

Science Europe continues to stand with the National Research Foundation of Ukraine (NRFU) and the Ukrainian research community

Science Europe Statement on the third anniversary of the war in Ukraine

Brussels, 24 February 2025

Today, 24 February 2025, marks the third anniversary of the Russian invasion and occupation of Ukraine. Three years on, the war has become the largest and deadliest conflict in Europe since World War II. On this symbolic day, Science Europe and its Member Organisations express our solidarity with, and support for, the people of Ukraine and our valued member, the National Research Foundation of Ukraine (NRFU).

The impact of war on Ukrainian science and education has been alarming. According to [data from the United Nations](#), 1,443 buildings belonging to 180 research institutions have been bombed. 12% of Ukraine's 88,629 researchers have been forced to emigrate or have been internally displaced. The costs of rebuilding research infrastructure are currently estimated to be around \$1.215 billion.

We admire the resilience of NRFU, Ukrainian research institutions and researchers.

Since NRFU became a member in May 2022, the Science Europe office and its members [have taken actions](#) to support both the NRFU and the Ukrainian research ecosystem as a whole. These range from hosting researchers to using existing and new funding mechanisms to fund Ukrainian researchers. Specifically, we can highlight the following activities that have been undertaken by a substantial number of our members:

- Suspension of co-operation and participation in research programmes with Russian institutions.
- Opening of solidarity-based funding, such as programmes targeted at refugees, to Ukrainians.
- Opening of additional funds or programmes to Ukrainian researchers.
- Fostering institutional cooperation and developing joint calls and projects with NRFU and other Ukrainian institutions.
- Hosting and employing displaced Ukrainian researchers in their research centres.

Science Europe has also facilitated the engagement of NRFU in the EU Framework Programme (Horizon Europe) and in the Global Research Council ([GRC](#)). The NRFU has actively participated in the European Regional Meetings of the GRC as well as in its Annual Meetings, in [Panama City](#) (Panama, 2022), [The Hague](#) (Netherlands, 2023), and [Interlaken](#) (Switzerland, 2024).

We have been collaborating with the NRFU and other partners to increase the visibility of Ukrainian research in numerous events, including:

- The [first](#) and [second](#) conferences on the Ukraine crisis organised by the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities (ALLEA), including the organisation of a session on research management and European integration as part of the second conference.
- A [series of workshops](#) with the National Academies of Sciences Engineering and Medicine in the USA (NASEM) on 'Preserving and Developing Ukraine's Human Capital in Research, Education, and Innovation.'

In addition, other institutions aiming to rebuild the Ukrainian research ecosystem have been [supported](#), such as the International Centre for Mathematics in Ukraine ([ICMU](#)).

Science Europe will continue its engagement, by facilitating the NRFU participation in our Working Groups, activities and events, in Europe and internationally, and working with partners to develop any relevant co-operation activities to help strengthen the Ukrainian R&I ecosystem.

With this statement we express our support, and encourage the Ukrainian research community to continue their activities, while recognising the extremely difficult circumstances in which they are operating. The NRFU, Ukrainian research institutions and Ukrainian researchers can count on the unwavering support of Science Europe, and we continue to stand with our friends and colleagues in Ukraine.