



ARRANGEMENT FOR COOPERATION ON EDUCATION

between the European Commission and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine

Against the backdrop of Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, Vice-President of the European Commission for Promoting our European Way of Life, Mr Margaritis Schinas, and the Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine, Mr Oksen Lisovyi have declared they intend to further strengthen cooperation and dialogue on education, as set out in the present Arrangement for Cooperation¹. The Arrangement has been agreed during the 15 June 2023 official visit of Vice-President Schinas to Ukraine.

The European Commission and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine recall the Association Agreement between the EU and its Member States and Ukraine signed on 21 March 2014, in particular the Chapter relating to Education. Both sides underline the ambition of Ukraine to become a Member of the European Union and its aim to align with the *acquis* of the European Union.

To underpin this arrangement, the European Commission and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine envisage to hold **bi-annual Ministerial meetings on Education**. In 2023, the first ministerial meeting was held on 15 June 2023 in Kyiv. The second ministerial meeting is envisaged to take place in Brussels in autumn 2023.

The European Commission and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine acknowledge the importance of quality education as the foundation for personal fulfilment, employability, and active and responsible citizenship. Education is at the heart of the European way of life and is essential to the vitality of European democracies and economies. It should take into account academic values, diversity, human rights and social justice.

¹ The provisions of this arrangement for cooperation aim to further cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine under existing EU policies and are not designed to create legal rights or obligations under international law.

The Russian aggression against Ukraine has had devastating consequences for the lives and education opportunities of millions of young people and continues to inflict severe damages in the sector of education. Since the outbreak of the war, the European Commission has provided significant political, financial and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, as well as support to those who had to flee the country.

In line with the Temporary Protection Directive, the European Commission has been supporting its Member States in their efforts to provide immediate access to education and assistance to those fleeing the war in Ukraine. This was done by mobilising all available instruments, ranging from policy guidance to peer learning and funding, including through the Erasmus+ programme.

The European Commission and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine intend to build on the existing cooperation and past achievements, and to further develop the potential of cooperation. The European Commission and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine declare their common intentions as follows:

- 1. Promote further cooperation between schools and provide support to education of displaced children by fully exploiting the potential of the online platforms in the area of school education.** The European Commission intends to continue to update online resources on education and support to displaced children and staff from Ukraine, including psycho-social support, on the *European School Education Platform*, the *Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe* and the *New Ukrainian School Hub*. This can build on the European Commission's practical manual on "Supporting the inclusion of displaced children from Ukraine in education: considerations, key principles and practices for the school year 2022-2023". The Commission welcomes the designation of a body in charge of the *eTwinning* National Support Organisation (NSO) by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, which will enable Ukrainian teachers and school staff to benefit from networking and professional development opportunities as part of the eTwinning community.
- 2. Raise awareness about the opportunities offered by the Erasmus + programme by supporting the delivery of additional schoolbooks for Ukrainian learners.** This could be build on the existing Erasmus+ dissemination action by the European Commission with half a million schoolbooks for fifth grade students under the New Ukrainian School curriculum. These books include an insert in Ukrainian on the Erasmus+ programme and the opportunities it offers and will get passed on to new generations of learners every year.
- 3. Promote greater involvement of Ukrainian organisations in Erasmus+ international actions.** Ukraine is encouraged to enhance its participation in the Erasmus+ General Call for 2024 to be published in autumn 2023. This will include partnerships for cooperation in the education, training and youth sectors, mobility projects to support incoming mobility from Ukraine and it will ultimately facilitate the integration of people fleeing the war in Ukraine. Both sides welcome the upcoming Erasmus+ project which will, with a budget of EUR 5 million, support the setting up of

a digital higher education environment in Ukraine and allow displaced students to continue their studies.

4. **Work together to facilitate the recognition of academic qualifications.** Through the EU's Recommendation to Member States on the recognition of qualifications for people fleeing Russia's invasion of Ukraine, as well as Guidelines on fast-track recognition of Ukrainian academic qualifications, Ukrainians have been assisted in making the most of their skills, knowledge and abilities. The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine should also work to facilitate the recognition in Ukraine of academic qualifications obtained in the EU Member States, including by supporting the National Information Centre of Academic Mobility (ENIC Ukraine) in the framework of the Bologna Process.
5. **Enhance the participation of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine in Working Groups and peer learning activities under the European Education Area Strategic Framework.** The European Commission reiterates its invitation to the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine to join the seven working groups under the European Education Area as well as the Standing Group on Indicators and Benchmarks.
6. **Enable participation of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine in the Eurydice network.** The European Commission has opened up the possibility for the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine to participate in the Eurydice Network, aiming for the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine to get a deeper understanding of the EU education systems and cooperation in education in general. The European Commission reiterates its invitation to the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine to participate.
7. **Enhance the capacities of Ukrainian sport and youth organisations.** The European Commission is opening up Erasmus+ Capacity Building for Youth and Sport for the Eastern Partnership, allowing Ukrainian organisations to participate as of 2024 in international cooperation projects based on multilateral partnerships with organisations active in the field of youth and sport in Erasmus+ Programme countries. Annual webinars aimed at reinforcing the cooperation among sport organisations from Ukraine and the EU Member States could be organised on a regular basis.
8. **The European Commission welcomes the order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine of 15 May 2023** that gives refugee pupils and students attending school in an EU Member State the option to not attend Ukrainian online education as a prerequisite for continuing their education in Ukraine at a grade appropriate for their age after their return. The European Commission also welcomes the efforts of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine in disseminating this information and encouraging schooling in the EU Member States. The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine is also invited to participate in the technical cooperation hub between the Commission and international actors (UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF and OECD) for an informal exchange to assess the situation ahead of the new school year.

Signed in Kyiv on 15 June 2023 in two copies, in English.

For the European Commission,

For the Ministry of Education
and Science of Ukraine,

Margaritis Schinas
Vice-President of the European Commission
for Promoting our European Way of Life

Oksen Lisovyi
Minister