

# Conference on Ukraine Reconstruction in the Field of Research and Development and Higher Education

**When:** Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 9:00-16:30

**Where:** Brno, Czech Republic + online

The conference is part of the [RIFF project – Research Infrastructures for the Future of Ukraine: Roadmap for Sustained Growth and Recovery](#), which is funded by the Horizon Europe programme.

This event seeks to spark meaningful collaboration not only between European and Ukrainian academic communities but also among Ukrainian stakeholders themselves. It is designed for a variety of actors, including researchers, policymakers, and funders. Besides offering fruitful panel discussions, the event will serve as a networking platform intended to lay the groundwork for concrete action aimed at strengthening Ukraine's R&I landscape.

**Venue:** *Masaryk University, Komenského nám. 2, Brno, Academic Senate room (city centre)*

## Agenda

---

### 09:00 **SESSION 1 – Welcome**

Moderator: Michael Murad, Deputy Director, Centre for Informed Society, Czech Republic

#### Speakers

- Radim Polčák, Vice-rector, Masaryk University, Czech Republic
- Vasyl Zvarych, Ukrainian ambassador to the Czech Republic
- Václav Velčovský, Director General of International Affairs, EU, and ESIF Section, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic

---

09:15 RIFF project presentation by Ondřej Hradil, Masaryk University, RIFF project coordinator

---

### 09:30 **SESSION 2 – Panel Discussion on Ukraine Reconstruction in the Field of Research and Higher Education**

Moderator: Michael Murad, Deputy Director, Centre for Informed Society, Czech Republic

#### Panelists:

- Radim Polčák, Vice-rector, Masaryk University, Czech Republic
- Vasyl Zvarych, Ukrainian ambassador to the Czech Republic
- Václav Velčovský, Director General of International Affairs, EU, and ESIF Section, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic
- Jan Mrkvička, People in Need NGO, Director of Relief & Development Department, Czech Republic

---

10:30 Coffee break

---

### 11:00 **SESSION 3 - The Voice of Ukraine: Statements from the Ukraine Research and Higher Education Community**

Moderator: Ricardo Migueis, Head of the INESC Brussels HUB, Belgium

---

**Setting the scene: Science, Technology and Innovation in Ukraine: Past, Present and Future**, Anastasiia Konstantynova, Principal consultant, Technopolis Group and co-author of ERA Country Report on Ukraine 2024

- Grygorii Mozolevych, Director General of the Science Development Directorate, Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine - *online*
- Natalia Shakhovska, Rector, Lviv Polytechnic National University, Ukraine - *online*
- Olga Iermakova, Head of the Department of Economic and Ecological Development of Seaside Regions, State Organization “Institute of Market and Economic & Ecological Research of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine”; Member of the Scientific Committee of the National Council of Ukraine for Science and Technology Development, Ukraine

---

12:00 Lunch

---

13:30 **SESSION 4 – Presentations from various initiatives and players supporting research and higher education in Ukraine**

Moderator: Annika Thies, DESY, Germany

- *European Commission strategy on supporting Ukraine in research and higher education*, Frederik Sondergaard, Policy officer, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission – *online*
- *German initiatives in Ukraine*, Jörn Grünewald, DLR Project Management Agency - *online*
- *French initiatives in Ukraine*, Claire Madl, CEFRES - French Research Center in Humanities and Social Sciences
- *Developing UK-Ukraine research and innovation collaboration through government-led initiatives*, Hana Sediva, FCDO, British Embassy Kyiv - *online*
- *R&I sector developments across UNECE, WIPO and SEI studies: supporting EU integration, recovery and green transition*, Lyudmyla Tautiyeva, EFIS Centre, Belgium

---

14:45 Coffee break

---

15:15 **SESSION 4 – continued**

Moderator: Lyudmyla Tautiyeva, EFIS Centre

- *[Policy Support Facility in Ukraine](#) on research infrastructures - outcomes*, Jelena Angelis, EFIS Centre, Belgium
- *The [LUKE project](#) - Linking Ukraine to the European Research Area: a Joint Funding and Capacity Building Platform for Enhanced Research and Innovation Cooperation*, Inese Gavarane and Olga Bolibok, ZSI-Centre for Social Innovation, Austria
- *Through Science to Solidarity: MAVKA Beamline at SOLARIS under [LEAPS Initiative Light for Ukraine](#)*, Alexander Kordyuk, Director of Kyiv Academic University, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and Michał Młynarczyk, Deputy Director for Finance and Administration, SOLARIS National Synchrotron Radiation Centre, Poland
- *Donations of research equipment to Ukrainian institutions*, Jörgen Larsson, RI.Logistica Association, Sweden
- *Supporting Ukrainian universities in the context of war: [United Kingdom-Ukraine Twinning Initiative](#) and beyond*, Gintaras Steponavičius, Cormack Consulting Group, United Kingdom - *online*

---

16:30 Final remarks and conference end

---

## **RIFF – Research Infrastructures for the Future of Ukraine: Roadmap for Sustained Growth and Recovery abstract**

The RIFF project will facilitate an upgrade of R&I system in Ukraine by offering a fresh and forward-looking perspective on the Ukrainian research infrastructures (RIs). RIFF will deliver “Roadmap for Recovery and Enhancement of RIs in Ukraine” using both (1) bottom-up approach with an open call for proposals, robust training, awareness raising and dissemination strategy towards potential applicants, rooted in a network of eight partners in Ukraine; and (2) top-down approach with a robust consultation process involving a broad range of stakeholders from the government, policymakers and the scientific community. It will reflect also the green and digital transition priorities. The roadmapping process will apply peer-review methodology established by ESFRI and engage panels of internationally renowned experts. RIFF activities will efficiently connect Ukrainian RIs to EU/ESFRI through the implementation team linked to major European RIs and a comprehensive strategy for enabling mobility and knowledge exchange between EU RIs and the Ukrainian scientific community, including training programme for Ukrainian RI managers, operators and policymakers. Finally, we will implement an ambitious promotion programme among national and international stakeholders.

The robust roadmapping approach of RIFF, assisted by leading international experts, will offer credible steps towards recovery and enhancement of RIs in Ukraine. The Roadmap will provide guidance for national funding of RIs, and will also be a trustworthy investment guideline to international donors.

RIFF is coordinated by **Masaryk University**, with the consortium comprising the following institutions from the European Union and Ukraine:

- Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY
- European Future Innovation System Centre
- Gesis - Leibniz-Institut für Sozialwissenschaften
- Instytut Molekularynoi Biologii i Genetyky nan Ukrainy
- INESC TEC- Instituto de Engenharia de Sistemas e Computadores
- Kyiv Academic University
- National Science Center Kharkiv Institute of Physics and Technology
- Lviv Polytechnic National University
- National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine NAS of Ukraine
- National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy
- National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine
- Uniwersytet Jagielloński – SOLARIS National Synchrotron Radiation Centre
- Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca
- National Research Foundation of Ukraine

