



Promoting Academic Freedom in Ukraine
Project number: 2023-1-AT01-KA220-HED-000164930

November 2024

Newsletter #1

Our initiative to promote academic freedom in Ukraine has begun!

We are excited to announce the first steps of our Erasmus+ FreeAc project, a collaborative effort to protect and enhance academic freedom for Ukrainian higher education institutions, students, and staff. Recognising the challenges Ukraine faces in the wake of conflict – including a loss of academic talent through displacement and migration – FreeAc aims to preserve the essential values of academic freedom and support the resilience of the Ukrainian academic community. Working with a network of institutions from Austria (University of Graz, World University Service), Ukraine (International Humanitarian University, Sumy State University, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv), Italy (CESIE), Greece (KMOP – Education & Innovation Hub), and Poland (Adam Mickiewicz University), our project seeks to connect Ukrainian scholars and institutions with EU counterparts to build a stronger, more inclusive future for Ukrainian higher education.

Our Kick-Off Meeting

Our journey started with a kick-off meeting held in Graz, Austria, on February 28-29, 2024. Hosted by the University of Graz, this event brought together representatives from all eight partner institutions, laying the groundwork for the next three years. During this meeting, partners discussed initial activities, defined roles, and established a roadmap to promote and support academic freedom in Ukraine.





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Next Steps

In the upcoming months, we will:

- Complete our Baseline study on “Conditions, Needs and Challenges for Displaced Members of Ukrainian Higher Education Institutions” aiming to better understand the impact of the full-scale invasion by Russia on the higher education sector in Ukraine.
- Complete our teaching capacity gap surveys aiming to identify the war-induced teaching capacity gaps in the Ukrainian universities participating in the project.
- Begin preparing a Manual on Best Practice examples on how to best respond to the forced displacement of members of academia.
- Start designing a hybrid Summer School in Poznan (Poland) on “Academic Freedom in armed conflict”, expected to take place in June 2025



**Stay Tuned
for More Updates!**

As the FreeAc project progresses, we'll keep you informed about our achievements, milestones, and future activities.



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Want to learn more? <https://www.freeac.eu/> |