



Supporting Universities in Conflict Zones

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Facts and figures



Seizure of Donetsk National University by pro-Russian activists. Donetsk, September 2014

- Since Russia's invasion of Eastern Ukraine in September 2014, partial occupation of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, and the annexation of Crimea, **20 higher education institutions** were relocated to the territory controlled by Ukraine. Since the onset of Russia's full-scale aggression on February 24, 2022, **34 higher education institutions** (institutes, universities, and academies) have been relocated or are in the process of being relocated. The statistics change every week.
- According to the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, the preliminary amount of damage caused to educational institutions by Russia's military aggression amounts to **more than 5 billion dollars**. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has reduced state budget expenditures on education and science by **more than 14 billion UAH** in 2022.
- According to UNICEF estimates, **up to 50% of 6 million refugees** who have been forced to leave the country after Russia's full-scale invasion are young people under 18 years of age. More than **60,000 foreign students** left Ukraine. **Almost 500** foreign students expressed their desire to stay in Ukraine.
- According to the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, as of September 1, 2022, **2,405 educational institutions were damaged** by bombings and shelling, **270** of which were **destroyed completely**. This is **15% of the total number** of Ukrainian educational institutions, which is **nearly 50** higher education institutions.



National Academy for the Public Administration of the President of Ukraine. Kharkiv, March 2022

*Seizure and destruction of academic infrastructure by rocket attacks, reduction of education funding, threat to the lives of students, academic and administrative staff, difficulties with the equipment for bomb shelters, urgent necessity to ensure the basic needs of educational institutions to continue providing educational services and conducting research activity **highlight the importance of supporting universities in conflict zones by international partners.***

Areas of support for universities in conflict zones



H.S. Skovoroda Kharkiv National Pedagogical University. Kharkiv, July 2022

- **Implementation of joint scientific projects**, which will create useful and in-demand products, as well as those aimed at restoring the material and technical premises for conducting research activity and the existence of science in countries suffering from armed conflicts; **increasing opportunities for international academic mobility exchanges**. Education and science in a civilized societies should not have borders and should be aimed at creating social good!
- **Informational support** from foreign partners for the purpose of spreading true information about Russia's crimes against Ukraine. Student representatives around the world should know the truth about this war and the price that Ukrainian universities is paying for the protection of academic freedom, student interests, and democratic principles.
- Universities are not just educational institutions, they are agents of change that produce values. In turbulent times, fragility of the world order, violation of international law by aggressive countries, genocide of universal human values and principles of conducting politics in the 21st century, **struggle on the common academic front** becomes an important weapon in the hands of every educator to counter Russia's aggression against all humanity.



Admiral Makarov National University of Shipbuilding. Mykolaiv, July 2022

By joining their efforts, leading universities and institutions should appeal to the politicians of their countries with a call for comprehensive support for Ukraine (military, economic, political, humanitarian), strengthening sanctions against Russia, complete isolation of the aggressor in the diplomatic, economic, cultural domains, and in access to high technologies.

"Universities acknowledge that they have a responsibility to engage with and respond to the aspirations and challenges of the world and to the communities they serve, to benefit humanity and contribute to sustainability"
(Magna Charta Universitatum 2020)



Vasyl` Stus Donetsk National University. Vinnytsia, September 2022

Each of us is a Warrior!