

Doing a doctorate in **Ukraine**: time and timing in times of war

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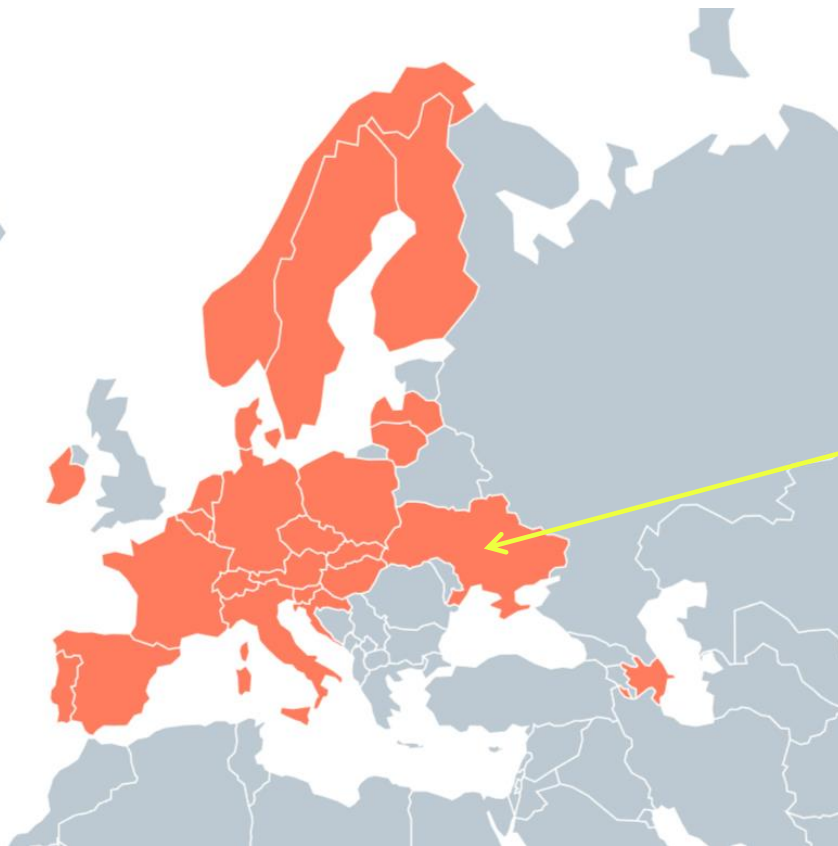
Eurodoc Hybrid AGM in Vilnius, Lithuania. 11 June 2022.



- non-profit organisation
- founded in Girona (Spain) on 02/02/02
- since 2005 has its seat in Brussels, Belgium
- funded by member fees
- supported by volunteers
- develops & informs policy
- runs workgroups & events

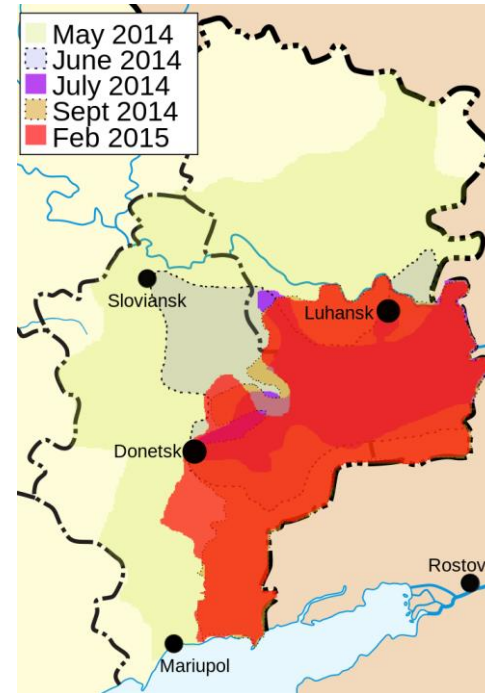
Eurodoc Members

International federation of 29 national organisations from 26 countries of the EU and the Council of Europe



Ukrainian displaced universities in 2014

- In 2014, 18 “displaced HEIs” were moved from the temporarily ceased territories in the Donbas region to the “mainland” Ukraine
- late in 2021, most of them were still struggling with infrastructure, funding, and human resource problems



Map of temporarily ceased territory in East of Ukraine (2014-2015),
based on <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-27308526>
by <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Narayanese>



Ukrainian HEIs and the current war phase

- 43 higher education institutions suffered from constant shelling and bombing by the Russian army
- 5 of them were completely destroyed

(official info from June 13, Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine)



On photo: Professor in the destroyed building of Karazin University in Kharkiv



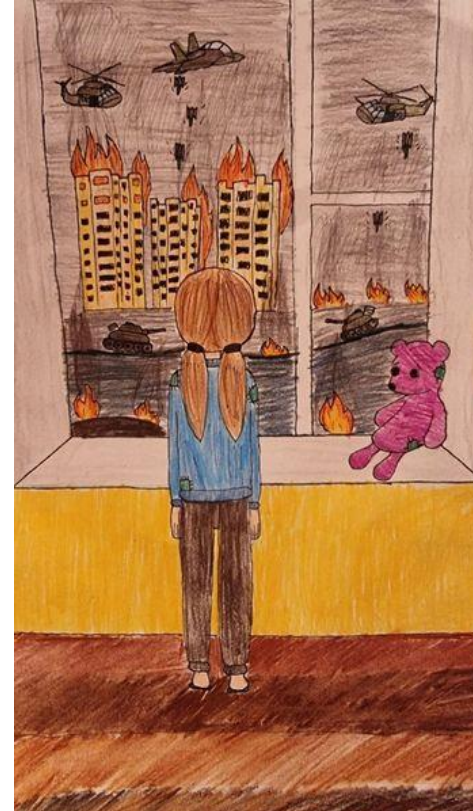
Challenges

- Reduction of the number of working places and salary
- Destroyed infrastructure/laboratories
- Part of academic staff, doctoral candidates, and students are at the frontlines
- Men are unable to participate in academic mobility (go abroad) due to the martial law
- Many women are left alone with children and family being abroad or while their men are in the army
- Migration of doctoral candidates, students, lack of entrants
- General uncertainty



Consequences for Mental Health

- in conditions of constant excessive stress and threats, it is difficult to focus on analytical and cognitive tasks
- the situation of uncertainty increases stress



<https://momiseewar.com/>



What does it mean
to do a doctorate in
Ukraine now?







Anastasiia Yeromina

with her husband, Valentyn

*2nd year doctoral candidate (history) at
H.S. Skovoroda Kharkiv National
Pedagogical University*

- Anastasiia left **Kharkiv** the very first day with a single small handbag and went to rural Zakarpattia Oblast (West of Ukraine) while her husband volunteered in the Army
- Her **doctoral supervisor is now in Germany, but this is not a big issue as the pandemic prepared both for remote work, and they are in close contact with each other**
- She lives in **uncertainty** and constantly thinks of her husband, which makes it difficult to concentrate on her work
- **Despite everything, she plans to finish her doctoral thesis in time**





Serhii Kozin

*last-year doctoral candidate (pedagogy)
at H.S. Skovoroda Kharkiv National
Pedagogical University*

*successfully defended his PhD thesis
online during the war on June 6, 2022*

- Serhii stayed in Kharkiv till the pre-defense of his thesis in mid-April (had to walk for 2 hours to get to the university); he went to the West of Ukraine for the final defense
- From the formal side, the defense was possible despite shellings as the Rector stayed in Kharkiv and helped with all the documents himself
- The pandemic prepared everybody for remote work, but digital signatures had to be adopted
- Fully understood the importance of pedagogy and its impact on society only after the war began





Elizaveta Kulikova

Finished her doctoral training (economics) last year, currently finalizes her doctoral thesis

Head of Young Scientists Council at Odessa National Economics University

- Decided to stay in **Odesa** despite shelling and the constant threat of Russian troops landing
- Economists are probably among the researchers least affected by war as their studies are mostly conducted at the desk
- However, her research was affected by bad Internet connection and unavailability of governmental websites (due to DDoS attacks)
- Reports “psychological pressure” of frequent shelling and explosions
- Defense of her **doctoral thesis** is delayed due to the war





Ivan Brusak

*last-year doctoral candidate (geodesy)
at Lviv Polytechnic National University*

*Co-founder of “Student Volunteer
Headquarters” at the university*

- After the shock of the first day started **volunteering** to help the Army and internally displaced people together with colleagues
- Was lucky to finish all his field research before the war, but many colleagues had to stop their work
- Many research papers to be published in Ukrainian journals (esp. in the East) are “frozen”
- Was close to finishing his thesis, but postponed the work and switched to full-time volunteering
- Submission of his **doctoral thesis** will most likely be delayed



How can you help?

- In short - offer partnerships, become mentors
- Invite to laboratories (short-term)
- Offer internships/scholarships (short-term)
- Provide temporary work opportunities (ongoing Horizon projects are an option)
- Provide access to paywalled scholarly databases and focus on Open Science



Thanks for your attention!

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