INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE • GLASGOW

European Association for International Education

Asymmetric Resilience

How European Partnership Helped Kherson State University Survive, Adapt and Grow Through War and Relocation



Kherson State University, Ukraine
International Relations Department

CONTEXT

A University Forced to Relocate

The full-scale war has profoundly affected Ukrainian higher education. Institutions forced to relocate face compounding institutional challenges — on top of teaching and research.

- Loss of physical infrastructure
- Geographic dispersion of students and staff
- Disrupted teaching and admin processes
- Restricted academic mobility

Why International Cooperation Matters

International cooperation became a core component of institutional development — giving a relocated university structured mechanisms to keep working with European partners.

- Access to international expertise
- Staff development opportunities
- New educational approaches
- Participation in academic networks

SHARED VALUES

Kherson State University and the European community share democratic values.

This shared foundation is why European partners engaged with KSU not as a distant beneficiary, but as a fellow academic community defending the principles of open, democratic higher education under wartime conditions.

TURNING POINT

Relocation Was Not the End of the Story

2022

Full-scale invasion forces KSU to relocate

Kherson State University relocated in 2022, during the full-scale invasion. Material and technical support, ideas and the results of Erasmus+ projects — and their practical implementation — helped the University hold together its academic community and the quality of its education.

01 Material & technical support

02 Ideas from European partners

03 Implementation of project results

What was preserved, thanks to European partnership:

Academic community • Quality of education

Where Erasmus+ Reshapes a Relocated University



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Projects4Ukraine — Preserving Memory, Building Resilience

Co-funded by the European Union

“Those who do not know their history have no future.”

ACADEMIES4UKRAINE
Strengthening Academic Resilience in Ukraine and EU



01 Preserves the memory of war witnesses as part of institutional and national resilience.

02 Exchanges practices for maintaining higher education during wartime.

03 Supports students’ mental health alongside historical memory work.

04 Promotes European values and democracy across the partnership.

Institutional resilience — anchored in memory, identity and shared European values.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

SMART-PL — An Individual Path for Every Learner

01 Builds individual educational trajectories through free-choice elective disciplines.

02 Combines this with structured academic mentoring for every student.

03 Delivered through a virtual tutoring environment: “Learning with No Limits.”

04 Strengthens transparent assessment, hybrid and inclusive education.

Personalised, hybrid learning — built for a geographically dispersed academic community.

Co-funded by the European Union

SMART PL

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

BURN — A Centre for Psychological Resilience

01 Establishes a University Centre for Psychological Resilience and Wellbeing.

02 Delivers team-building activities and stress-management training.

03 Builds professional capacity in crisis psychology among University staff.

04 Transfers European practice in wellbeing support into everyday University life.

BURN

Wellbeing infrastructure — supporting the people who keep the University running.

Co-funded by the European Union

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

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DigiUni — One Digital Space for the Whole University

01 Creates an integrated, inclusive digital educational ecosystem: the DigiPlatform.

02 Delivers modern, quality educational content in a single digital space.

03 Strengthens online and hybrid infrastructure for teaching and learning.

04 **Supports continuity of education, regardless of where staff and students are.**



Digital continuity — the backbone of a university that no longer sits in one place.

NEW DIRECTIONS

Expanding Toward Dual Education & STEM

New projects extend KSU's portfolio into dual higher education and the attractiveness of engineering, mathematics and natural-science programmes.

01



DUAL-UA

Development and Scaling of Dual Higher Education in Ukraine

- Micro-credentials for academic staff, administrators and enterprise mentors
- Nationwide network of Dual Education Regional Training Centres
- Quality criteria for dual study programmes

02



DSHub

Regional hub for engineering, mathematics & natural sciences

- Modern courses to raise STEM programme attractiveness
- Stronger regional cooperation on science education
- New capacity for practice-oriented teaching

03



SECURE

Strengthening Expertise in Crisis Management for Robust HE

- Joint course on war, crisis and institutional change
- Exchange of crisis-management practice with EU partners
- See next slide for KSU's specific contribution →

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT — NEW THIS YEAR

SECURE: Sharing Our Experience with Europe

This year, KSU joined SECURE — not only to learn, but to share the crisis-management experience the University itself developed and implemented while operating in relocation.

Ukrainian wartime experience feeds directly into European Higher Education Area practice.

Joint international course

"Ukrainian Studies in Higher Education: War, Crisis, and Institutional Change"

Jointly delivered by Ukrainian and Finnish academics.



From recipient to contributor

RESCUE — Building an Evidence Base for Ukrainian HE

This year KSU submitted RESCUE, a proposal for quality education and objective monitoring of the educational process and institutional business-processes, built on two principles:

01 | **Deeply Prove**

Evidence-based decisions, grounded in verified data

02 | **Data Driven**

Continuous monitoring, not one-off assessment



Not yet funded — placed on the reserve list.

Its goals align fully with the vision of Ukraine's Ministry of Education and Science for the educational process — including in relocated universities — built on an evidence base, continuous monitoring and reliability.

Different Projects, One Institutional Effect

01



Digital & Learning

DigiUni + SMART-PL

Digital environment and new teaching models for a geographically dispersed community.

02



Crisis & Resilience

SECURE + Academies4Ukraine

Practice exchange on crisis management and institutional resilience — shared both ways.

03



Wellbeing

BURN

Institutional approaches to psychological resilience and professional capacity in crisis psychology.

04



University – Enterprise

Dual-UA

Dual education, micro-credentials and stronger links between HEIs, enterprises and students.



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National Office Erasmus+UA
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Impact at Three Levels

01



Individual

Staff and students gain access to training, mobility, international cooperation and new methodologies.

02



Educational

Digital and hybrid learning, personalised education, new courses, micro-credentials and stronger practical learning.

03



Institutional

Digital transformation, crisis-management capacity, wellbeing infrastructure, employer cooperation and internationalisation.

CLOSING

From Project Activities to Institutional Change

Through training, study visits, workshops and cooperation with European partners, KSU staff gained knowledge and methodologies that were adapted to the University's own needs — and disseminated further through internal training and cooperation between units.

Erasmus+ projects function as interconnected instruments of institutional development — not isolated international activities — supporting KSU's development in the context of relocation.

Thank you

Kherson State University • International Relations Department