



The SECONDOS Program
for students with
a bicultural background

EUROPAEUM. East-West Center



Universität Regensburg



Europaeum

- is a central facility of the Universität Regensburg
- enhances the Eastern Europe Focus of the university, which considers itself a bridge between East and West
- encourages students and academic staff to pursue studies, projects and research on Eastern Europe
- inspires interdisciplinary thinking and cross-cultural perspective
- initiates continuously the enhancement of activities in research and teaching with the emphasis on Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe.



The Secondos Program

- for students who grew up in Germany with a second language and culture
- offers the possibility to combine their study programme with special heritage language courses
- and a study abroad stay at a partner university in the heritage country
- is currently open to students with a migration background from Croatia, Poland, Rumania, Russia, Ukraine and Hungary
- the word “Secondos” is used in Switzerland to describe second generation immigrants



The special situation of Secondos

- They often are able to speak their heritage language.
- But in most cases they have difficulties reading and writing.
- They are often familiar with their heritage country only from holidays.
- Often they are not aware that their second background can be valuable.
- Often they perceive their second background as negative.
- They cannot find offers addressing their specific needs for improving their heritage language skills.



Intention of the Secondos Program

At the Universität Regensburg these students have the chance to

- **improve the knowledge of their heritage language**
- **become more knowledgeable of their heritage country**
- **use the potential of their bicultural background to improve their chances on the job market**
- **revitalise the relationship to their heritage country**

Our main target:

To recognize the second background as a valuable potential.



Experiences

- **Participants of the Secondos Program substantial benefit from it at the end of their studies – both personally and professionally.**
- **Advertising the Secondos Program is a challenge.**
- **We were successful in developing a positive connotation for our Secondos Program.**
- **Employers are very interested in getting in contact with our Secondos.**
- **Our partners in the heritage countries are very enthusiastic about the Secondos Program.**