

## For discussion: Support for Ukraine

The war in Ukraine is now in its second year, and it is uncertain, how long it will last. It is important to assess in a strategic and coordinated way how support can be best provided. As the emphasis has moved from first relief to continued support to sustain, develop and rebuild, what are the right measures? How to use the in view of actual demand, limited resources strategically, and ensure that measures synergize, rather than duplicate or event compete?

EUA is currently discussing these and related questions with members and partners, in order to get a better understanding how collaborative approaches could contribute to strengthening the Ukrainian HE and research sector.

Provision of placements for students and staff was one of the early measures to support Ukraine, and will likely have to continue.

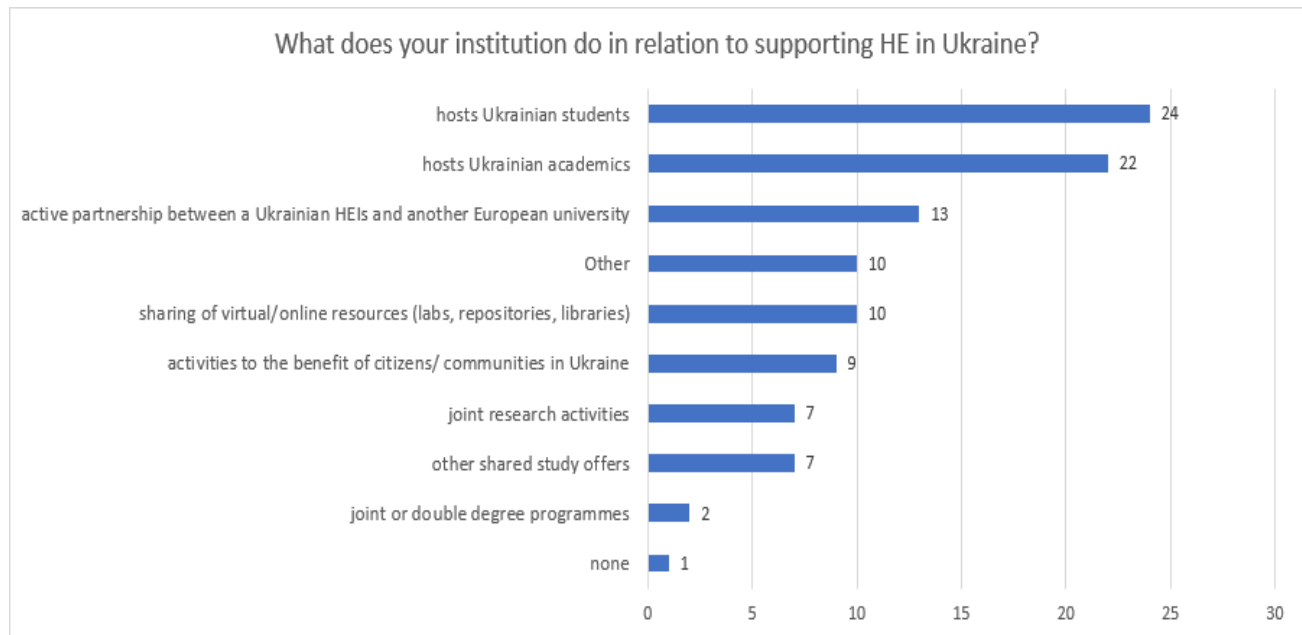


Figure 1 Mentimeter at the session "Supporting universities in Ukraine: opportunities for enhanced interinstitutional collaboration", EUA Annual Conference 2023

At the same time, it would be important to reflect on how best to support the higher education and research institutions in Ukraine, where the vast majority of Ukrainian and international students and academics study and work. The further development, and integration of the Ukrainian HE and research sector into the EHEA,



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ENA and ERA, and generally, into the international higher education community is also an important means to strengthen Ukraine's resilience and enable its reconstruction.

Many higher education institutions engage already in partnerships. Ukrainian students and academics hosted at European universities play an important role in facilitating exchange and cooperation, given their links with their home institutions, language abilities and overall understanding of the situation.

National agencies, the European Commission and other donors and network have launched inter-institutional and inter-organisational collaboration soon after the start of the war, such as for e.g.:

- The [Polish National Academy's "Solidarity with Ukraine" programme](#) awarded the 18 Polish university members participating in European university alliances €3.4 million **for activities with Ukrainian partners in 2023**.
- The [UK-Ukraine Twinning Initiative](#), coordinated by Cormack Consultancy Group and the President's Fund of Ukraine for Education, Science and Sports with the support of Universities UK International has, so far, has led to 33 partnerships.
- Under two calls in 2022 and 2023 of its initiative [Ukraine digital: Ensuring academic success in times of crisis](#), the German-Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) provided support for more than 100 partnership initiatives between German and Ukrainian institutions. At a monthly hybrid "Morgenkaffee" participants share experiences from their projects.

Many more could be listed here - but finding them, and is not easy to get a quick overview, and initiatives seem to be growing in numbers, and take different shapes. A [2022 EUA survey of national rectors' conferences](#) across Europe confirmed the enhancement of existing and development of new inter-university partnerships. On the European side, there is a strong will and readiness to engage.

Some preliminary suggestions for discussion of what could be done:

1. University partnerships, whether focussed on a discipline or fully institutional, bilateral, or multilateral, such as in the European University Alliances, can be a versatile means to address changing needs.
2. On the Ukrainian side, they Ministry, institutions and organisations would have to assess needs, but also impact and scope of enhancement of existing measures.
3. Governments and donor organisations should prioritise collaborative measures that would support Ukrainian HEI, but also have some use for their European partner institutions.
4. Digital can help to enable more seamless collaboration, but also resource sharing.
5. Reconstruction should also include higher education institutions.
6. More and better information exchanges could enable collaboration, synergies and light coordination.

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