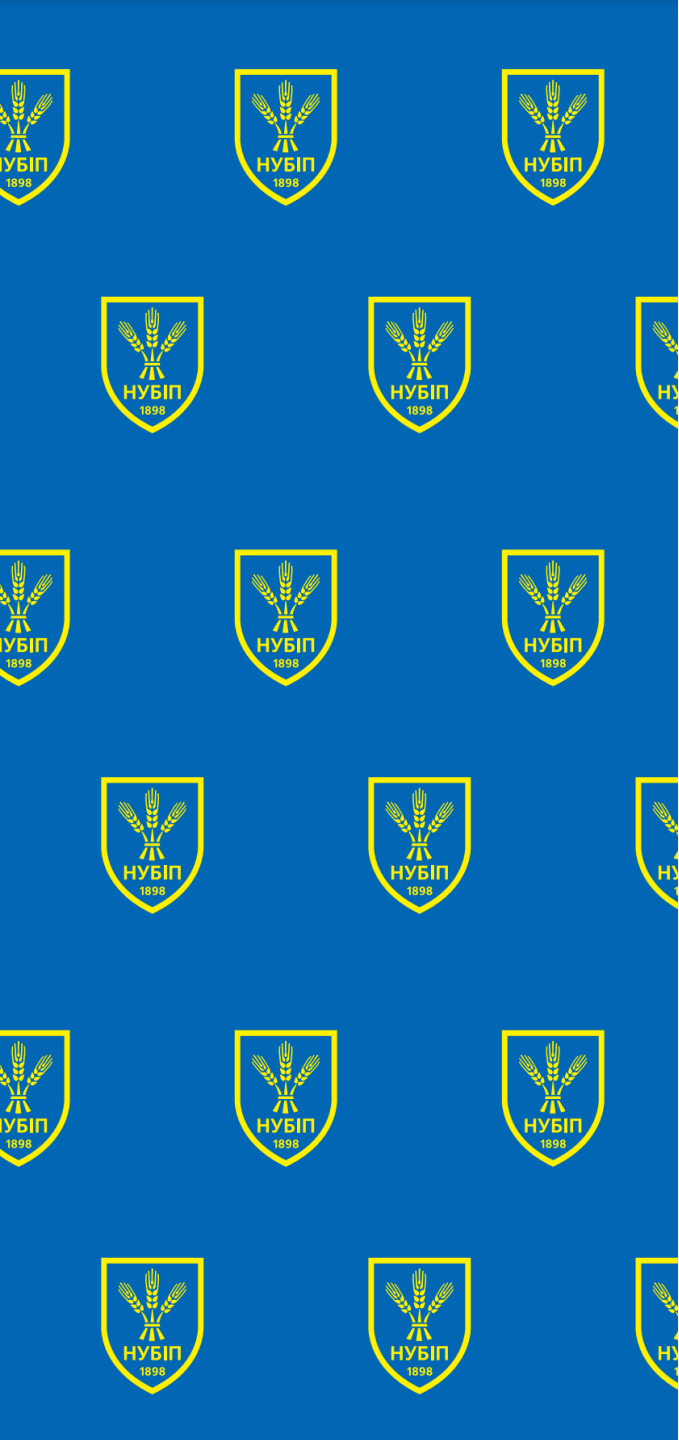




НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ БІОРЕСУРСІВ І ПРИРОДОКОРИСТУВАННЯ
УКРАЇНИ

Funding research under pressure

Ukraine's research funding system: the data, the reforms and lessons

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Session: "Reform under pressure: scalable approaches from Ukraine's research and autonomy overhaul"



Ukraine's research system at a glance

THE SYSTEM IN FOUR NUMBERS

0.37%

of GDP spent on R&D in 2024

EU-27 average: 2.26%

42,670

researchers in 2024

133,744 in 2010: -68%

€651 m

total R&D expenditure 2024

all funding sources

€104 m

Horizon Europe funding to
Ukrainian organisations
(CORDIS)

HE Office count: €63.4 m · 239
grants

€ figures converted at NBU annual average official rates — 2021: 32.30, 2022: 34.00, 2023: 39.56, 2024: 43.46, 2025: 47.09 UAH/EUR (2026 plan: 49.40, budget assumption).

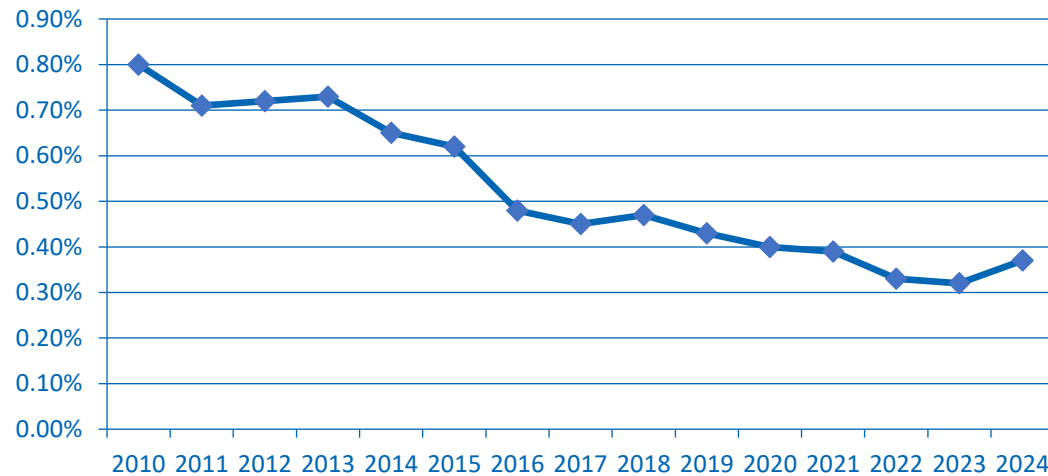
The pattern: a system that shrank for a decade, took the shock of full-scale war, and is now rebuilding by adopting European funding rules.

Source: UNESCO UIS (GERD); Eurostat rd_e_gerdtdot (EU-27, 2024); Ukrstat / UkrINTEI 2025; CORDIS Horizon Europe open data, Aug 2026; Horizon Europe Office in Ukraine / NRFU, 2026 (€63.4 m, different counting basis).

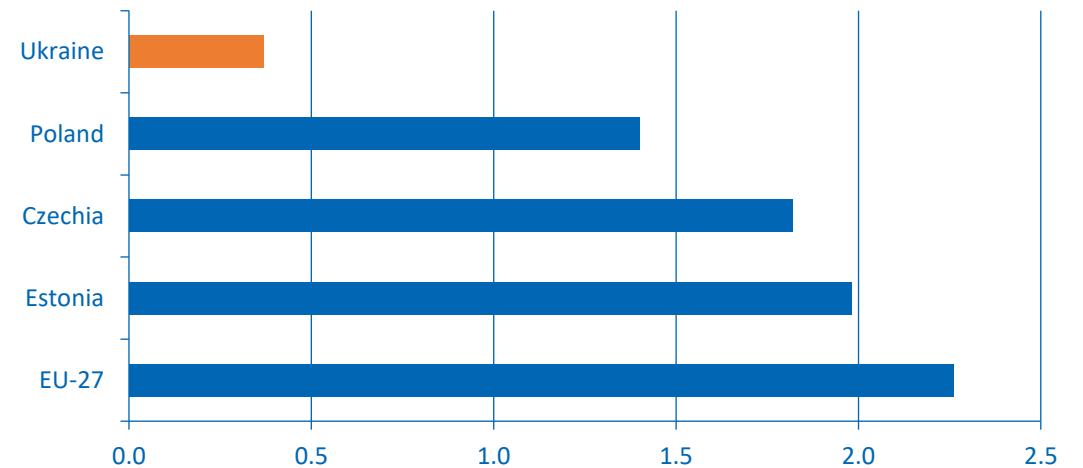
A decade of underinvestment, then a war shock, public funding

INVESTMENT

Ukraine: gross domestic expenditure on R&D, % of GDP



2024 comparison, % of GDP



1.7% vs 0.13%

the legal target for state science funding vs actual general-fund spending (share of GDP)

–54% drop in R&D intensity from 2010 to 2023; first uptick in 2024 (0.37%).



Number of researchers in Ukraine

HUMAN CAPITAL



Series breaks: 2014 excludes occupied territories; from 2016 university staff with no R&D duties are excluded; from 2022 combat zones are excluded.

-19%

researchers lost in 2022 alone

+18%

recovery from 2022 to 2024 (36.1k to 42.7k)

10,429

researchers displaced (12% of the total)

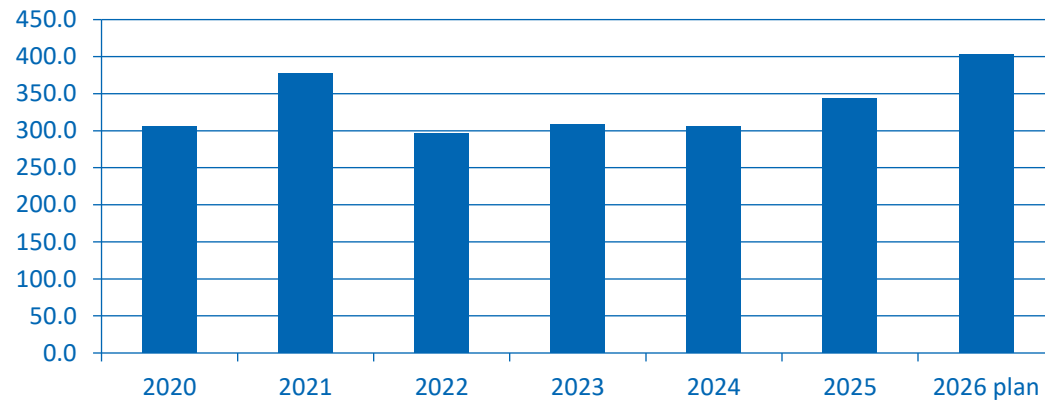
22.5%

of researchers aged 65+

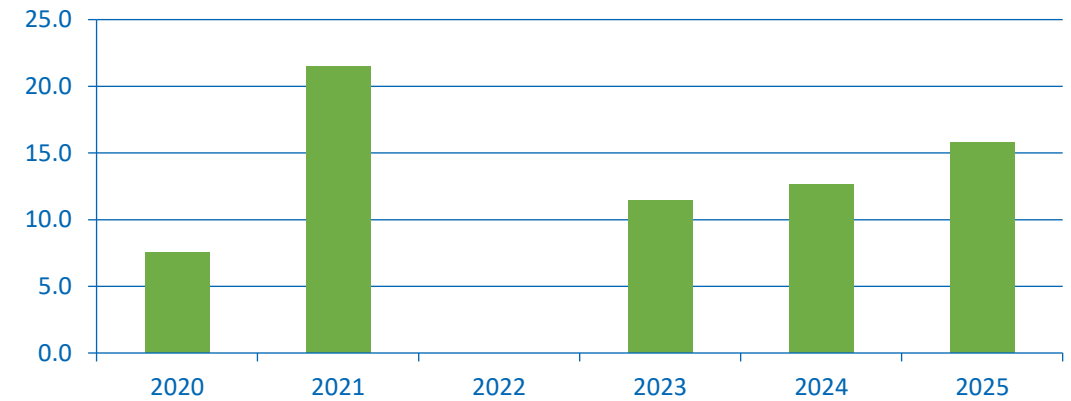
Competitive funding grows, but it was the first to be cut (NRFU established in 2018)

PUBLIC INSTRUMENTS

State budget expenditure on research, € m



NRFU competitive grants, € m spent



March 2022: the NRFU's €23.2 m grant budget was moved to the reserve fund. A whole year of competitive grants was lost. In 2025 the NRFU is still only about 5% of the state science budget.



Budget research funding: methodology

BUDGET DATA · Frascati Manual (OECD): the funder-based perspective

What was counted: the budget component of R&D - all state-budget programmes whose purpose is scientific activity, at actual execution (“Executed”), across all chief spending units (Ministry of Education and Science, 6 academies, Ministry of Health, State Space Agency and others). GBAORD logic: the funder’s perspective, not the performer’s.

“Pure research” vs “mixed programmes”: pure — 100% R&D by purpose (a lower-bound estimate); mixed - science is only a part (staff training at HEIs, the Junior Academy of Sciences, etc.). Under Frascati, the R&D share of mixed programmes is estimated with time-use coefficients — not applied here; mixed programmes are shown separately.

Excluded: general administration and presidiums, medical services, education without science, capital construction, libraries, nature reserves.

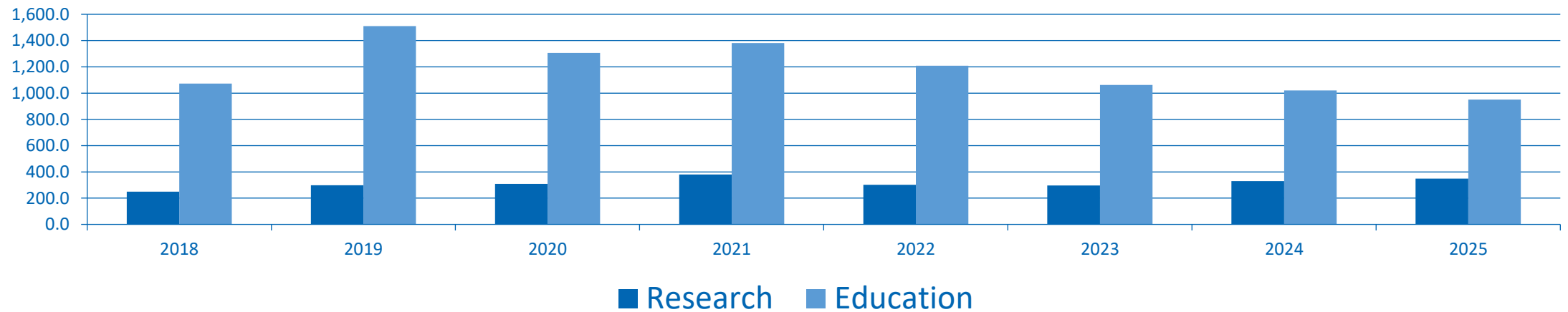
Limitation: this is not full GERD — business, universities’ own funds, the non-profit sector and foreign sources are missing. Full GERD comes only from State Statistics Service surveys.



Budget funding of research, 2018–2025

BUDGET DATA · Actual execution, state budget, € million

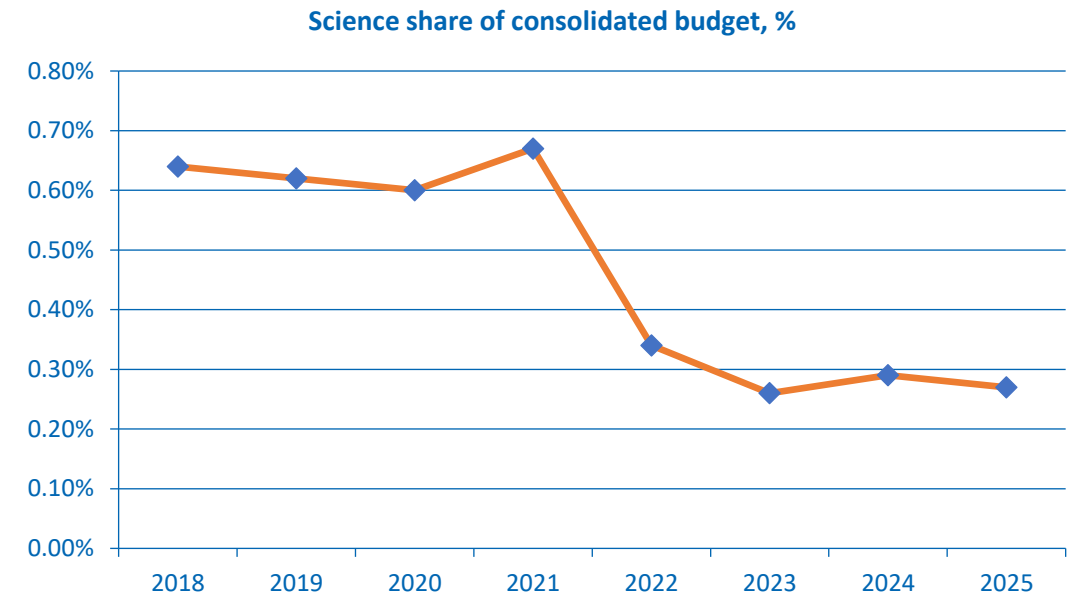
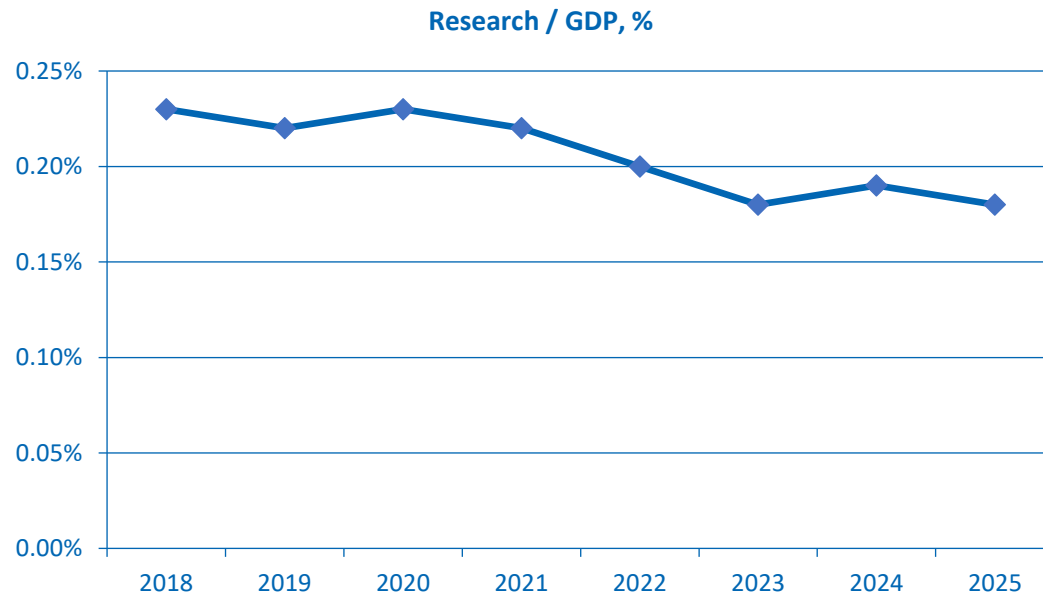
Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Research	250	298	309	380	302	296	330	348
Education	1073	1511	1306	1381	1208	1062	1020	951
Total	1323	1809	1615	1761	1510	1358	1350	1299



Source: Open Budget (openbudget.gov.ua), state budget expenditure by programme classification, "Executed", "Total" fund.

Research funding in relative terms

BUDGET DATA · Research as % of GDP and as % of consolidated budget expenditure



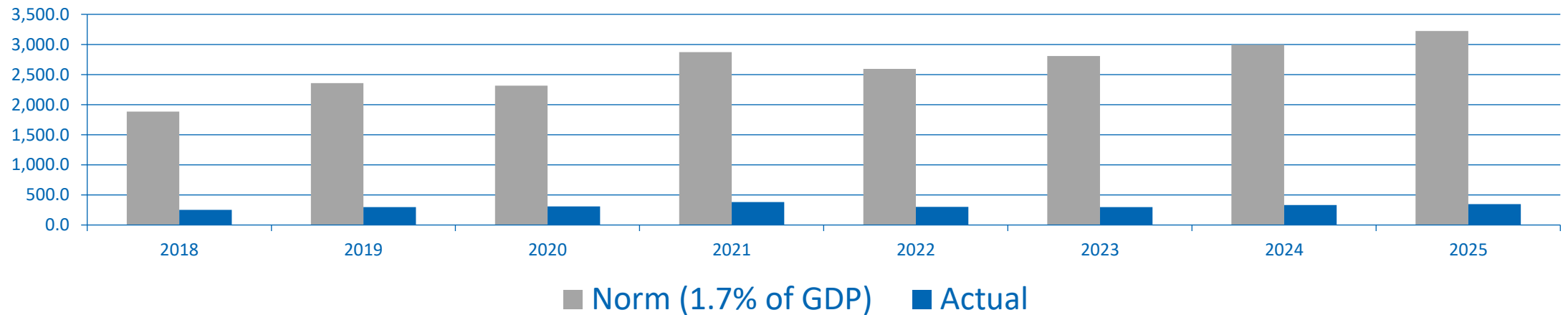
The pattern: the post-2022 collapse of the budget share is a denominator effect, not a science cut — defence rose from 7.8% to 51% of consolidated budget expenditure.



Legal norm of 1.7% of GDP vs actual

BUDGET DATA · Art. 48 of the Law “On Scientific and Scientific-Technical Activity”

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Norm: 1.7% of GDP	1883	2359	2315	2873	2594	2809	2996	3224
Actual (pure science)	250	298	309	380	302	296	330	348
Norm compliance	13.3%	12.6%	13.3%	13.2%	11.6%	10.6%	11.0%	10.8%



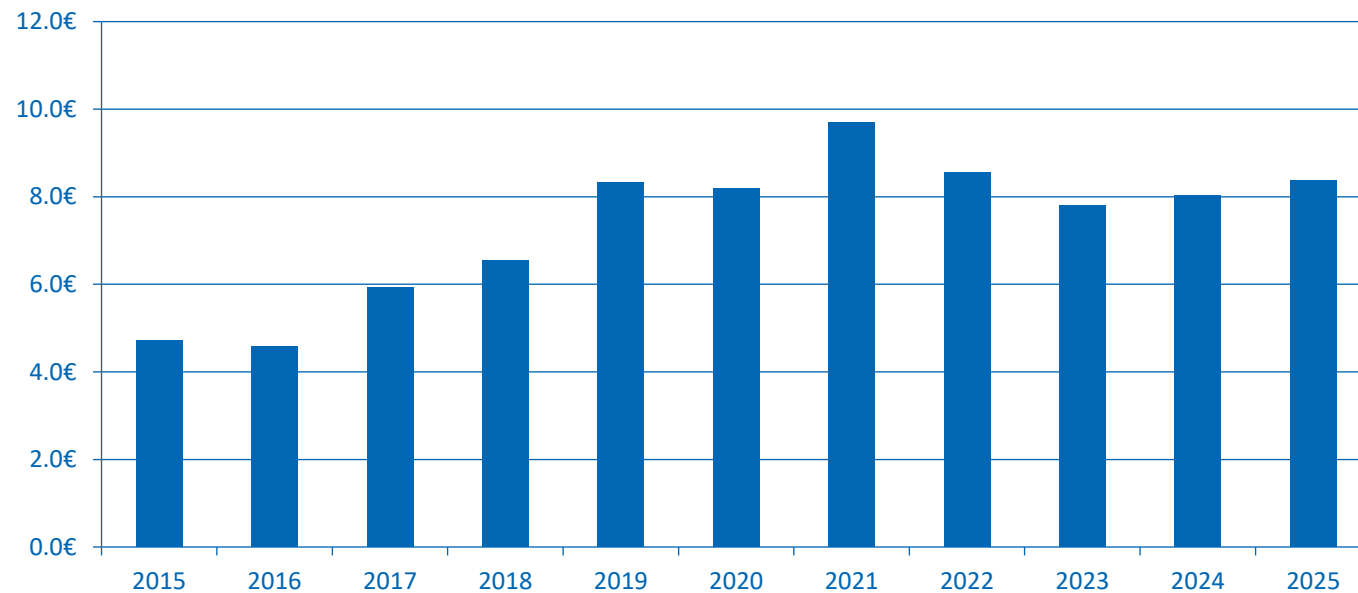
Source: Art. 48 of the Law of Ukraine “On Scientific and Scientific-Technical Activity” (current version). Actual: Open Budget, pure science.



Education funding: the bigger budget story

EDUCATION FUNDING

Consolidated education expenditure, € bn



€8.4 bn

consolidated education spending, 2025

≈13×

education vs research spending (€8.4 bn vs €0.65 bn)

4.4%

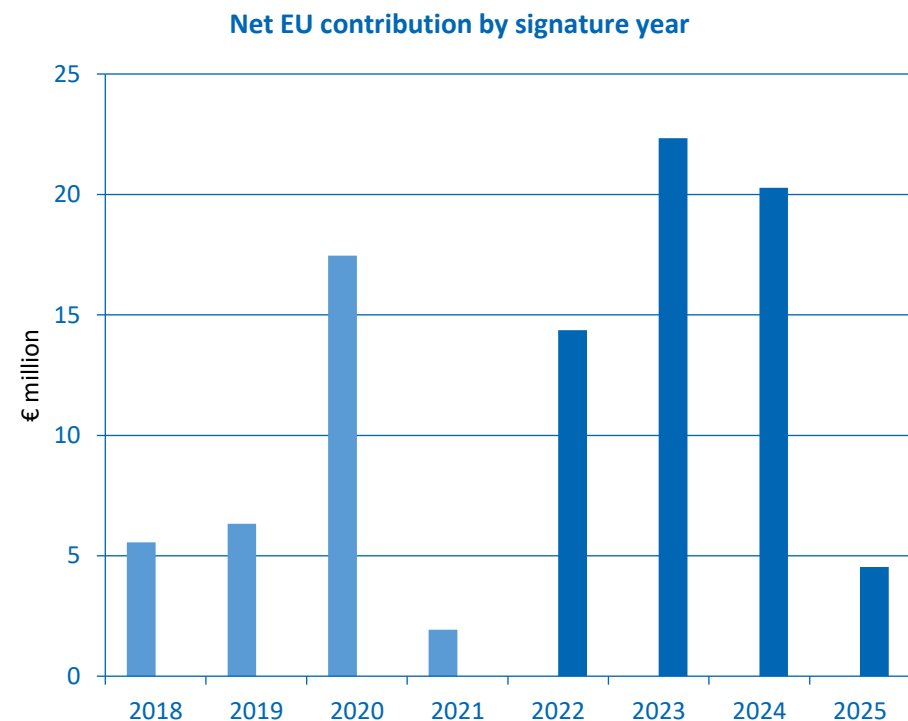
of GDP spent on education, 2025

Source: Consolidated budget, functional code 0900 (education), actual expenditure; GDP — State Statistics Service of Ukraine; € converted at NBU annual average official rates.

Ukraine in EU framework programmes, 2018–2025

HORIZON EUROPE · By year of grant agreement signature

Year	Programme	Signed grants	EU contribution, €m
2018	H2020	27	5.56
2019	H2020	40	6.33
2020	H2020	49	17.46
2021	H2020	11	1.93
2022	Horizon Europe	57	14.36
2023	Horizon Europe	89	22.33
2024	Horizon Europe	63	20.28
2025	Horizon Europe	30	4.53
Total 2018–2025		366	92.78



Source: Horizon Dashboard (EC), net EU contribution for Ukrainian participants. 2025 data incomplete — dashboard lag.

The physical base of research is under attack

WAR DAMAGE

1,443

buildings of 177 public scientific
institutions damaged or
destroyed

UNESCO, Jan 2024

\$1.26 bn

to restore scientific infrastructure
(\$980 m at universities)

UNESCO, Jan 2024

\$13.9 bn

damage to education and
science; \$33.5 bn needed for
2026–2035

World Bank RDNA5, Feb 2026

131 · 31

higher education institutions
damaged · relocated

Government of Ukraine, Sep 2025



Damage to NUBiP facilities (photos: NUBiP).

Source: UNESCO & Junior Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, 11 Mar 2024; World Bank et al., RDNA5, 23 Feb 2026; CMU Order No. 1383-p (2025).

The Vorzel farm after the 2022 occupation

WAR DAMAGE · NUBiP



NUBiP's farm in Vorzel, Kyiv region — under Russian occupation in 2022 (photos: NUBiP).

Source: Photos: NUBiP.



What EU universities can do

HOW YOU CAN HELP · IN PRACTICAL TERMS

01

Invite us into consortia

Include Ukrainian partners in Horizon Europe proposals — as partners now, coordinators next.

02

Co-supervise PhDs

Joint doctoral supervision and fellowships keep talent in the system — the MSCA4Ukraine model.

03

Share infrastructure

Remote lab access, measurement time, and donations of used equipment.

04

Co-fund with NRFU

Joint calls with foreign funders multiply competitive money — and keep it ring-fenced.

05

Share know-how

Grant-writing, research management and full costing: the skills behind 9% → 13%.

06

Twin for the long haul

A partnership agreement outlasts any single project — and rebuilds together.



Partner with NUBiP in Horizon Europe (Cluster 6, Widening) and EIT Water

Engage with RIFF: co-design workshops, RI management training and Ukraine-ERA fellowships

Share tools for full costing, funding models and the autonomy scorecard

Thank you · Дякую

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