



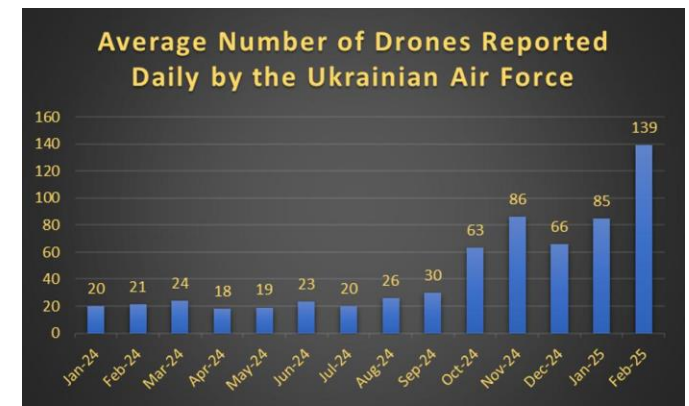
MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION AND
SCIENCE OF UKRAINE

Reforming Ukraine's Higher Education system during war:

“Transforming a Spitfire into an F-16, while in flight and under heavy fire”

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Deputy Minister of Education (Higher Ed)



February 2025

3903 Kamikadze drones fired
(over 100 per day)



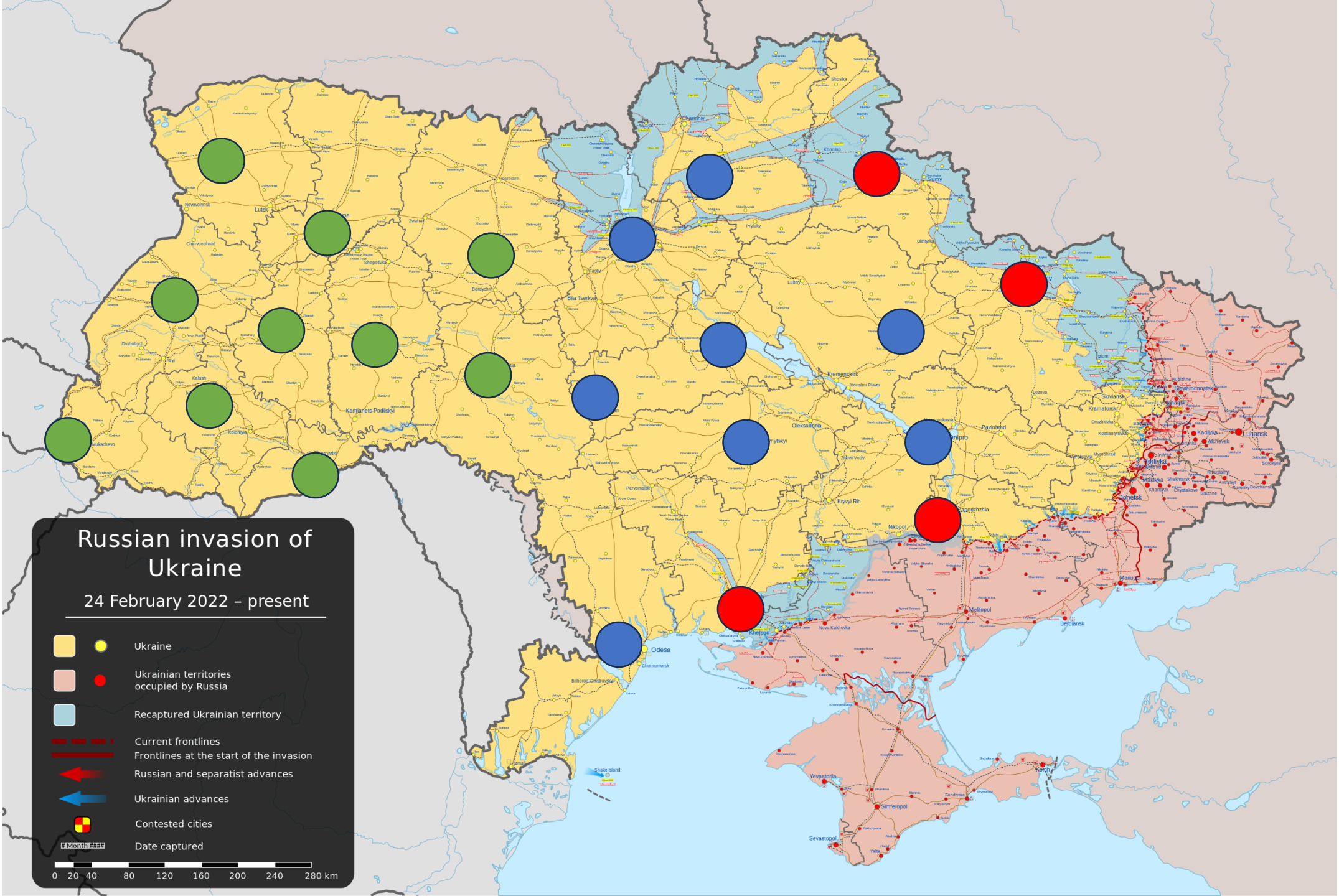
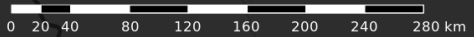
2022-2024 total:
11,466 missiles launched at Ukraine
with 83.5 percent intercepted

Air defenses are key!!!

Russian invasion of Ukraine

24 February 2022 – present

- Ukraine
- Ukrainian territories occupied by Russia
- Recaptured Ukrainian territory
- Current frontlines
- Frontlines at the start of the invasion
- Russian and separatist advances
- Ukrainian advances
- Contested cities
- Date captured



Early / rapid relief efforts by international partners (2022-2024)

War-related challenges to the HE system:

- Distorted learning, research, administration
- Risk to coherence of academic communities (4 years of online learning)
- Risk of brain-drain

- University Twinning (EU + UK + US)
- EU University Networks
 - Erasmus+ Int'l Credit Mobility
- Joint Research Projects
 - Ukrainian studies centers
- Removal of Russian HEIs and QA agencies from EU organizations
- Visiting Professorships and (limited) non-residential Fellowships

Looking into the medium and longer term:

Joint degree programmes

- Countering risk of brain drain through COIL at BA level
- Targeted funding for joint MA/PhD programmes (e.g. ErasmusMundus, PhD cotutelles)

Joint research and human capital

- Infrastructure and capacity building (!)
- Targeted funding for joint research between twinned HEIs
- Non-resident (!) fellowships for Ukrainian researchers

Institution-level development

- Expanded twinning with Ukrainian HEIs
- HEI merger guidance
- Support for comprehensive university autonomy
- Access to international networks & models

Key Reforms since 2014:

New Law on Higher Education:

- Completion of Bologna
 - 3 cycles – Jnr BA + BA/MA/PhD + DSc
 - ECTS – mobility & joint programs
- University autonomy
 - Academic but not yet financial
- New QA system
 - National Quality Assurance Agency established
 - 4000+ accreditation experts trained
 - New Standards (420 individuals involved)

Law "On scientific and scientific-technological activities" (2015):

- National Science Council
- Participation in Horizon 2020

Law "On Education" (2017):

- "New Ukrainian School"
- Competence-based programming
- 12 year school trajectory

2019-2022

- NAQA prepared for entry into ENQA
- PhD reform – adoption of a new legal framework for dissertation defenses

European Commission Recommendations

Chapter 26 – Education and culture

The EU supports cooperation in education and culture through funding programmes and the coordination of Member State policy through the ‘open method of coordination’. The EU and the Member States must also prevent discrimination and ensure quality education for children of migrant workers, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds.



Ukraine has **some level of preparation** in the area of education and culture. The education system and youth policy are broadly aligned with EU objectives. Ukraine’s cultural policy reflects the general priorities of the New European Agenda for Culture. Ukraine has a good level of cooperation with its European partners on sport. The country is broadly aligned with EU policy on training and qualifications. **Some progress** has been achieved in all these areas.

In the coming year, Ukraine should in particular:

- develop a plan for a relevant statistical data collection, analysis and sharing mechanism for education and training;
- start implementing a plan to optimise the network of education institutions;
- adopt legislation to modernise and regulate professional education (vocational education and training).

Brussels, 8.11.2023
SWD(2023) 699 final

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

Ukraine 2023 Report

Accompanying the document

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions

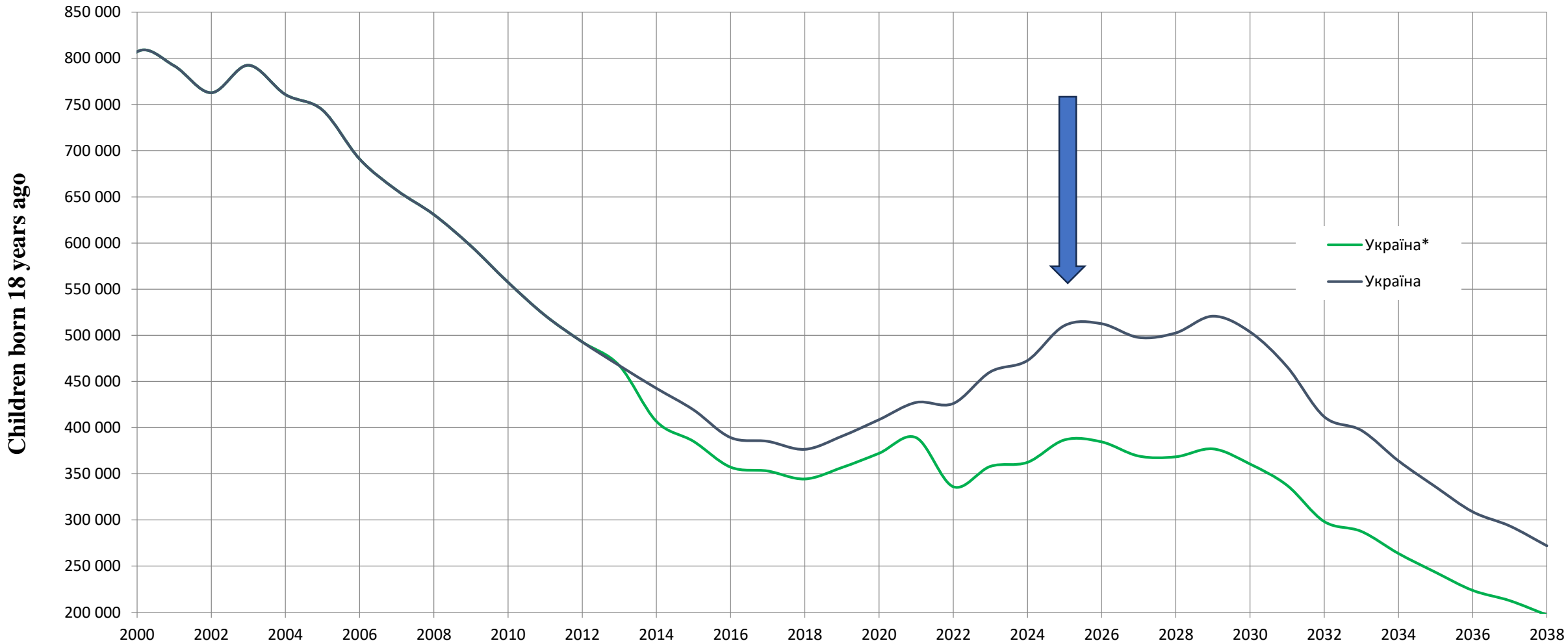
2023 Communication on EU Enlargement policy



Priority reform areas in Higher Education:

- Completion of “works in progress”
 - University Autonomy – financial autonomy and improved institutional governance
- 2024-25 MinEdu initiatives:
 - Reform of educational trajectory – shift to credit accounting (30-80 per year)
 - Reformed content for “regulated professions” - Medical doctors / lawyers / teachers
 - Secondary school completion testing – 3+1 subjects (National multi-subject test)
 - Expansion of “cooperative” education programs – study + work for credit
 - Particular emphasis on STEM and Computer Science – MA level (joint programming)
 - Transformation of funding mechanism – introduction of grants (co-financing)
 - Autonomy experiment – introduction of empowered supervisory boards
 - Mergers – modernization of network, establishment of centers of excellence

Demographics



Ukraine's HEI network:

- State institutions (non-military) **164 - 10**
 - MinEdu – 130 (120 + 10 merged in 2024)
 - MinHealth – 15;
 - MinCulture – 13
 - Other - 6
- Local (oblast) 26
- Private 92

Students enrolled in HEIs (non-military): **1,112,972**

- In local gov't (oblast) HEI: 22,772
- In private HEI: 105,195

Average student numbers in state universities: **5,704**

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------|----------------|----------------|
| • MinEdu | 6,648 | total in HEIs: | 864,243 |
| • MinHealth | 3,875 | | 58,126 |
| • MinCulture | 1,005 | | 13,065 |

In EU average number
of students per HEI,
10,074

Ratio of HEI to population:

Poland	10 HEI / mln
France	4 HEI / mln
United Kingdom	4 HEI / mln

MinEdu strategic priorities 2023-2025

- Network modernization – rewarding quality/performance (target: 100 HEIs)
 - Incentivizing reputation management – priority of capital improvements
 - Investments into merged HEI - 1,5 million USD each into research infrastructure (WB funding)
- Student agency
 - Interdisciplinary programming, liberal arts, cooperative programmes, re-tooling HEI processes
 - Harmonizing “specialities” with ISCED
 - Introduction of grants in addition to “state order” system of financing
- Quality of teaching and learning
 - Digitalization and centralized (rather than standardized) testing
 - Revamped teacher training system to support reforms at primary and secondary school levels
 - NAQA entry into ENQA + WFME / National Qualifications System
- Academic community development
 - Training for university leaders / HEI management evaluations (EUA standards)
 - Incentivizing research / balance with teaching
- War relief – shelters, reconstruction of damaged infrastructure.



We have a war to win
and a country to
build...

Help us survive the turbulence of 2025,
so we can do both!

