



Erasmus+

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# 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

# War-Induced losses and challenges of Ukrainian Education during martial law\*

- Severe damage of the educational institutions' infrastructures
- 3798 education institutions damaged, 365 destroyed completely
- Human losses among students teaching and admin staff
- War affected 1.5 million young Ukrainians, over 70,000 foreign students
- Many HEIs have served as shelters and humanitarian hubs
- 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)
- Emotional burnout among students and teaching staff
- Brain drain
- Enrollment campaign 2024 is a big challenge for many HEIs
- Currently electricity cuts, long blackouts





# 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.

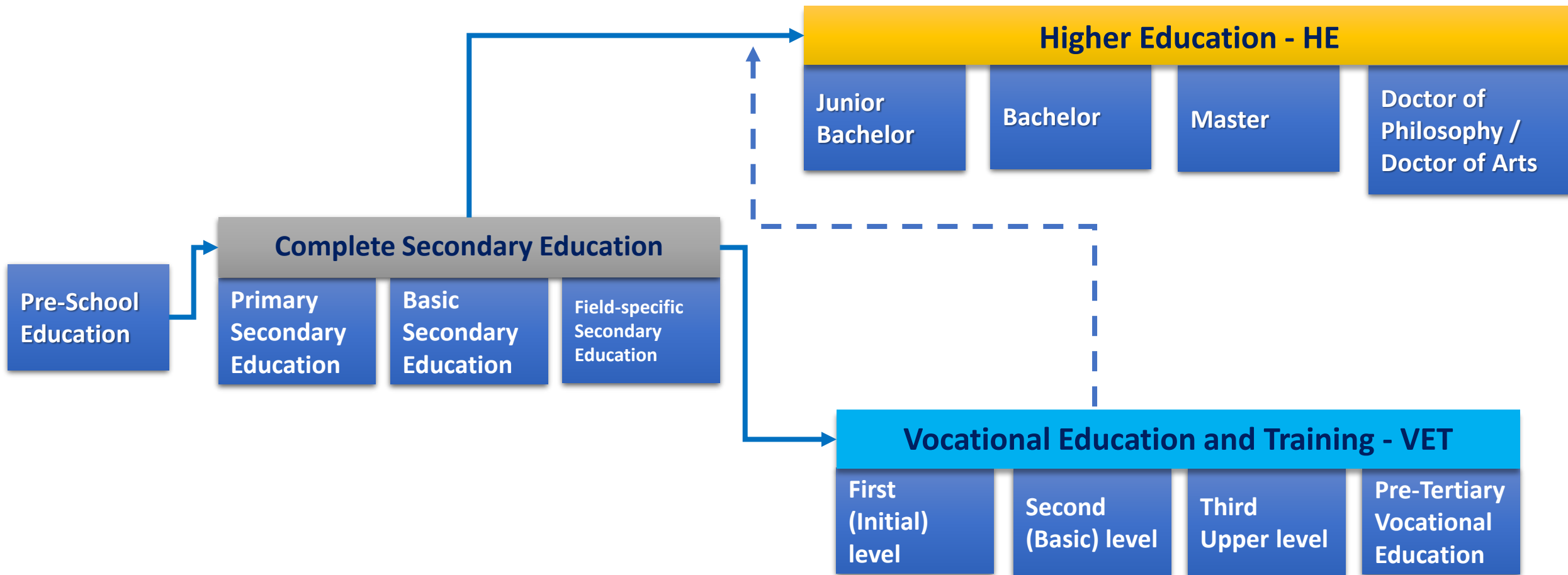
## ➤ 978 VET institutions :

- **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)

# Ukraine's Education system 2024 (Education components)



# 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](#)



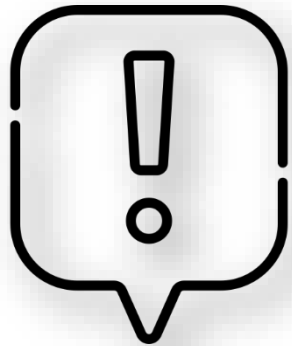
# Recognition of Academic (Credit) Mobility and Qualifications



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

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

Recommendation: 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 \(enic.in.ua\)](http://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](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 (3<sup>rd</sup> cycle, 8<sup>th</sup> level of the NQF)
    - Master (2<sup>nd</sup> cycle, 7<sup>th</sup> level of the NQF)
    - Bachelor (1<sup>st</sup> cycle, 6<sup>th</sup> level of the NQF)
    - Junior Bachelor (short cycle, 5<sup>th</sup> 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"
- The Draft 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** was registered in the Parliament (No. 10279)
- **Draft Law on Academic Integrity** – taken as a basis within the first reading in the Parliament in June 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)

# 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 digitalization 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



# 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!

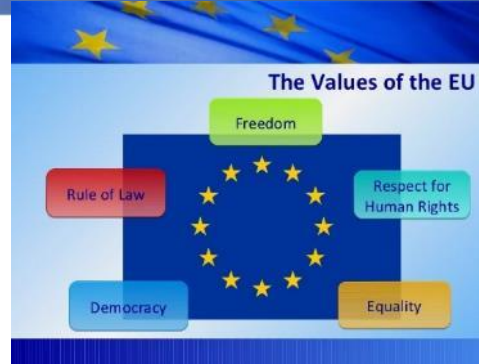
# Strategies: UA – EU – World

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](#)





# EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR UNIVERSITIES

SUPPORTING AND ENABLING HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS ACROSS EUROPE



# 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

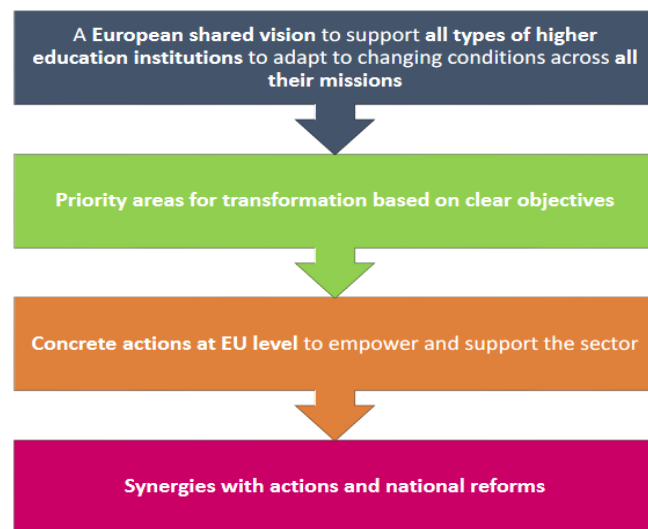
**Develop skills, competences and technological innovation for the green and digital transition**

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**





# International cooperation during martial law

## April 2022 – June 2024



Increased demand for internationalisation of education:  
from survival to transformation approach

- ✓ Individual support: scholarships, study/traineeship, teaching, training, research (bilateral and multilateral)
- ✓ Erasmus+ solidarity with Ukraine: specific focus, priorities, new opportunities
- ✓ Open resources and courses, projects to respond challenges of martial law: Erasmus+ and others: EU, OeaD, DAAD, British Council, Twinning, French Institute, World Bank, USAID and others.
- ✓ Support to relocated universities (capacities, additional equipment purchase and technologies)
- ✓ Relocated russian budget to Ukraine and increased number of projects

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



# #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 😊



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!!!**



# Erasmus+

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

**Contacts in Ukraine:**

**Website: [erasmusplus.org.ua](https://erasmusplus.org.ua),  
[office@erasmusplus.org.ua](mailto:office@erasmusplus.org.ua)**

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**#StandWithUkraine**



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Enriching lives, opening minds