Internationalisation of alliances and the case of the cooperation with Ukraine (e.g., best practices and the learning made): Aurora Alliance and Karazin University

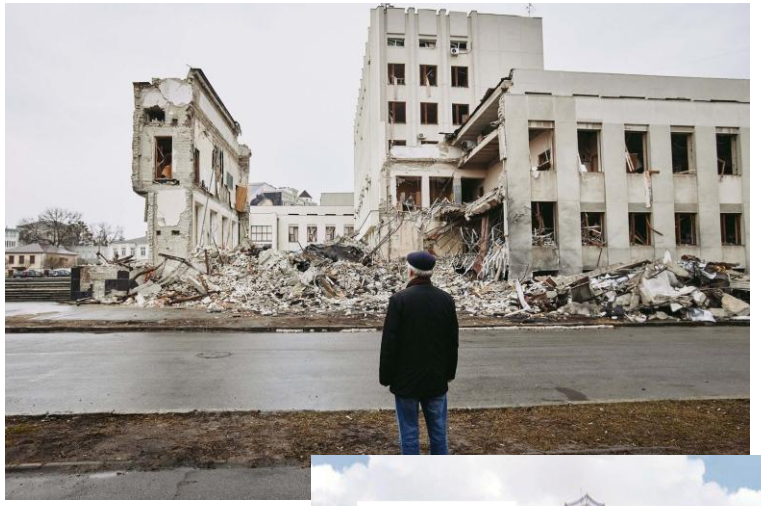
Dr. Iryna Shteimiller, Karazin University

Co-funded by the European Union

Karazin University: Some Facts

Established in 1804, January 29 – 220 years

	2021	2026
Number of students: • In general; • Foreign students	 >20 000 > 3 500	 15 700 1100
Number of Schools / Faculties	20	26
QS World University Rankings	477	741–750







KKNU is an associate partner of Aurora Alliance

Established in 2016, Aurora is a European University Alliance that provides a structured framework for long-term cooperation in education, capacity development, societal impact, and community engagement.

Full Members

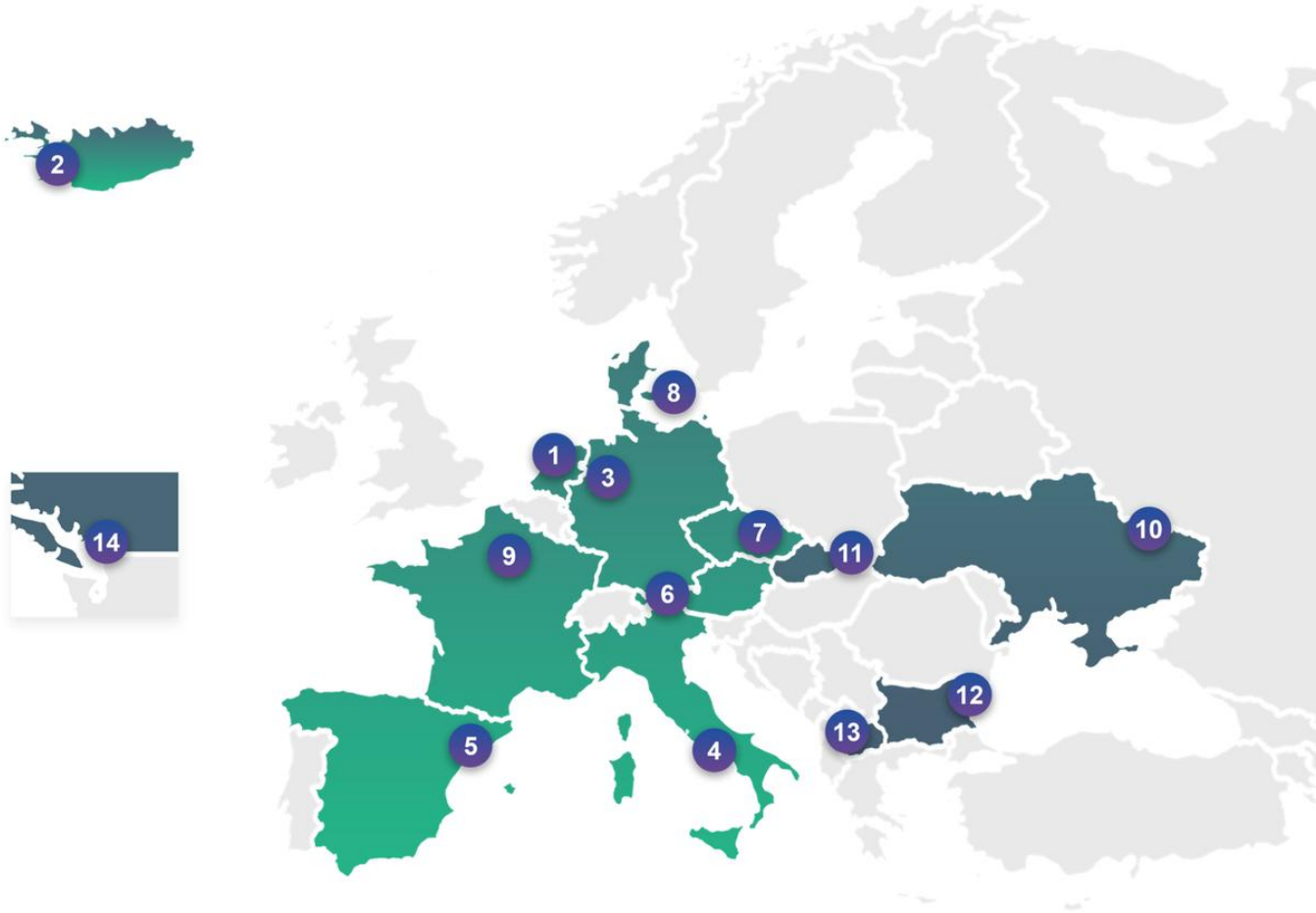
1. VUA (Netherlands)
2. UI (Iceland)
3. UDE (Germany)
4. UNINA (Italy)
5. URV (Spain)
6. UIBK (Austria)
7. UPOL (Czech Rep.)
8. CBS (Denmark)
9. UPEC (France)

Associate Partners

10. KKNU (Ukraine)
11. UPJŠ (Slovakia)
12. SWU (Bulgaria)
13. UT (North Macedonia)

Global Partner

14. SFU (Canada)



2016 → 2026

AURORA-Karazin cooperation after February 2022

Aurora 2030
(December 2023 – ongoing)

Strategizing cooperation and implementing support Action Plan
(May 2022 – November 2023)

Fundrasing
(April-May, 2022 + further additional contribution)

Urgent support actions: relocation, support in hosting
(March – August 2022)

Solidarity and support statements from Aurora Alliance and partners *(February-March 2022)*

KARAZIN PEACE EDUCATION HUB

Output



Key activities/milestones

- Joint curriculum development: Aurora 30 ECTs module in PE piloted
- 10 Training for trainers provided
- Public lectures and interviews with the keynote speakers : "Karazin Peacebuilding Talks"

Deliverables

- Aurora 3 x 10 ECTS PE Course Syllabi integrated into existing degree programme
- Aurora PE Competence Framework

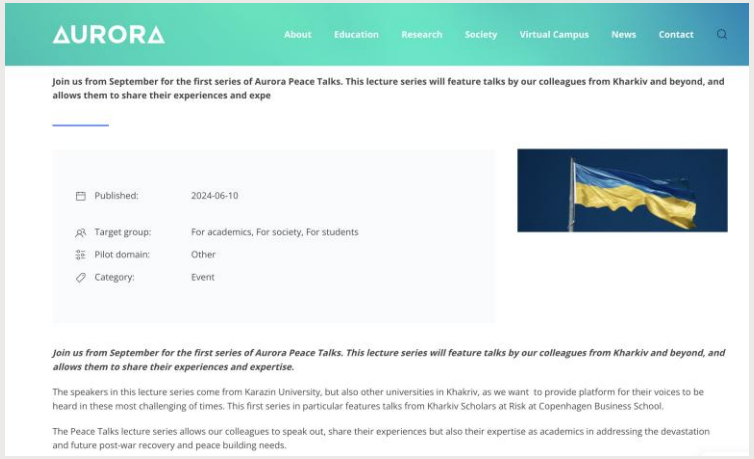
KPIs

- Conference The Role of HE in PB and Scientific proceedings/Abstract Handbook
- 1-3 Degree programmes at KKNU implementing 30 ECTS module
- 15 Awarded and trained academics, teachers and caring professionals
- Repository of recorded public lectures created (xx records)

Direct Beneficiaries and stakeholders in Ukraine

- Karazin University staff and students
- Kharkiv Primary and secondary school staff and pupils
- MESU;
- Board of Education of Kharkiv Region;
- Kharkiv Municipality;
- Kharkiv Militay Admin
- Other UA universities
- Local community

Background: CDS programme and Karazin support 20-23;
2 ISS in Refugee Law and Rights (2022 and 2023)
and AURORA COIL "Pedagogies of Solidarity" (2022/2023)



- The Peace Talks lecture series allows our colleagues to speak out, and share their experiences but also their expertise as academics in addressing the devastation and future post-war recovery and peace-building needs.

- Support them by joining the following inspiring Talks, starting from September this year!



Open call: International Conference: The Role of Higher Education in Peacebuilding



Conference Invitation

Aurora universities invite you to a 5-day international conference on "The Role of Higher Education in Peacebuilding," organised by Aurora Karazin University Peace Education Hub and hosted at the University of Innsbruck, from February 17–21, 2025. The conference aims to contribute to future research, theory, and practice on how higher education institutions can be drivers of conflict transformation, peacebuilding, and sustainable development. The conference features a 3 full-day programme agenda preceded by a networking day and followed by a closing day with joint working opportunities.

International Peace Conference
The Role of Higher Education in Peacebuilding

- WHAT: International Conference “The Role of Higher Education in Peacebuilding"
- WHEN: 17-21 February, 2025
- WHERE: Universität Innsbruck, Ágnes-Heller-Haus
- ORGANISED BY: Aurora Karazin University Peace Education Hub

https://www.uibk.ac.at/en/international/aurora/aurora-european-universities-alliance/aurora-international-peace-conference-2025/



The Aurora Symposium on Global Citizenship will take place from 27 to 29 May 2026 at VU Amsterdam, bringing together scholars, educators, students, and societal partners from across Aurora universities and beyond.

Thematic Fields The programme is structured around three interconnected thematic fields that reflect the core priorities of the Symposium:

1.Peace, Conflict, and Social Justice

2.Community Engagement and Civic Participation Focusing on the relationship between universities and society

3.Education for Global Citizenship

Needs on the Ground:

• **Infrastructure Support:** The ongoing conflict has led to significant damage to university facilities, necessitating immediate assistance to restore essential infrastructure for academic activities.

• **Digital Solutions:** There's a pressing requirement for digital tools and platforms to facilitate online learning, ensuring uninterrupted education despite physical disruptions.

• **New management:** rapid changes in management on all levels that gave the opportunity to engage new people with new ideas, but without necessary competences.

• **New hybrid educational space**: combination of online with on campus and/or displaced campus to other locations in Ukraine/abroad.

• **New solutions for research**: strategizing and balancing of on opportunities for the restoration and relocation of empirical studies.

• Restrategising the needs, possibilities, urgency and capacities to implement "**the third mission of the university**"

• **Updated cultural and the enlightenment mission of the university** (due to the history of Karazin university and the city development

New Opportunities:

- **Enhanced International Collaboration:** Partnerships within the Aurora Alliance have opened avenues for joint research projects, curriculum development, and cultural exchanges, enriching the academic environment.

- **Capacity Building:** Initiatives like the "Aurora Capacity Building PhD Academy on Publishing Skills and Science Communication" aim to strengthen the research and academic capabilities of Ukrainian institutions.

- **New experience:** case study of the university during the war.

- **Fast learning** from all participants through intensive circulation of Ukrainian staff (academics).

Challenges:

- **Low horizon of planning ("dreaming"):** welcomed only materialised and short-term achievable results.

- **Funding Limitations:** As associate partners, Ukrainian universities often face challenges in accessing full Erasmus+ funding, limiting their participation in various alliance activities.

- **Administrative Barriers:** Differences in educational regulations and administrative procedures between Ukraine and EU countries can hinder seamless collaboration.

- **Academic resistance:** brain drains, and conservative agenda prevails.

- **Low effectiveness** of online events and too complicated to host initiatives = academic exhaustion since online education Covid 19 times.

Lessons Learned:

- **Resilience Through Adaptation:** The swift transition to online teaching and digital space in general by institutions like Karazin University underscores the importance of adaptability in crisis situations.

- **Value of Solidarity:** The collective support from Aurora Alliance members, including fundraising and resource sharing, highlights the strength of international academic solidarity.

- **Flexibilities in Funds Create Opportunities:** new circumstances often require new solutions and immediate reactions that could be implemented with deregulated financial approaches.

These insights emphasize the critical role of collaborative frameworks like the Aurora Alliance in addressing immediate needs, leveraging new opportunities, overcoming challenges, and deriving valuable lessons in the coordination of cooperation with Ukraine under the Erasmus+ program.

Thank you for your attention!

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