



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

OPTIMA

Open Practices, Transparency &
Integrity for Modern Academia

Erasmus+ KA2 Project

October 3-4th, 2023



Swedish Council for
Higher Education

**Swedish – Ukrainian
Contact Seminar 2023** –
a digital conference on
education and research

Project example Cooperation partnerships: the OPTIMA project

Dr. Oleksandr Berezko

Assoc. Prof. at Lviv Polytechnic National University,
OPTIMA Project Manager

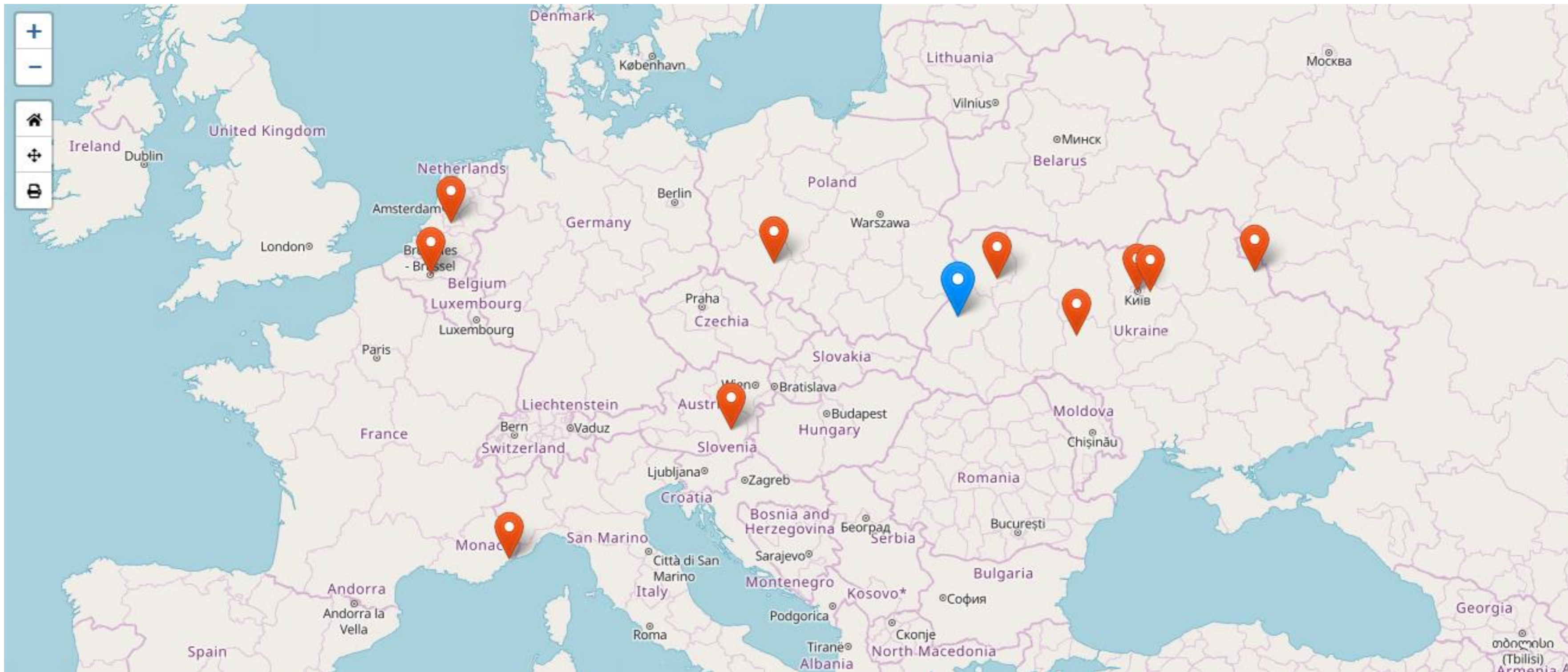
Quick Facts about OPTIMA

- **Start:** 15-01-2021 – **End:** 14-01-2025 (**prolonged for 1 year**)
- **EU Grant:** 938664 EUR
- **Programme:** Erasmus+
- **Key Action:** Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices > Capacity building in higher education
- **Coordinator:** Lviv Polytechnic National University (Ukraine)

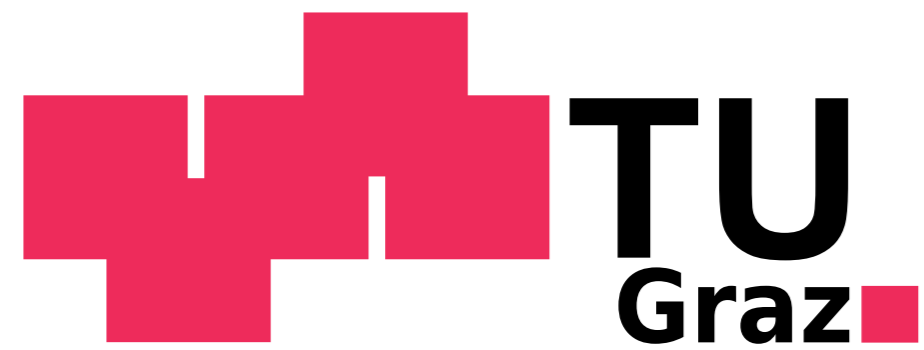
OPTIMA Consortium

Program Countries: 3 HEIs and 2 International NGOs

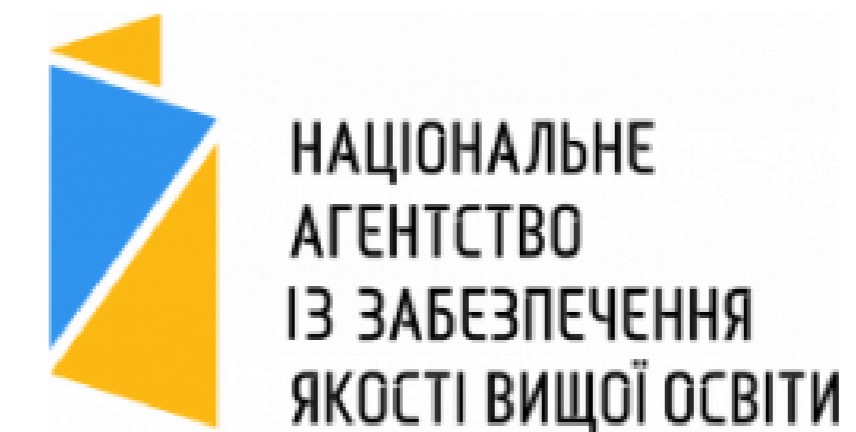
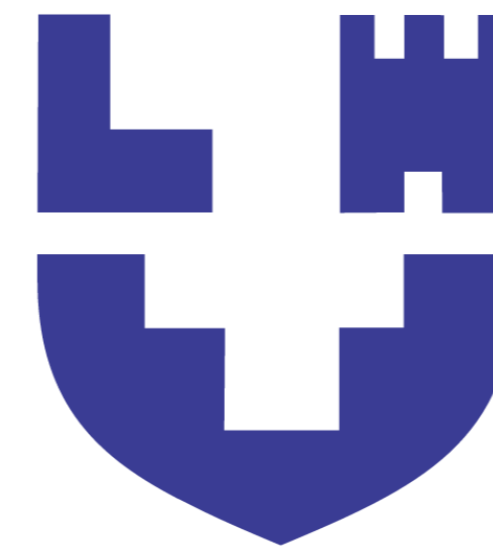
Partner Country (Ukraine): 4 HEIs, Governmental Agency & Research Center



The OPTIMA Consortium



Politechnika
Wroclawska



Main goal and priorities

OPTIMA's main goal is **implementing Open Science practices in Ukraine to improve the quality of National higher education services.**

OPTIMA's priorities include engaging disadvantaged academic communities of **displaced Ukrainian universities**, focusing on **climate change** as well as inclusivity by means of **modern information technologies.**



The Strategy

- 1. introduction of more open and transparent practices leading to**
- 2. increased academic integrity leading to**
- 3. improved education quality**

“Open science is critical to combatting COVID-19”



“Open Science can be a true game changer in bridging the science, technology and innovation gaps between and within countries and fulfilling the human right to science”



“The COVID-19 crisis has underlined just how fast and open science publishing can be — when scientists want it that way”

nature

Conference-Report-Responses-tr X +

← → ↻ https://allea.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Conference-... ☆ 🔍 🌈 🔒

☰ Conference-Report-Response... 9 / 56 | - 100% + | 🖨️ ↻

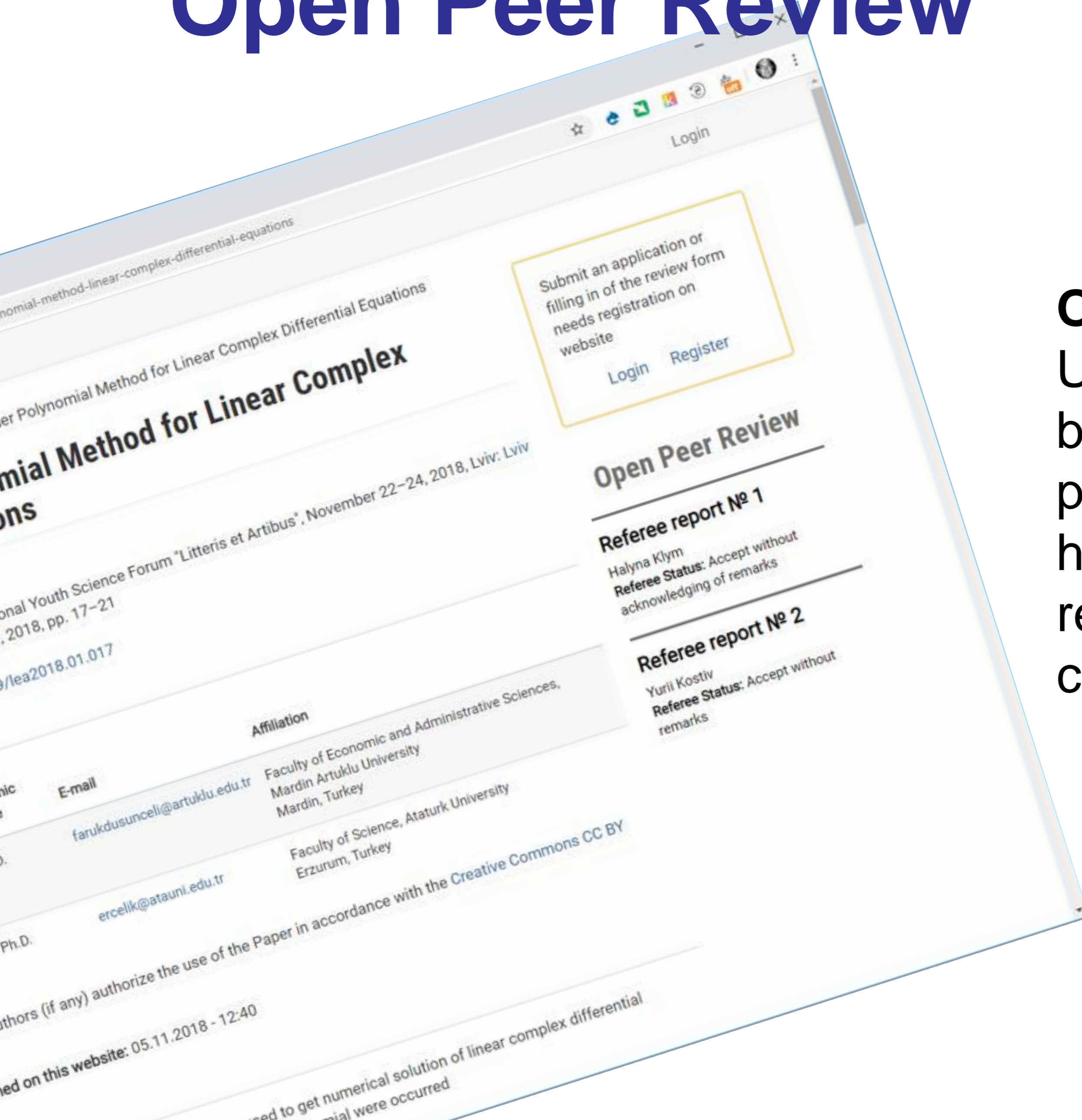
3 OPENNESS

The international scientific and research community should empower conflict-affected science systems with the means to rebuild by fully adopting the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommendation on open science.



ISC, 2022. **Conference on the Ukraine Crisis: Responses from the European higher education and research sectors.** Paris, International Science Council DOI: 10.24948/2022.04 <https://allea.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Conference-Report-Responses-from-the-European-Higher-Education-to-the-Ukraine-Crisis.pdf>

Open Peer Review



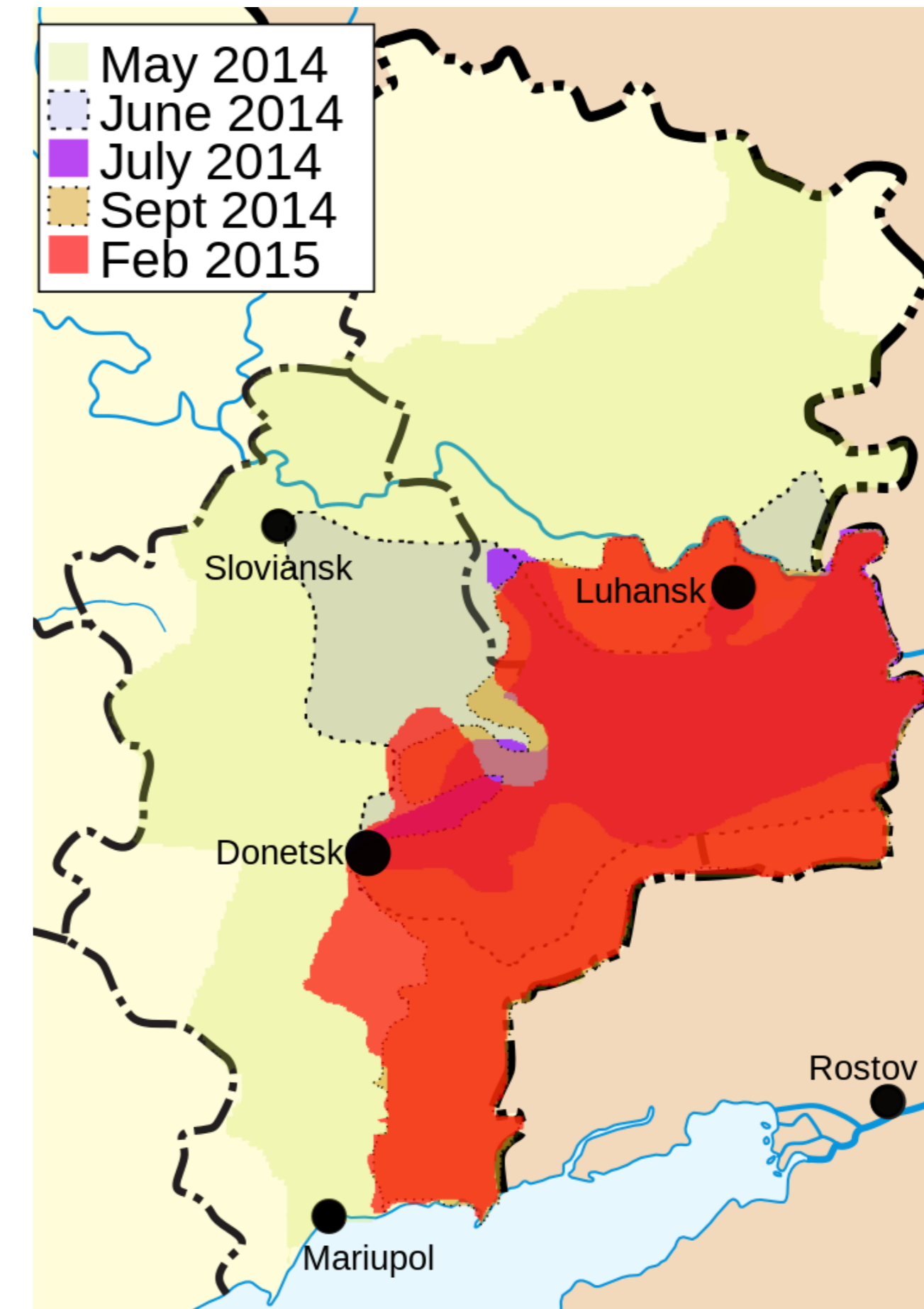
Open Peer Review has the biggest potential in Ukraine among Open Science practices as it brings transparency to the already familiar practice of academic evaluation and provides hands-on learning opportunities for early career researchers, helping to build new skills under collective mentorship of international experts.



Open for Climate Justice
Open Access Week 2022

Ukrainian displaced universities in 2014

- In 2014, 18 “displaced HEIs” were moved from the temporarily ceased territories in the Donbas region to the “mainland” Ukraine
- late in 2021, most of them were still struggling with infrastructure, funding, and human resource problems



Map of temporarily ceased territory in East of Ukraine (2014-2015),
based on <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-27308526>
by <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Narayanese>

The Plan

- **develop and implement an online Open Peer Review platform for academic conferences in Ukraine**
- **build an international virtual community of peer reviewers and researchers on the base of the OPR platform**
- **support at least 10 academic conferences for young researchers with the platform and the community**
- **develop and introduce general and subject-specific Open Science subjects in the partner HEIs**
- **develop and launch an open online course on Open Science for everyone interested**

OPTIMA Consortium: knowledge transfer



OPTIMA Consortium: ready to build capacity





The European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers

Need networking?
Become a volunteer!

The screenshot shows the website for the Eurodoc Conference 2023. At the top, there is a yellow banner with the text "#Ukraine: providing and receiving support". Below this is the Eurodoc logo and navigation menu. A large image of a church in Sweden is featured, with a yellow box containing the text "Eurodoc Conference 2023 ~ A Sustainable Academia". A video player is embedded in the main content area, showing a thumbnail for "A sustainable academia: Opening of conference". To the right, a sidebar lists links for "Conference & AGM 2023", including "Conference Program", "Live Stream", "Conference Speakers", "Conference Venue", "Eurodoc AGM 2023", and "Workshop".

First failed submission

- February 7, 2019 – not the best day in my life :)
- Stress-caused technical mistake and last-minute submission didn't leave us a chance for correction
- We got no feedback from EACEA and not even a chance to get any credit from the university for a successful submission



DOs and DON'Ts

- **DO** give yourself and your team enough time to calm down and reflect – people might get frustrated
- **DO** use the time to re-write, update or extend the proposal and/or make it better another way
- **DO** consider inviting new partners/collaborators
- **DO** check the rules and deadlines
- **DO** aim at submitting well before the deadline

- **DON'T** give up!!

Title – a small thing?

OPTIMA stands for
“**O**pen **P**ractices,
Transparency and **I**ntegrity
for **M**odern **A**cademia”

The rocky ride

The two main external constraints were the **COVID-19 pandemic**, which has impacted the project since its start, and **russia's full-scale war** starting on 24 Feb 2022.

Regarding the pandemic, most project activities have been moved online and supported by the active use of MS Teams and other Internet-based ICT tools. This approach has also been effectively applied during the war, despite the severe additional difficulties, such as frequent air raids and shellings, displacement of team members, absence of tenderers to supply equipment, frequent lack of electricity and Internet connectivity, and general uncertainty causing stress and decreasing productivity.



OPTIMA's Social Media Accounts

Please follow us on social media! Looking forward to your likes and comments 👍👍👍

@OPTIMAOpen Facebook



@optima_open Twitter



YouTube





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**Join the open community of
peer-reviewers to support
Ukrainian academia!**

<https://peers.international>



Thank you for your attention!

Dr. Oleksandr Berezko

OPTIMA Project Manager

<https://lpnu.ua/en/optima>

oleksandr.l.berezko@lpnu.ua

<https://www.facebook.com/oleksandr.berezko/>

<https://twitter.com/berezko>

