDF/Europa_International/tw_artikel_pl_cz_bf.pdf) (abgerufen: 23.01.2024).

<sup>3</sup> Tasks & objectives // The Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs, Regional Development and Energy. URL: <https://www.stmwi.bayern.de/english/> (accessed: 23.01.2024).

<sup>4</sup> Industrie Bericht Bayern // Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Wirtschaft, Landesentwicklung und Energie. URL: [https://www.stmwi.bayern.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/stmwi/Wirtschaft/Industrie/Industriebericht\\_Bayern\\_2022.pdf](https://www.stmwi.bayern.de/fileadmin/user_upload/stmwi/Wirtschaft/Industrie/Industriebericht_Bayern_2022.pdf) (abgerufen: 23.01.2024).

<sup>5</sup> Get to know Bavaria // Bayerisches Afrikabüro in Addis Abeba. URL: <https://africa.bayern.de/europes-innovation-powerhouse/> (accessed: 23.01.2024).

<sup>6</sup> Focus Economics: Poland // Focus Economics. URL: <https://www.focus-economics.com/countries/poland/> (accessed: 23.01.2024).

<sup>7</sup> Focus Economics: Sweden // Focus Economics. URL: <https://www.focus-economics.com/countries/sweden/> (accessed: 23.01.2024).

<sup>8</sup> Focus Economics: Latvia // Focus Economics. URL: <https://www.focus-economics.com/countries/latvia/> (accessed: 23.01.2024).

<sup>9</sup> Focus Economics: Malta // Focus Economics. URL: <https://www.focus-economics.com/countries/malta/> (accessed: 23.01.2024).

<sup>10</sup> Wesgro Research Bavaria Regional Fact Sheet // Wesgro. URL: [https://www.wesgro.co.za/uploads/files/Wesgro-Research-Bavaria-Regional-Fact-Sheet\\_2023.09.pdf](https://www.wesgro.co.za/uploads/files/Wesgro-Research-Bavaria-Regional-Fact-Sheet_2023.09.pdf) (accessed: 23.01.2024).

security, environmental protection, and multiculturalism development<sup>11</sup>.

Currently, Bavaria's economic cooperation with its main foreign trade partners (the United States, China, Austria, the Czech Republic, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands) consists of trade in high-tech goods and services. Analysing Bavaria's trade balance from 2012 to 2022, it is worth noting that exports and imports have grown throughout the period. On average, annual export growth has been 3.13 % while import growth has been at 7.88 %. In 2019, the trade balance turned negative (18,963,102 euros of exports vs 19,284,106 euros of imports), and the disparity intensified in subsequent years<sup>12</sup>. One of the main reasons for this rebalancing has been the increase in exports from China. Bavarian authorities have seen reducing the trade imbalance as a key economic goal. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to stimulate exports in order to increase their annual average growth by opening new markets for Bavarian products, in particular Southeast Asia and China<sup>13</sup>. Meanwhile, Bavarian manufacturers prefer to buy individual components from Asia, including high-tech components (in the automotive industry, energy generation and distribution, industrial equipment, and aerospace) in order to create finished products due to price factors related to labor costs<sup>14</sup>. As well as urgent task to improve transportation routes on the

border with the Czech Republic to boost trade volumes<sup>15</sup>.

In the field of ecology, one of the most important goals is to attract more participants to the problems of protecting the Alps and Lake Constance, which is a common territory of three countries: Germany, Austria and Switzerland. In addition, this area has a high degree of institutionalization. Within the framework of the Alpine Convention of 1995, the adjacent regions regulate the management and protection of water resources, agriculture, forestry, ecotourism development, as well as the overall sustainable development of the region aimed at preserving biodiversity and traditional culture of the region's inhabitants. Norway, the first participating country geographically located outside this region, was also involved in cooperation within the framework of the Alpine research program. In order to achieve another goal – to harmonize approaches to environmental protection with the Pilsen and South Bohemian regions – the Bavarian government will have to cooperate with the regional authorities of the Czech regions, as well as do a lot of work to involve contacts at the Conference of European Regional Ministers of the Environment and meetings of the Committee of the Regions<sup>16</sup>. A common task for the authorities of the South Bohemian region of Bavaria and Upper Austria is to preserve the forest area of Šumava. In addition, Bavaria participates in the "EU Strategy for the Danube Region" ("Strategie der Europäischen Union für den Donaauraum"), which develops and implements development programs for the territories adjacent to the river.

Another area of international activity of Bavaria in the framework of environmental protection is the control of harmful substances in the

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<sup>11</sup> About Us // Regional Leaders' Summit. URL: <https://www.regionalleaderssummit.org/about/> (accessed: 23.01.2024).

<sup>12</sup> Außenhandel: Land, Aus- und Einfuhr, Jahre // Bayerisches Landesamt für Statistik. URL: <https://www.statistikdaten.bayern.de/genesis/online?operation=previous&levelindex=1&step=1> (abrufen: 23.01.2024).

<sup>13</sup> China und ASEAN bleiben im Trend // Außenwirtschaftsportal Bayern. URL: <https://international.bihk.de/magazin/im-gespraech/detail/china-und-asean.html> (abrufen: 23.01.2024).

<sup>14</sup> Prognose: Industriezweige abhängig von China-Einführen // Süddeutsche Zeitung. URL: <https://www.sueddeutsche.de/bayern/aussenhandel-muenchen-prognose-industriezweige-abhaengig-von-china-einfuehren-dpa.urn-newsml-dpa-com-20090101-231102-99-791225> (abrufen: 23.01.2024).

<sup>15</sup> Wirtschaftsbeziehungen| Außenhandel Bayern-Tschechien // Delegation der Bayerischen Wirtschaft in der Tschechischen Republik. URL: <https://www.bavariaworldwide.de/tschechien/ueber-tschechien/wirtschaftsbeziehungen/> (abrufen: 23.01.2024).

<sup>16</sup> Bayerische Umwelt- und Verbraucherschutzbelange im EU-Gesetzgebungsprozess // Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz. URL: <https://www.stmuv.bayern.de/ministerium/eu/zusammenarbeit/institutionen.htm> (abrufen: 23.01.2024).



air. Research station "Schneefernerhaus" (Schneefer-nerhaus) collects and analyzes data on climate change in the Alps region. Scientists from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, France and Norway are participating in the project<sup>17</sup>.

A similar project has been launched on the basis of the Bavarian-Czech cooperation, which is especially important due to the lower level of development of environmental initiatives among the new EU members<sup>18</sup>.

As part of the RAPEX (Rapid Exchange of Information System) and RASFF (Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed) systems, Bavaria participates in the exchange of data on potentially dangerous food and goods with EU states and regions of EU member states. In addition, there is an agreement on the exchange of data with China on import-export goods<sup>19</sup>.

Bavaria also actively participates in the Conference of European Regional Environment Ministers, in which, together with the Government of the Netherlands, Utrecht, it develops principles for the protection of food quality control, as well as lobbies for the idea of non-admission of GMO products to the common European market<sup>20</sup>.

The purpose of international educational cooperation in Bavaria is to strengthen ties between partner educational institutions in order to strengthen the position of this land as a region in

the international scientific field<sup>21</sup>. For the successful realization of this goal, formulated by the Bavarian Research Alliance, it is necessary to expand partnerships and systematically support scientific initiatives both from the government of this federal state and from private investors interested in technological innovations. The main task of humanitarian activities, as noted by the United World network of organizations (Das Eine Welt Netzwerk Bayern), remains to help the global South overcome technological backwardness through a multi-pronged approach that includes direct investments in industry, agriculture, and educational programs aimed at increasing the level of human capital, which in turn It should bring economic and social improvements on the ground<sup>22</sup>.

Nevertheless, within the framework of its external relations, Bavaria not only creates the image of a developed technological center, paying great attention to environmental protection, but also supports scientific, educational and cultural contacts. Over the past 10 years, the number of international students at universities in Bavaria has increased by 161.9 %<sup>23</sup>. Four Bavarian universities (the Technical University of Munich, the University of Munich, the University of Erlangen–Nuremberg and the University of Würzburg) are among the hundred best universities in Europe, which represents Bavaria as a center for the development of technological progress, public thought and innovation.

Student exchange programs are taking place between the educational institutions of secondary education in Bavaria and the Pilsen region. Schoolchildren from the two regions spend part of the year at the twin school, as a result of which connections are established between the

<sup>17</sup> Über uns // Die Betriebsgesellschaft Umweltforschungsstation Schneefernerhaus GmbH. URL: <https://schneefernerhaus.de/station/betriebsgesellschaft/> (abrufen: 23.01.2024).

<sup>18</sup> German-Czech cross border cooperation for continuous monitoring of UFP and BC // International Symposium on Ultrafine Particles. URL: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/269519026\\_GermanCzech\\_cross\\_border\\_cooperation\\_for\\_continuous\\_monitoring\\_of\\_UFP\\_and\\_BC](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/269519026_GermanCzech_cross_border_cooperation_for_continuous_monitoring_of_UFP_and_BC) (accessed: 23.01.2024).

<sup>19</sup> Verbraucherschutz, Produkt- und Lebensmittelsicherheit // Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz. URL: <https://www.stmuv.bayern.de/ministerium/eu/zusammenarbeit/internationale.htm> (abrufen: 23.01.2024).

<sup>20</sup> ENCORE – Konferenz der regionalen Umweltminister Europas // Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz. URL: <https://www.stmuv.bayern.de/ministerium/eu/zusammenarbeit/encore/index.htm> (abrufen: 23.01.2024).

<sup>21</sup> Background // Bavarian Research Alliance. URL: <https://www.bayfor.org/en/about-us/organisation/background.html> (accessed: 23.01.2024).

<sup>22</sup> Fast überall in Bayern... // Eine Welt Netzwerk Bayern. URL: <https://www.eineweltnetzwerkbayern.de/ewnb> (abrufen: 23.01.2024).

<sup>23</sup> 79374 Studierende mit internationalem Hintergrund an den Hochschulen in Bayern immatrikuliert // Bayerisches Landesamt für Statistik. URL: <https://www.statistik.bayern.de/presse/mitteilungen/2023/p314/index.html> (abrufen: 23.01.2024).

youth. Such programs played an important role in the 2000s and 2010s, when the Czech Republic was integrated into European initiatives<sup>24</sup>. They helped to give the integration process, which initially had a political and economic character, a cultural and social dimension, removing obstacles to building European identity among Czech youth. In addition, Bavaria's participation in the Erasmus+ program makes it possible to intensify academic contacts in the exchange format between universities in this federal state and non-European educational institutions.

Helping poor areas of Africa modernize their economies and address basic humanitarian and social issues is another area of international humanitarian activity that has been relevant for many years. In a report submitted by the Bavarian State Chancellery (Bayerische Staatskanzlei), provides a detailed report on the work of both state and non-state Bavarian actors in the field of improving the socio-humanitarian situation. The main recipients of aid are Tunisia, Senegal, Ghana, Togo, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Malawi and some regions of South Africa.

The bulk of the assistance is provided in the form of material goods (equipment and tools for increasing the yield of local agriculture, water treatment plants, electricity generators) and services provided by Bavarian specialists (mainly education and professional training corresponding to the economic specialization of the region; training of managerial personnel in the field of development based on German educational institutions; preparation of recommendations on the reform of local legislation aimed at encouraging private activity and the introduction of new production methods)<sup>25</sup>.

So, the current goals and objectives of Bavaria's foreign relations correspond to the urgent

foreign policy problems faced by this federal state, Germany and the entire EU. Deepening existing ties and creating new ones are a worthy response to the crises of integration processes and make it possible to continue sectoral cooperation. An extensive network of contacts, broad economic and cultural opportunities, and a rich history of successful contacts with individual regions simplify the achievement of goals, contributing to the federal center's policy on these issues. The goals described above are stable and are not subject to major changes depending on the internal political situation. The change of the ruling party in Germany, as well as the changes in the Bavarian parliament, do not have a significant impact on them. For all the recent authorities, these goals remain similar. Long-term planning of ongoing initiatives and their budgets does not provide space for making changes to them.

Summing up the review of the main directions, it is necessary to once again point out the multidisciplinary activities of Bavaria. An important feature of its external relations is their thoughtfulness and deep interconnectedness of all directions. Thus, improving the environment in the area of the Alps and Lake Constance can lead to an increase in the tourist flow, which is consistent with the policy of transport development in the border areas. Assistance to African countries and improving the living conditions of the population (especially in Tunisia) lead to a decrease in the number of refugees, a decline in illegal migration and, as a result, a reduction in political tensions in Bavaria itself, in Germany and throughout the EU, which frees up budget funds for further humanitarian activities and other types of international cooperation.

One of the most important institutions for implementing foreign relations in Bavaria is the Ministry of Economy, Regional Development and Energy. There are 10 departments in its structure. The 6th Department, which deals with internationalization, regional relations and oversees the activities of the Invest in Bavaria agency, is directly involved in international cooperation. There are five areas of activity within the department, four of which are region-specific: 1) the main issues of the foreign economy,

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<sup>24</sup> Tandem – Koordinierungszentrum Deutsch-Tschechischer Jugendaustausch // Austausch Macht Schule. URL: <https://www.austausch-macht-schule.org/tandem> (abrufen: 23.01.2024).

<sup>25</sup> Der Beitrag Bayerns zu Stabilität und Entwicklung in Afrika // Bayerische Staatskanzlei. URL: <https://www.bayern.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/BRO-SCHUeRE-AFRIKAPAKET-FINAL-2021.pdf> (abrufen: 23.01.2024).

America; 2) Europe, exhibition business; 3) Africa, Middle East, Turkey, development cooperation; 4) Asia, Bayern International agency, foreign exhibitions; 5) Invest in Bavaria agency, local marketing and investor support<sup>26</sup>. The 7th department is engaged in the development of tourist relations. The main support mechanisms are direct subsidies to companies in Bavaria that want to enter the international market (local assistance is provided through representative offices in Bavaria), financial grants for the development of international business management, and information support<sup>27</sup>.

The "Invest in Bavaria" agency provides assistance to foreign companies in setting up business in the territory of this federal state – choosing a place of business, advising on marketing strategies, as well as opportunities for cooperation with existing companies in the region<sup>28</sup>.

The Bayern "International agency", established by the Ministry of Economy, on the contrary, provides assistance to companies from Bavaria when entering the international market. The activities related to the organization of promotional exhibitions in other countries are highlighted, as well as the "Key to Bavaria" project, which is a database of export - oriented companies from Bavaria, thanks to which potential buyers can find potential sellers<sup>29</sup>.

Another ministry actively involved in Bavaria's international activities is the Ministry of Environment and Consumer Protection. His main activity is participation in the creation and implementation of environmental and product

control treaties, as well as the organization of international research groups<sup>30</sup>.

The Research Alliance of Bavaria supports international scientific relations in the region. To this end, he provides assistance in conducting research and commercializing inventions, provides scientific, administrative and financial support at all stages of scientific activity, conducts activities to establish scientific contacts between research institutes in Bavaria and scientific centers in other countries, and supports the creation of consortia related to projects<sup>31</sup>.

The umbrella organization United World focuses on the development and implementation of humanitarian projects. As part of this activity, she conducts educational seminars on global issues, participates in actions and public companies, lobbies for inclusion in the agenda of assistance to developing countries, finances and informationally supports projects aimed at helping<sup>32</sup>.

The "Study in Bavaria" project, organized by the Ministry of Science and Art (*Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Wissenschaft und Kunst*). The aim of the project is to provide information assistance to applicants by collecting basic information about admission on one resource. He also acts as an aggregator of international programs at universities in Bavaria, helping to find suitable options.

The Bavarian Landtag, as well as the Government of Bavaria, does not participate in international cooperation as actively as specialized agencies and relevant ministries do. However, the fundamental foundations of the foreign relations of this federal state depend on them. In particular, their functions include defining the legal framework for international cooperation,

<sup>26</sup> Organisation // The Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs, Regional Development and Energy. URL: <https://www.stmwi.bayern.de/ministerium/organisation/> (accessed: 23.01.2024).

<sup>27</sup> Förderung // Außenwirtschaft in Bayern. URL: <https://www.aussenwirtschaft.bayern/foerderung/> (abrufen: 23.01.2024).

<sup>28</sup> Über Invest in Bavaria // Invest in Bavaria. URL: <https://www.invest-in-bavaria.com/unsere-services/ueber-uns> (abrufen: 23.01.2024).

<sup>29</sup> Key to Bavaria – the foreign trade database // Bayern International. URL: <https://www.bayern-international.de/en/company-database> (accessed: 23.01.2024).

<sup>30</sup> Für Mensch und Umwelt – Aufgaben des Ministeriums // Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz. URL: <https://www.stmuv.bayern.de/ministerium/aufgaben/index.htm> (abrufen: 23.01.2024).

<sup>31</sup> Bayerische Forschungsallianz (Bavarian Research Alliance) // Bayern innovativ. URL: <https://www.bayern-innovativ.de/en/company/bayerische-forschungsallianz-gmbh> (abrufen: 23.01.2024).

<sup>32</sup> Selbstdarstellung // Eine Welt Netzwerk Bayern. URL: <https://www.eineweltnetzwerkbayern.de/ewnb> (abrufen: 23.01.2024).



consisting in the adoption of legislative acts and the ratification of treaties, the adoption and execution of the budget. It is important to note that the lands in Germany influence the adoption of international treaties of the federal center by giving their consent to them if their interests are affected by these treaties. The federal government must take into account the interests of the regions in accordance with the Lindau Agreement of 1957<sup>33</sup>. However, if the federal state did not express any complaints during the discussion of the planned agreement in consultation with Berlin, then in the future it is responsible for its strict observance. In addition, individual representatives of land authorities perform a representative function during the reception of foreign delegations, as well as visits to other countries.

The main functions of the agencies described above are to attract foreign capital to Bavaria, as well as to assist companies from Bavaria in carrying out international activities. Nevertheless, individual institutes are aimed at expanding cooperation in the scientific, environmental and humanitarian fields. Together, they serve to enhance the international prestige of the region. Particularly noteworthy is the fruitful cooperation between non-profit organizations and official authorities in the implementation of external relations. In addition, the use of a wide range of tools makes it possible to pursue flexible policies regarding existing programs, which affects the functionality of institutions that are ready to interact in new formats and conditions, which in turn eliminates the need to constantly increase their number. A relatively small number of institutions with flexible functionality make it possible to avoid the bureaucratization of the sphere of international cooperation.

Given the diversity of Bavaria's international activities and their scale, we cannot fully consider all the examples of successful interregional cooperation, however, the following is the most representative example.

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<sup>33</sup> Lindauer Abkommen (Text) // lexexakt.de. URL: <https://www.lexexakt.de/index.php/glossar/lindauerabkomm-entxt.php> (abrufen: 23.01.2024).

In 2019, the strategy for interregional development between Bavaria and the Czech Republic for 2021–2027 was adopted<sup>34</sup>. Its main feature is an integrated approach to the development of cross-border relations. 5 priorities were identified: research and knowledge transfer, adaptation to climate change and environmental protection, education, culture and sustainable tourism, and improvement of interregional governance. The most important task, as noted by the authors of the strategy, remains to strengthen cooperation between the border municipalities.

According to statistics, about 65 % of all Czech citizens permanently residing and working in Germany are in Bavaria. They are mainly employed in industrial production, transport and logistics, as well as in the service sector. This influx of migrants partially compensates for the shortage of personnel observed in Bavaria over the past five to ten years<sup>35</sup>. However, the legacy of the Iron Curtain, manifested in the absence of border ties, still makes itself felt, even 30 years after its fall. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that in such extreme situations, all cooperation that took place before quickly stops. The regional authorities are locking themselves in an attempt to solve the problem exclusively on their territory, without assuming that the tactics of continuing cooperation may be more profitable than the desire for isolation. To solve this problem, it is planned to create specialized groups with the participation of specialized specialists from both sides to develop strategies for joint action in emergency situations. It also implies the active involvement of regional authorities in the process of facilitating labor migration and the intensification of public transport.

To date, within the framework of the Strategy, an agreement has been reached on the ex-

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<sup>34</sup> INTERREG Bayern-Tschechien 2021–2027 programmdokument // European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) URL: [https://interreg.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Programmdokument\\_BY-CZ\\_1.Version-17.03.2022.pdf](https://interreg.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Programmdokument_BY-CZ_1.Version-17.03.2022.pdf) (abrufen: 23.01.2024).

<sup>35</sup> 45000 Tschechen und Österreicher arbeiten in Deutschland // Zeit Online. URL: <https://www.zeit.de/news/2021-02/12/45-000-tschechen-und-oesterreicher-arbeiten-in-deutschland> (abrufen: 23.01.2024).

change of data on traffic congestion in border areas for a joint assessment of the need to create new transport routes and modernize existing ones<sup>36</sup>.

This Strategy is a clear example of Bavaria's comprehensive approach to international cooperation. The programs and events are aimed at creating sustainable practices, on the basis of which new, more complex integration models can be implemented in the future. The experience of European cooperation plays an important role in this. Its multidimensional nature, aimed at deepening integration with each step, helps to gradually overcome existing barriers and harmonize approaches in the field of legal regulation, environmental initiatives and other areas. Mutually beneficial cooperation is a fundamental characteristic for such programs. Both sides should benefit equally, as their motivation to continue cooperation depends on it. The very existence of the six-year strategy reflects the desire for long-term partnership on all regional policy issues. Understanding the importance of diversifying areas of cooperation and moving away from the traditional model with an emphasis on trade relations makes modern Bavarian politics so versatile and conceptually complex. This case also shows a manifestation of auxiliary paradiplomacy: by providing assistance to the Czech Republic, Bavaria contributes to reducing the level of European-wide inequality and smoothing the social sphere of the entire EU.

Let us summarize some results of the analysis of the current state of Bavaria's foreign relations. The key conclusions that can be drawn from the results of the study are as follows.

1. Bavaria's foreign relations, however geographically diverse they may be, still focus mainly on cooperation with EU countries. This is because the national successes of European integration create a solid foundation for the further development of ties between individual actors in the region.

2. The institutional development of Bavaria makes it possible for its effective participation in various programs from economic to humanitarian.

3. The distribution of directions for the implementation of external relations between government ministries and agencies and non-profit organizations increases the effectiveness of program implementation.

4. To address current challenges (improving the trade balance, attracting more attention from non-adjacent territories to participate in environmental projects in the Alps and Lake Constance, and helping to develop poor regions of the planet), Bavaria has all the necessary tools due to its involvement in many international organizations, as well as its economic and cultural weight.

5. Despite the serious challenges faced by Germany and the EU, Bavaria continues to show economic growth, as well as expand cooperation with both EU partners and non-European actors.

6. Bavaria actively helps Germany and the entire EU in solving tasks, including reducing inequality between EU countries, developing multilateral environmental protection programs and attracting new participants to existing ones, reducing the flow of illegal migration from African countries, increasing prestige, and increasing trade turnover.

## CONCLUSION

It is worth noting that the framework model used by Bavaria can be borrowed by other large regions, including the Russian ones (St. Petersburg, Moscow, Novosibirsk Region, Sverdlovsk Region, Republic of Tatarstan) to build multifactorial relations with other countries and regions. The example of Bavaria shows that in order to position a subnational actor as a truly global player, it is not enough to maintain economic ties alone, although they are certainly important and often serve as a driver for the development of other areas. Involvement in environmental, tourism, educational and research activities, the creation of working bilateral and multilateral bodies – this helps to develop international relations, the benefits of which are ul-

<sup>36</sup> Bayern und Tschechien: Gegenseitiger Austausch von Verkehrsdaten vereinbart // Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Wohnen, Bau und Verkehr. URL: <https://www.stmb.bayern.de/med/pressemitteilungen/pressearchiv/2023/54/index.php> (abrufen: 23.01.2024).

timately felt by the residents of the region, and not by a narrow stratum of companies engaged

in exports, as with the traditional trade-centric model.

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