Erasmus+

September 2024

Overview of the key reforms and priorities in Higher Education of Ukraine

Prepared by National Erasmus+ Office
and Erasmus+ Higher Education Reform Expert team

Національний Еразмус+ офіс в Україні та команда експертів з реформування вищої освіти
National Erasmus+ Office – Ukraine and Higher Education Reform Experts Team

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds

Funded by
the European Union

National Office
Erasmus+UA
erasmusplus.org.ua

War-Induced losses and challenges of Ukrainian Education during martial law* (since 24.02.2022)

Severe damage of the educational ecosystem:

- Human losses among students teaching and admin staff

- 3798 education institutions damaged, 365 destroyed completely

- War affected 1.5 million young Ukrainians, over 70,000 foreign student

- Many HEIs have served as shelters and humanitarian hubs

- International officers and projects teams&families under danger in occupied territorie

- 34 HEIs, 65 units of HEIs and 45 VET institutions temporarily relocated

- Teaching and learning process: from shelters, frontlines and abroad (online/offline/blended formats)

- Sirens, electricity cuts, long-term blackouts and its consequences (days/nights)

- Emotional burnout among students and teaching staff

- Enrollment campaign 2024 was a big challenge for many HEIs (1.4 mln. applied

- Brain drain

By Ukrainian artist – Oleksiy Say and founder of Mediaproject "Ukrainian Witness" – Vitaliy Dejnega

* Sourse: https://saveschools.in.ua/en/

Higher Education & VET Institutions and Schools in Ukraine during martial law (as of 2023)

➢ **314 Higher Education Institutions:**
  - State funded – 217
  - Private – 97
- About **1,195 mln. students** in higher education
- About **115 857 HEIs academic staff** in 2023
- About **33 328 foreign students**
- **763 398 BA, 360 191 MA** and **46 523 PhD** students
- **34 relocated HEIs since 2022**

➢ **12 701** (12 976 in 2022) **Secondary Schools:**
- **3 906 174** (4 041 976 – 2022) **pupils**
- **390 089** (401 836 - 2022) **teaching staff**
- Young people (14-35 years old): 10.6 mln.

➢ **978 VET institutions :**
- **575 207 students**
- **71 177 pedagogical staff**
- **195 foreign students**

➢ **National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine:**
- 160 research institutes
- 29 870 staff, incl. 15 530 researchers
- 260 cooperation agreements with HEIs
- 5 Sectoral National Academies of Sciences (Law, Medicine, Agrarian, Education, Arts)

From Tempus to Erasmus+: Trust(th)! Experts pool, quality assurance system!

- ✓ Building trust: EU to UA HEIs, among Ukrainian HEIs and long-term partnerships: mobility & cooperation projects activities
- ✓ International Experts Pool EU&UA for Human Capacity to implement reforms via study visits, TOT, projects activities, staff weeks, workshops, trainings, research, conferences etc.
- ✓ EU expertise: peer learning and mutual understanding of HE system and legislation
- ✓ MoESU, MoDTU, HEIs, VETIs, NQAA, NQA, ENIC/NARIC – Ukraine capacity building
- ✓ HERE's open resources and events on Bologna Process and EHEA Tools implementation
- ✓ Convergence with EU: modernised curricula, 3 cycles, PhD schools, ECTS, competence-based approach, learning outcomes, QA, NQF, European Studies

Funded by the European Union

National Office Erasmus+UA
erasmusplus.org.ua

INTERNATIONALISATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds

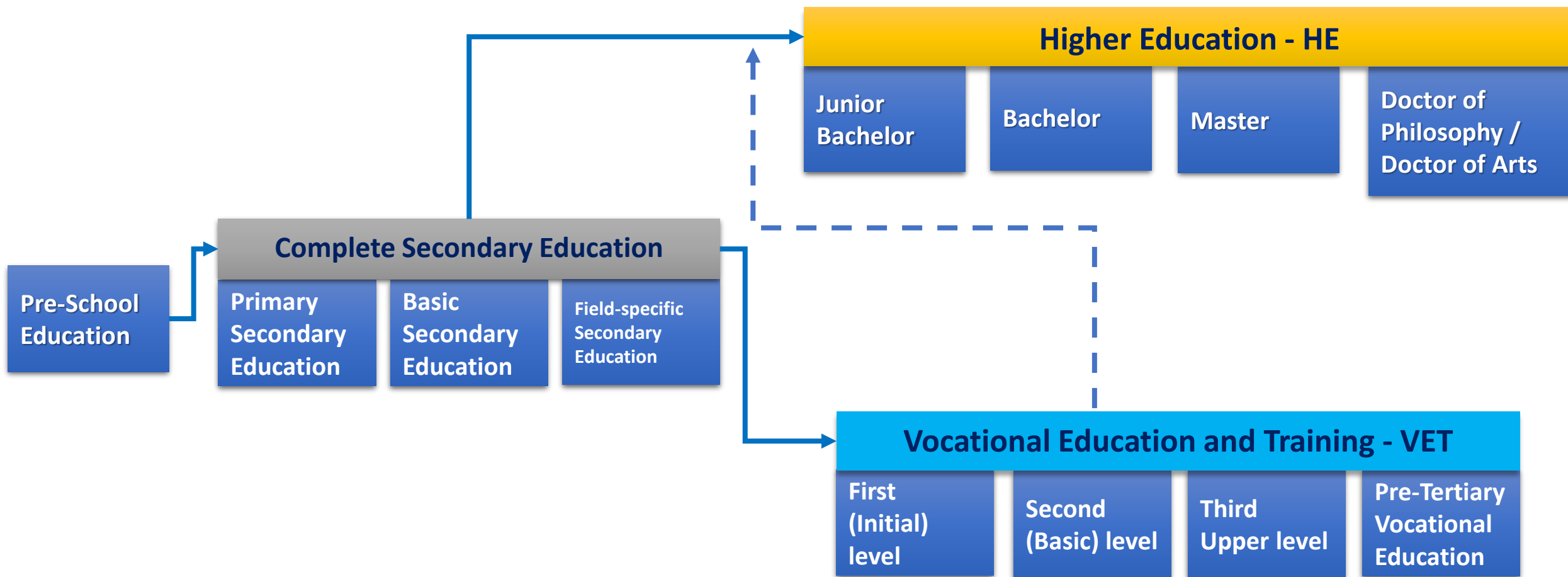# From Tempus to Erasmus+: Resilience and 3rd Mission!

- ✓ Cooperation with students and employers' organisations for curricula reform
- ✓ Strong and reliable projects partners: support during martial law – human, humanitarian, educational, research and soft diplomacy etc.
- ✓ Developed HEIs Capacities for Resilience: blended/distance learning, methodologies/ technologies, infrastructure, virtual labs/ resources, recognition mechanisms
- ✓ Innovative infrastructure for education
- ✓ 3rd mission of HEIs: centers of excellence for communities – social and societal transfers, knowledge and technology transfers

#ErasmusGeneration – Ukraine:
Soft diplomacy – Ambassadors of Ukraine in world: truth, responsibility, justice and trust!
Education, science and cultural diplomacy!

EDUCATION STRUCTURE IN UKRAINE

EDUCATION COMPONENTS		DEGREES / LEVELS, education confirming document	PERIOD OF STUDY (years, ECTS credits)	EHEA CYCLES, NQF levels
Higher Education		Doctor of Philosophy, PhD / Doctor of Arts (Academic Degree)	4 years (30-60 ECTS – academic study component)	III Cycle 8 level, ISCED 2011 8 level, NQF
		Master (Academic Degree)	90-120 ECTS (300-360 ECTS for programmes in Medicine, Veterinary, Pharmacy, Dentistry)	II Cycle 7 level, ISCED 2011 7 level, NQF
		Bachelor (Academic Degree)	180-240 ECTS	I Cycle 6 level, ISCED 2011 6 level, NQF
		Junior Bachelor (Academic Degree)	120 ECTS	Short Cycle 5 level, ISCED 2011 5 level, NQF
Vocational Education and Training - VET	Pre-Tertiary Vocational Education (Equivalent of the Post-Secondary Non-Tertiary Vocational Education)	Vocational Junior Bachelor, Diploma	120-180 ECTS (based on Complete Secondary Education) Up to 240 ECTS (based on Basic Secondary Education)	Access to higher education 4 level, ISCED 2011 5 level, NQF
	Third Upper level (Post-Secondary Non-Tertiary Vocational Education)	Junior Specialist, Diploma	1-2 years (based on Complete Secondary Education) 3-4 years (based on Basic Secondary Education)	Access to higher education 4 level, ISCED 2011 4 level, NQF
	Second (Basic) level (Upper Secondary Vocational Education)	Skilled Worker, Certificate	1-1,5 years (based on Complete Secondary Education) 2-4 years (based on Basic Secondary Education)	Access to higher education 3 level, ISCED 2011 3 level, NQF
	First (Initial) level (Lower Secondary Vocational Education)	Skilled Worker, Certificate	Up to 1 year	2 level, NQF
Complete Secondary Education	Field-specific Secondary Education (Upper Secondary General Education)	Certificate	3 years	Access to higher education 3 level, ISCED 2011 3 level, NQF
	Basic Secondary Education (Lower Secondary General Education)	Certificate	5 years	Access to VET 2 level, ISCED 2011 2 level, NQF
	Primary Secondary Education		4 years	1 level, ISCED 2011 1 level, NQF
Preschool education			Up to 4 years	0 level, ISCED 2011

*More information:

- [**Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine**](#)
- [**ENIC-NARIC Network**](#)
- [**Higher Education System of Ukraine video**](#)
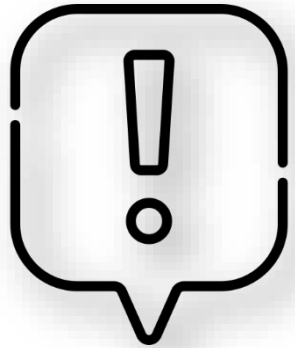- [**Vocational Education and Training System of Ukraine video**](#)

Recognition of Academic (Credit) Mobility and Qualifications

Recognition of higher education qualifications within the Higher Education system is carried out in accordance with the <u>Law on Higher Education - by the decision of the Academic Council of the HEI.</u>

Within Erasmus+ projects, Inter-Institutional Agreement is a <u>MUST</u> to organise official mobility and recognition of learning outcomes and mobility periods.

<u>Recommendation</u>: to have internal mobility regulations to avoid internal risks regarding the recognition of learning outcomes.

Erasmus+ Projects Resources on Recognition issues

Unified State Database on Education, includes diplomas verification: https://info.edbo.gov.ua/

The ENIC-NARIC center of Ukraine that deals with these issues of recognition of the prior education and apostil among other things (Main (enic.in.ua)

Global ENIC-NARIC network has a page devoted to Ukraine is a helpful resource:
https://www.enic-naric.net/page-ukraine-2022

Recorded webinar training on the recognition issues, including the work with the Unified State Database on Education (collected key resources and guides) :
http://cimea.it/ucraina/index_EN.html

EU publication on the fast track recognition: Guidelines on fast-track recognition of Ukrainian academic qualifications | European Education Area (europa.eu)

Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine: emergency portal Education System in Ukraine - Ukrainian education in emergency (mon.gov.ua)

Academic Hub for Recognition: https://academicrecognition.eu/

Bologna Process implementation and key reforms (2014 -2019)

➢ **The Law on Higher Education** ([2014](#) with amendments 2017-2024):

○ **4 cycles:**

PhD / Doctor of Arts (3rd cycle, 8th level of the NQF)

Master (2nd cycle, 7th level of the NQF)

Bachelor (1st cycle, 6th level of the NQF)

Junior Bachelor (short cycle, 5th level of the NQF)

○ **European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System** (ECTS)

○ **QA system in line with ESG**

○ **Academic, organisational, personnel autonomy** (no financial autonomy yet)

○ **National Qualification Framework**

○ **Diploma Supplement**

○ **Competence-based and student-centred approaches, Learning Outcomes**

○ **Academic Mobility and Joint programmes**

○ **National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance** (established in 2016, operated since 2019)

Bologna Process implementation and key reforms since (2014-2019)

➢ **Law on Education** (2017) with (amendments 2018-2024):

○ **National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance (NAQA)** fully operational since 2019
 (4000+ accreditation experts pool and about 7000 study programs accredited by 2024)

○ **National Qualification Framework** (NQF) is harmonized in line with QF EHEA and EQF LLL

○ **National Qualification Agency** (2019) responsible for NQF, professional standards and Qualification Recognition

Bologna Process implementation and key reforms (2019-2022)

- NAQA prepared for entry into ENQA/EQAR

- PhD reform – adoption of a new legal framework for dissertation defenses and PhD study

- **Strategy for the Higher Education Development in Ukraine** (approved on February 23, 2022, the Cabinet of Ministers) is developed in line with European Integration prospects as well as EHEA principles.

- Regulations "**On the approval of the Procedure for the implementation of the right to academic mobility** (updated in May 2022, the Cabinet of Ministers) internships (for practical skills development) and language internships were added as forms of academic mobility, the right to mobility was extended to the VET institutions students.

- **List of Fields of Study and Programme Subject Areas in Higher Education** based on the Fields of Education and Training 2013 (ISCED-F 2013) (updated in 2022, the Ministry) – 29 Fields of Study (Narrow fields of education and training, ISCED) and 122 Programme Subject Areas (Detailed fields of education and training, ISCED)

Current Higher Education reforming in Ukraine (2024)

- **Law on "Individualized Learning Pathway"** (approved, 2024): expanding the opportunities of students to form the individualized learning pathways, as well as expanding the autonomy of HEIs in the development and implementation of interdisciplinary educational programs, recognition of non-formal/informal education

- On April 2, 2024 the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted a resolution "On Amendments to the Rules for Crossing the State Border by Citizens of Ukraine"

- Law on Amendments to the Law of Ukraine "**On Higher Education**" on expanding the rights of **student self-governance** bodies and ensuring the **rights of students**

- **Law on Academic Integrity** (approved, 2024)

Current Higher Education reforming in Ukraine (2024)

➢ State funding for HEIs based on the following criteria (Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers, 2024)

• **Contingent of students** - the total number of students who study at the expense of the state funding

• **Research activity** - the amount of funds (calculated per academic employee) that HEI earned from the provision of research and consulting services or received in the form of grants for research

• **Internationalization** — position of HEIs in international University ranks and/or participation in Erasmus+ projects

• **Employment track**— the percentage of graduates who are employed (data from the Pension Fund)

• **Regional coefficient** — to support HEIs in the most vulnerable, currently front-line regions

Higher Education reforming in Ukraine

Initiatives of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine

➢ Reformed content for the "regulated professions" – Medical, Maritime, etc.

➢ Expansion of dual (cooperative) study programmes – study + work for ECTS credits

➢ Particular emphasis on STEM and Computer Science – Master level

➢ Transformation of funding mechanism – introduction of the state grants for students

➢ Autonomy

Organisational autonomy – preparation of an experiment to strengthen the role of the Supervisory Board (stakeholders) in economic activity and decision making on leadership assignment / election

Personnel autonomy – assignment of academic titles (Professor, Assistant Professor) by HEIs

Financial autonomy – restoration of the Formula for the distribution of state funding in HE

➢ Mergers of HEIs – modernisation and transformation of the HEIs network (217 public universities, MESU, 2023)

Priorities of VET reforms*

- The network of VET schools and professional pre-higher education institutions is effective and has modern infrastructure
- VET and professional pre-higher education ensure the acquisition of educational and professional competencies for personal development and successful careers
- VET schools and professional pre-higher education institutions are attractive and prestigious for learning and working
- Educational institutions effectively utilize their organizational, academic, and financial autonomy and receive results-oriented funding
- VET schools and professional pre-higher education institutions have established partnerships with businesses

Higher Education reform in Ukraine today
All the efforts for the Victory of Ukraine!

➢ Redesigning the University Strategies considering challenges of the wartime and post-war recovery

➢ Enhancement of the digitalisation of teaching and learning excellence

➢ Strengthening the internationalization of higher education, e-internationalization

➢ Third mission, University-Community partnership under focus

➢ Academic contribution to the European integration processes (EU studies, European Studies)

➢ Redesigning, upgrading educational programs, establishing (joint) new (media literacy, cyber security, Post trauma and mental health, Ukrainian studies, Resilience Studies)

➢ Inclusive education

➢ Peace Education as Transformative Pedagogy

➢ Special study programs for the demobilized soldiers and veterans, their reintegration in society

Needs of Ukrainian HEIs coping with challenges of martial law

➤ Development/redesign inclusive&universal curricula and establishment of inclusive ecosystem

➤ Open access of staff and students to innovative courses, resources and infrastructures, virtual labs

➤ COILS, virtual, blended and physical mobility for exchange for staff and students

➤ Inclusive teaching and learning excellence trainings on modern methodologies and technologies

➤ Joint Master Programmes and courses teaching and learning in English or other foreign languages

➤ Joint research

➤ Project writing skills, mental health recovery, presentation skills and other soft skills trainings for staff and students

➤ E-solutions for the University governance

➤ Infrastructure: laptops, minielectrostations or generators, (mirror) servers, virtual labs, artificial and added reality, simulators etc.

Ukrainian Scholars and Students - Ambassadors of Ukraine

➢ Giving lectures on Ukraine across the world

➢ Speaking at International conferences, world forums

➢ Initiating "Ukrainian Studies" and "The Ukrainian Language"

➢ Contributing intellectually to the academic environment of host institutions

➢ Intensifying joint research partnerships

➢ Demonstrating high level of commitment to their home institutions and dedication to support and contribute to the education process in the extremely difficult conditions of war

Erasmus+
Soft diplomacy – Ambassadors of Ukraine in world: truth, responsibility, justice and trust

Education and science diplomacy!

Strategies: UA – EU – World

National Platform for the Recovery Plan of Ukraine

**National Priorities
of Reforms in Education and Science:**
- affordable and quality
  pre-school education
- **New Ukrainian School - download**;
- modern vocational education;
- quality higher education and development of adult education
- development of science and innovation
- innovative infrastructure
- Vision on the Future of Education and Science of Ukraine
- **Higher Education Strategy 2032; MoES Ukraine Action Plan 2027**
- **VET Strategy 2023**
- **Adult Education Law Draft**
- **Ukrainian Youth Strategy 2030:** Safe, Healthy, Capable, Integrated Youth
- **Strategy in Sport**
- **Inclusive Strategy**
- **Ukrainian Global Innovation Vision 2030**

- EU Enlargement Policy for Ukraine
- Roadmap to EU Membership

https://ehea2024tirane.al/2024-tirana-communique/

EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR UNIVERSITIES

SUPPORTING AND ENABLING HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS ACROSS EUROPE

European Commission

A **European shared vision** to support **all types of higher education institutions** to adapt to changing conditions across **all their missions**

Priority areas for transformation based on clear objectives

Concrete actions at EU level to empower and support the sector

Synergies with actions and national reforms

Four key objectives

1 Strengthen the European dimension in higher education and research

Bringing transnational cooperation to a higher level contributes to a culture of excellence and inclusion, a true European identity, and global competitiveness and attractiveness

2 Consolidate universities as lighthouses of our European way of life

Strengthen quality and relevance for future-proof skills

In a fast changing environment, universities need to strengthen their capacities to equip young people, lifelong learners and researchers with the right competences and skills

Foster diversity, inclusiveness and gender equality

More institutional changes are needed for universities to become places of truly equal opportunities

Promote and protect European democratic values

Universities need to be places of freedom: for speech, thought, learning, research

https://erasmusplus.org.ua/en/news/enea-ministerial-conference-2024-29-05-2024-tirana/

3 Empower universities as key actors of change in the twin green and digital transitions
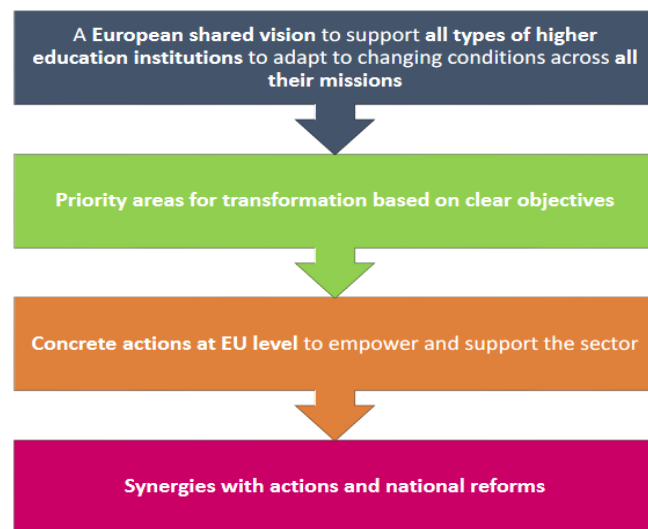
Develop skills, competences and technological innovation for the green and digital transition

Universities are key actors for the green transition and for a more sustainable world. We need to make 'connected universities' a reality

4 Reinforce universities as drivers of Europe's global role and leadership

Universities are instrumental in building Europe's connections with the world

40 Ukrainian universities has joined 25 European Universities Alliances to work together on challenges

European Universities Strategy Document

International cooperation during martial law April 2022 – September 2024: increased internationalisation

From survival mode to transformation approach:
- ✓ individual support: scholarships, study/traineeship, teaching, training, research (bilateral agreements)
- ✓ projects to respond challenges of martial law: Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, other EU's, OeaD, DAAD, French Institute, GIZ, British Council, Twinning, World Bank, USAID etc.
- ✓ structural and institutional support (HRD, capacities, equipment purchase for relocated HEIs etc.)
- ✓ € 5 million for digital ecosystem in higher education
- ✓ 2 new calls for youth and sport capacity building
- ✓ 40 HEIs joined European Universities Alliances
- ✓ 94 projects for capacity building in higher education
- ✓ 223 projects for European Studies
- ✓ 1000 other projects in education, youth and sport
- ✓ relocated russian budget to Ukraine

ERASMUS+ SOLIDARITY WITH UKRAINE:
- ✓ 200 million euros for Ukrainian students and staff
- ✓ €4.43 billion for projects supporting Ukraine!
- ✓ Over 3,000 Ukrainian teachers with access to eTwinning educational resources; 1,5M books for Ukrainian school pupils were published; school buses provided.

EUR 200 million to complement the 2023 Erasmus+ budget: this is the proposal I am making today to provide strong support to Erasmus+ stakeholders. This extra budget would help us ensure continued access to learning for Ukrainian refugees in the EU.

Mariya Gabriel
European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education, Youth, Sport

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

A NEW UKRAINE **FACILITY**
Recovery, Reconstruction, Modernisation of Ukraine
€50 billion in grants & loans 2024 - 2027

More opportunities opened: about 40 calls for proposals
More projects funded: education, youth and sport
More access to networks, resources and platforms: eTwinning, EPALE, EQF, Eurydice, Euroguidance, Europass

Funded by the European Union

National Office Erasmus+UA
erasmusplus.org.ua

€10 billion from the 2022 REACT-EU

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds

Ukraine in Erasmus+ 2021-2024

- 8,173 international mobilities for Ukrainians' Universities staff & students
- 205 universities from Ukraine are on Erasmus+ mobility
- 999 projects for leaning mobilities for young people (13-30 years old), youth workers and active citizenship exchanges;
- 6 Virtual Exchanges projects in higher education and youth, 11 HEIs;
- 13 Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Programmes design and implementation projects at 11 HEIs;
- 138 Master Degree students scholarships provided to Ukrainians;
- 142 Cooperation Partnerships projects in education, training, youth and sport with 42 education institutions in partnerships;
- 3 projects of Alliances for Innovations with Ukrainian industries and HEIs as partners;

Ukraine in Erasmus+ 2021-2024

- 47 projects on Capacity Building in Higher Education at 103 education institutions;
- 10 projects on Capacity Building in VET;
- 3 projects on capacity building projects in sport;
- 256 Jean Monnet (European Studies) projects with 72 HEIs;
- Creation of Digital University in Ukraine (EUR 5M);
- 40 HEIs that have joined over 25 European Universities Alliances and working together on the challenges in higher education in Europe;
- Open courses and resources at European School Education Platform, EPALE etc.
- 13 Higher Education reform experts supported by Erasmus + Programme work side by side with the Ministry colleagues on higher education reforms.

In 2024 1480 education institutions received access to European School Education Platform functioning under Erasmus + Programme, 21 eTwinning-projects were awarded with National Quality Label, 17 – with European Quality Label; 4 schools received eTwinning School Label.

Ukrainian organisations projects are published at the link: https://erasmusplus.org.ua/en/project-database/

Who we are – Erasmus Generation: in Ukraine 2014 – 2024

Welcome

#ErasmusPlus opportunities: for Ukraine 2021-2027

- Over 6000 projects funded in education, youth and sports for staff, students, youth, long-term partnerships, capacity and infrastructure development

- Over 30 000 international mobilities in higher education of students and staff

- Over 34 000 youth learning mobilities

- Long term cooperation with EU and among Ukrainian Universities (250 HEIs): experts pool, new (joint) curricula, innovations, cooperation with business

- Erasmus students networks in Ukraine

- + Erasmus families and kids ☺

ERASMUS+

Over 39 calls are open as partner NON associated to Erasmus+ under different actions:

- International mobility for HEIs and VET (physical/blended)

- Learning mobility for youth

- Virtual Exchanges

- Erasmus Mundus Joint Programmes

- Capacity Building in Higher Education, VET, youth, sport (staff/content/infrastructure)

- Jean Monnet (teaching/research/platforms)

- Cooperation Partnerships for Innovations

- European Universities and other Alliances

- Open resources and networks: European School Education Platform, eTwinning, EPALE etc.

We invite you to collaborate actively with Ukrainian universities under over 39 Erasmus+ opportunities!!!

https://erasmusplus.org.ua/en/project-database/

You are welcome to contact for help
National Erasmus+ Office – Ukraine
and Higher Education Reform Experts

Contacts in Ukraine:
Website: erasmusplus.org.ua,
office@erasmusplus.org.ua
Facebook: NEOinUkraine, Skype: erasmusplus_ua
Tel.: +38 099 332 26 45 (Viber, WhatsApp, Telegram)
+380505966045 (Viber, WhatsApp)
#StandWithUkraine

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds

National Office
Erasmus+UA
erasmusplus.org.ua