

The 5th PhD-seminar of the Department of Electrochemistry and Electroplating (ECG) of the TU Ilmenau took place this year from August 15 to 17 in Dübendorf, Switzerland.

In the ECG department, under the supervision of professor A. Bund, PhD students can participate in a doctoral program by working either at the TU Ilmenau, in cooperation with industry or at other research institutes. Although these conditions offer a large variety of working environments and can be beneficial for individual research, it is difficult for doctoral candidates to establish contacts and exchange ideas. For this reason, the PhD-seminar offered the possibility to get to know each other in a relaxed atmosphere during the official program or in the evening, to expand knowledge, to share experiences or to plan new collaborations.

In addition to the presentations of new dissertation topics and discussion of results, fundamental knowledge was reviewed via lectures on simulations and physical analysis methods. An important discussion included the decision to found a "Student Chapter" at the Electrochemical Society.

In addition to the academic discourse, participants had the opportunity to visit the production line and other departments of Collini AG, a leading company in surface technology, in order to gain practical insight. A dinner followed by a guided tour through Zurich completed the interesting event.

The feedback of all participants was very positive and encouraged the continuation of the PhD-seminar next year. The next seminar is planned to take place at TU Ilmenau at the beginning of 2020.

A sincere thanks goes to the organizers Christoph Baumer and Iris Kovácsovics (both Collini AG) as well as to all participants.