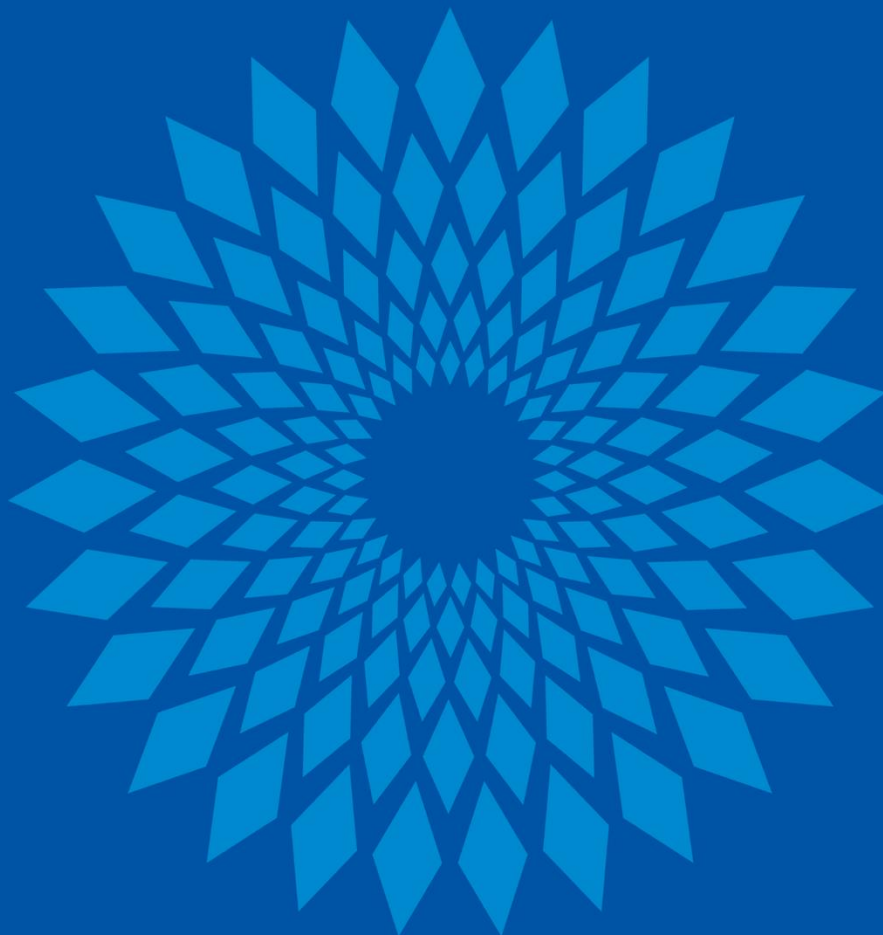


# EU2022.CZ

Czech Presidency of the Council  
of the European Union



## Lunch debate

Informal Meeting of Ministers  
responsible for Competitiveness  
– Research formation

Prague, Czech Republic  
21 – 22 July 2022

# Briefing note for the Lunch debate on measures taken in research and innovation as a response to the military aggression of Russia in Ukraine

## SCENE SETTER

**The Russian military aggression against Ukraine is an act of war, which constitutes a violation of international law, undermining both European and global security and stability.** As Commissioner Mariya Gabriel stated on 4 March 2022: *"Russia's military aggression against Ukraine is an attack on freedom, democracy and self-determination, on which cultural expression, academic and scientific freedom and scientific cooperation are based."*

As set out in the Commission Communication on the Global Approach to Research and Innovation, research and innovation are based on a set of fundamental core values and principles. The importance of these values and principles for international cooperation in research and innovation has been strongly emphasised by Council, most recently in the Council Conclusions of 10 June 2022. The Russian aggression against Ukraine has violated these core values and principles for international research and innovation cooperation.

**The Commission has, therefore, put in place measures to (1) sanction Russia for its aggression against Ukraine in all fields, research and innovation included, and to (2) provide immediate and effective support to Ukraine, and Ukrainian researchers and scientists.**

## SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

**The Commission, therefore, decided to (1) terminate the participation of Russian public entities in ongoing projects, and (2) not to engage into further projects with all Russian entities.**

These actions were put in place through a series of sanctions and legal measures, including a specific article in the 5th package of sanctions against Russia adopted on 8 April 2022:

*“This provision prohibits all direct or indirect support, including financing and financial assistance or any other benefit under a Union, Euratom or Member State national programme and contracts within the meaning of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 (\*), to any legal person, entity or body established in Russia with over 50 % public ownership or public control.”*

**This provision allowed the Commission to put in place measures for the termination of 117 Russian participations in ongoing Horizon 2020 projects.**

In addition, based on an amendment of the 2021–2022 Horizon Europe Work Programme, **no new contracts will be signed under Horizon Europe with any legal entity (both public and private) established in Russia, Belarus or in non-government-controlled territories of Ukraine.** Exceptions may only be granted on a case-by-case basis for justified reasons (e.g., people-to-people contacts, humanitarian aid, civil society, etc.).

## RESEARCH AND INNOVATION SUPPORT MEASURES FOR UKRAINE

**On 9 June 2022, the Agreement associating Ukraine to Horizon Europe, and Euratom Research and Training programmes entered into force.** It will offer opportunities for cooperation with the focus on new technologies and solutions that are key for rebuilding a modern, green and digitally equipped Ukraine. Ukraine will now participate in these programmes without having to contribute financially for the years 2021 and 2022. This represents most recent concrete tangible means of support to Ukrainian researchers and innovators worth approximately EUR 20.5 million.

In addition, anticipating the post-invasion situation in Ukraine, a number of targeted initiatives could complement physical reconstruction efforts by various development partners. More specifically such projects could help build skills and capacity in three areas: research infrastructures, climate neutral cities, and nuclear safety and security.

All this support is and/or would be complementary to other dedicated measures that are already in place. These account to around EUR 80 million in EU support to the Ukrainian research and innovation ecosystem. **The most prominent examples include a targeted fellowships' scheme of EUR 25 million under the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions; EUR 20 million action by the European Innovation Council to support deep-tech small- and medium-sized enterprises of Ukraine; and dedicated support to health and nuclear scientists valued at EUR 1 million and EUR 12 million respectively.**

In addition, prospective Horizon Europe participants are invited to create opportunities, if possible, for the affected researchers and innovators of Ukraine.

Finally, **through the ERA4Ukraine initiative, the Commission continues to coordinate access to information on available support across the EU and Associated Countries.**

#### **Questions for the lunch debate**

##### I. Reconstruction of research and innovation in Ukraine

Ukraine is developing a national recovery plan, which will cover research and innovation needs as multiple higher education institutions and key research infrastructures have been destroyed. In this context, it is important to ensure that EU reconstruction-related support caters for these needs by allocating sufficient funding. Under Horizon Europe, and Euratom Research and Training programmes, the EU can only complement physical reconstruction efforts through policy support, skills and solutions development.

*(1) What are the most effective ways to mobilise EU meaningful reconstruction support for the research and innovation ecosystem of Ukraine?*

*(2) What should be our plan of action? Which of Ukraine's research and innovation needs should take priority?*

II. Support to researchers and innovators who remain in Ukraine

There are growing appeals to provide support to researchers who remain in Ukraine, as men cannot leave the country, and as the research and innovation public budget of Ukraine is redirected to fight the aggressor. This hinders research and innovation activities in the country and undermines the implementation of Ukraine's Association Agreement to Horizon Europe, and Euratom Research and Training Programmes.

*(1) What are the best practices at national level to support researchers and innovators who remain in Ukraine?*

*(2) Can we scale them up and how, especially in view of limited opportunities under the Horizon Europe, and Euratom Research and Training Programmes?*

III. Science diplomacy and support to Russian individual researchers

The issue of potential support for Russian scientists and researchers who decided on voluntary basis or who have been forced to flee the Russian regime needs to be considered. In addition, as discussed in the recent G7 Science Ministers meeting, consideration, in the spirit of science diplomacy needs to be given on how to continue dialogue with the Russian scientific community and Russian scientists.

*(1) What are your views on such science diplomacy measures and what would be the right timing to introduce them?*