

Supporting activities: from Lund to Ukraine

Introduction

On the 24th of February 2022 Russia in collaboration with Belarus has launched full-scale invasion of Ukraine that has marked new chapter in European history. The basic values that Western World has developed and protected over decades have been challenged, including freedom, democracy and human rights. The heroic resilience of Ukrainian people allowed European democracies live without being threatened by the conflict. However, it comes with a great cost. The damage made by the war only in the educational and research areas in Ukraine is estimated to be over 5.5 billion US dollars, with more than double of the money needed for full recovery, according to the latest World Bank Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment. While Lund University cannot bring war to the closer end by aiding military, it can invest in the endurance and long-term recovery of Ukraine by supporting its Academia. Here, we've collected the list of activities that could be carried-out by individuals as well as University as a whole for that purpose.

Principles of Support:

- The invasion and a new war in Europe mean a humanitarian crisis and great security challenge. The development in Ukraine is vital also for the security of Sweden, Europe and the whole world.
- To be effective, LU focuses on several partners (areas) in Ukraine and helps them directly according to their needs.
- LU / its employees / researchers should not cooperate with Russia or Belarus. Their universities are public and express the public policy of their countries.

Academic support

- Effective solution to train students and professional staff to support the country in the crisis and for the sustainable post-war recovery.
- Could be done using the Erasmus+ funds, Swedish Institute (SI) and/or Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) grants.

1. Towards students (Bachelor, Master and PhD levels)

1.1 Student mobility

Increase student mobility by making exchange deals with more Ukrainian Universities/increase mobility per University with agreement already (exchange studies from Ukrainian partner Universities to Lund University)

Some successful examples of LU in the student mobility:

<https://www.intramed.lu.se/en/article/medfaks-ukrainian-summer-school-has-started-welcome-us>

<https://www.medicin.lu.se/artikel/ukrainska-lakarstudenter-i-lund-efter-blixtnabb-ansokningsprocess>

<https://www.sydsvenskan.se/2023-07-02/studier-i-lund-kan-hjalpa-krigsskadade-i-ukraina>

1.2 Virtual mobility

This can be particularly useful for male students from Ukraine who do not have the opportunity to go abroad. Students can receive certificates after completing such courses.

1.3 Student Unions

LU has a strong and sustainable history of different student unions. There are similar youth organisations within Ukrainian universities which need cooperation and help. Lund University's student unions could try to raise money to support a youth organisation in Ukraine that helps students there to survive the war. A joint communication campaign in support of education for Ukraine's students could be done together by LU, student unions and Ukrainian exchange or full-time students.

1.4 Raising awareness

It would be good if LU's student organisations and LU's different communication channels could arrange [podcasts](#) or others activities/channels, in which Ukrainian students can talk about their conditions and how to study during the time of war. This would also raise awareness about the situation in Ukraine and its universities.

1.5 Internships for PhD students

Create more opportunities for Ukrainian PhD students to have a month traineeship / six-month study / participation in conferences at LU.

1.6 Master programs

Lund University can organise Master programs for Ukrainian students similar to those in other EU countries. Such programs can train specialist who will return back to rebuild the country.

Example of such a program in France:

<https://iaemetz.univ-lorraine.fr/nos-formations/catalogue-de-formations/diplome-universitaire-franco-ukrainien-management-et>

2. Towards University as the whole

2.1 Staff exchange

Exchange for administrative, teaching and academic staff to refine working methods in Ukrainian Universities

2.2 Digital systems

LU can share experience about different digital systems, e.g. «[LUBsearch](#)». Some exchange students from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv emphasized that they do not have the same system at their home university. And as a result, Ukrainian students/researchers are restricted in their ability to have adequate access to the knowledge produced either in other research institutions in Ukraine or abroad. Ukrainian Universities could adopt this experience from LU.

2.3 Teaching methods

LU could share its experience in teaching methods and its attitude towards course design. Many exchange students enjoy a lot the system with having different paces (i.e., 25%, 50, 100%) of courses as well as their continuity throughout the academic year. The idea of focusing rather on one subject instead of spreading attention to multiple ones seems more reasonable to them. While studying at LU, the Ukrainian exchange students experience that LU professors expect them to write take-home exams and prepare for exams in generally strongly based on the course literature strictly defined in the course design. This system is completely different from the experience that exchange students had at their home University in Ukraine. This experience will help to modernize Ukrainian universities.

2.4 Joining scientific projects

The writing of joint articles/papers by Ukrainian and Swedish researchers provides great support for the Ukrainian academic community.

2.5 Donate equipment

Donate no-longer in use equipment in LU that's in need in Ukrainian Universities to conduct teaching or research.

Humanitarian support

3. Towards victims of the war

3.1 Donate rehabilitation equipment

Help by donating unused rehabilitation equipment in LU that's in need for Ukraine.

3.2 Host wounded

The faculty of Medicine jointly with Region Skåne can help treat and rehabilitate wounded Ukrainian soldiers and civilians. Currently, many EU countries are already helping with military prosthetics and rehabilitation. Official appeal to the Ministry of Defense of Sweden could be made, which in turn appeals to the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, who will know that Region Skåne is ready to accept patients.

3.3 Collect funds

To collect funds for some humanitarian project through a well-known charitable foundation (for example, "[Come Back Alive](#)" (Ukrainian: "Повернись живим") in Ukraine: LU can agree with them on what purpose the collected funds will go to. Examples of goals can be: demining, assistance to civilians who suffered due to the flooding of [the Kakhovka Reservoir](#), etc. LU can do it under the conventional name "Day of Ukraine" (for example, dedicated to the Independence Day of Ukraine (August 24th). Also, paid events held by the university indicate that 5-10% of ticket sales will go to help Ukraine.

3.4 Cultural exchange

To organize a lecture/a series of lectures with famous Ukrainians in order to popularize Ukraine at LU and in Lund. Videos from these events can then be posted on University social media. It can be writers, opinion leaders (for example, [Oksana Zabuzhko](#), [Max Kidruk](#), [Serhiy Zhadan](#), [Andriy Kurkov](#), etc.) who speak English and travel right now around the world with a similar mission. These meetings can be organized as a part of the "Days of Ukraine" (since Greta Thunberg organizes her "Fridays for Future", these "Days of Ukraine" could be also organized for example every Monday / every two weeks / once a month). These events could be combined with the presentations of writers' books, stories about Ukraine, and the collection of funds already mentioned above.

Reforms and modernisation

4. For society as a whole

4.1 De-colonization of western perception

Giving that LU has its own [Centre for European Studies](#), it can offer scientific projects, internships, for example, on de-Sovietization, de-Russification of Western perception of Eastern Europe in history, science, etc. In the West, unfortunately, Eastern Europe is still perceived through the lens of Russia's official narratives, and the concept of imperialism is not always understood.

4.2 Ukrainian leadership program

LU can launch program for Ukrainian leaders that would benefit modernization of Ukraine.

Example:

<https://cddrl.fsi.stanford.edu/emergingleaders>

4.4 Visit Ukraine

LU delegation could come to Ukraine, following the example of Western politicians, to see with their own eyes what is happening and to identify needs and areas of cooperation in dialogue with colleagues. It could be a huge inspiration for new ideas and thoughts.

4.5 Become partner of UGU

LU can become a partner at [Ukrainian Global University](#). Today such universities as New York University, University of Toronto, University of Connecticut, etc. are already members in this project. LU can be the first Scandinavian University at Ukrainian Global University.

Prepared by Roman Balandiuk and Denys Kovalenko

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Lund-Ukraine Alliance for Academic Support

LUA | Developing education and research – despite the war

Lund-Ukraine Alliance for Academic Support (LUA) is a network within Lund University that helps academia in Ukraine to endure during and after Russia's full-scale invasion.

The group identifies the real needs and promotes support to academic circles in Ukraine. By building effective collaborations, the network contributes to the development of education and research that will benefit all, also in the long run.

The alliance upholds the values of truthfulness and transparency, and it integrates the core values of Lund University in all its activities. Regardless of background and nationality, the initiative welcomes all members who respect the values and objectives of LUA.