



New strategic partnership for future integration of Ukrainian universities in European Higher Education

**Potential role of European Universities
for institutional European support
to Ukrainian Universities**



Two time frames and two different challenges

• Individual problematics (1.5 M students)

- Moved from Ukraine, in neighbour countries : Poland, Romania, others in Europe
- Gender : Men old enough to go to war, the absolute majority of Ukrainian scholars stayed in Ukraine !
- Psychologically, hope, humanitarian aid
- Short term individual grants for Western universities are planned for the second half of 2022 via national agencies
- The importance of an aid for the continuity of academic life and with a "global" cover

• Institutional challenges (200 academic institutions, 30-40 major universities)

- Three different geographical and political situations
 - Occupied and/or destroyed areas
 - Areas close to warzones
 - Refuge areas
- **Academic diplomacy** : Strong symbol of a European institutional partnership
- **Essential missions** :
 - Help ensure the educational continuity (short term)
 - Ensure the continuity of existing academic structures (medium term)
 - Create a frame to prepare the new after-war life (long term)



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List of UA university requests

Institutional level:

- helping to secure the continuation of study programmes and granting credits for them
- synchronising selected study programmes in order to facilitate student mobility
- development of links between faculties and departments for each scientific field
- opening access to online education programmes, courses, databases, libraries, repositories
- online training programmes for students and staff (research resources)
- synchronising university management standards
- joint promotion of European values

Individual level:

- hosting students, teachers and researchers
- Virtual visiting professorship or actual short visits of the universities from UA
- Mini-grants for professors staying in Ukraine
- Joint tutorship for graduates (in case BA or MA thesis is needed for graduation)



Two time frames and two different challenges

Medium and long term :

- **Individual problematics (risks of Brain drain)**

- Facilitate the comeback
 - Promotion of the moving period and bonds created
 - Maintenance of bonds and possibility of benefiting from capacity building
- Importance of a "continuous" solution

- **Institutional challenges (preparation for the integration in the European higher education system)**

- Varying engagement levels in agreements with European universities
- Reconstruction, reorganisation (reunification support)
- Building a European network of cooperation for Ukrainian universities



Proposal of a systemic Action plan for short and mid-term support

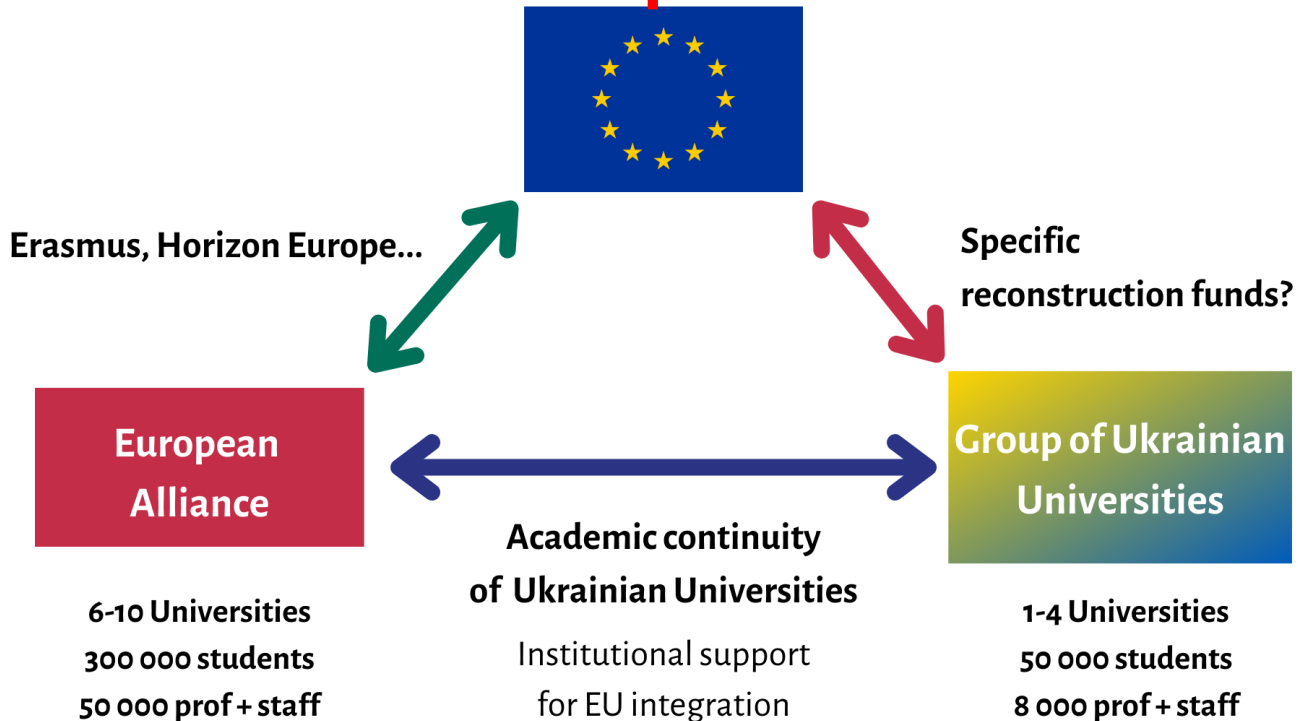
**European Universities as coordinators
or catalysts of strategic partnerships
with Ukrainian Universities (or a group of them)**





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Adapted Academic Partnership between UA and EU Alliances or networks supported by EU for short and long term cooperation





What: Twinning or «institutional» partnership European University-Ukrainian Universities

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- **Engagement in institutional collaboration in the medium term**
 - Political dimension
 - From emergency to institutional coherence
- **Open and flexible academic partnership**
 - Opening to the universities not involved in alliances
 - Complementarity with existing actions and tools
 - Comply with existing cooperation on the level of infrastructures (Faculties, research teams)





What: Twinning or «institutional» partnership European University-Ukrainian Universities

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- **Support for development and networking collaboration**
- **Medium term goals made explicit**
 - Aid for reorganisation and improvement (academic mobility programmes)
 - Provision of resources (online libraries, JSTOR, Statista...)
 - Training for “capacity building” instructors (how to apply for European grants, University managements...)
 - Sharing and provision of scientific and teaching resources
 - Sharing and provision of administrative resources and digital infrastructures





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How: Twinning or «institutional» partnership European University-Ukrainian Universities

- **Identification of the useful support actions to Ukrainian universities**
 - Short term : Help ensure teaching continuity
 - Short term : Help ensure temporary mobilities
- **Creation of an adapted academic type of Partnership**, locally and nationally recognised, and by the EU
 - Associate partners of the alliances?
 - Partnership or strategic twinning
 - Improve the type of actions explored to specify the nature of the partnership...



Differences between associated partnership and strategic partnership with European Universities

Associated Partnership with European Universities

- Some European Alliances have integrated as associated partners Ukrainian universities
- Today, no EU financial support for Ukrainian university as an associated partner
- Complex and not systematic process of associated partnerships with European Universities
- Individual process of each European University and not European systemic approach of European support

Universities

- Partnership as concrete actions in the transition period (from the start of negotiations to full accession to the European Union).
- Financial support for Ukrainian and European universities in the frames of strategic university partnership > different scope of cooperation (education, research, management, mobility, etc.)
- Partnership as a way to fully implement a concrete plan to connect higher education of Ukraine to the legal system of the European Union

New strategic partnership with European



First step:

Association process :

**based on free choice for
Ukrainian and European Universities**



How: Twinning or «institutional» partnership European University-Ukrainian Universities

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- **Identification of the European Universities ready to commit**
 - Specific expertise of the European alliances (ex the importance of life sciences for Ukrainian/ European agriculture)
 - Specific abilities of the alliances including universities of countries bordering Ukraine
- **Mobilisation of involved parties capable of helping**
 - Expertise for the needs of reconstruction, reorganisation, improvement
 - Identification of the means for helping the provision of resources :
 - Training for “capacity building”
 - Sharing and provision of scientific and teaching resources
 - Sharing and provision of administrative resources and digital infrastructures



Challenges

- Needs Collection & Analysis is needed
- Common (virtual or meeting) space for the pairing process is needed
- Process of pairing
- Complementarity with existing individual and institutional cooperations

(level of faculties, research teams or academic network intergration)





Pairing process of EU-UA Universities

(using or not a virtual platform/space...)

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Each European Alliance submits:

Academic characteristics
Activities, scientific fields
Training offering

Opportunities for partnership

Each (Group of) Ukrainian universities submits:

Academic Characteristics
Activities, scientific fields
Training offering

Needs for partnership

Time for finalisation of bilateral associations (not too much...)

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Second step (until end october 2022):

**Action plan and milestones
elaboration:
for short and mid-term
based on discussions between
Ukrainian and European Universties**

Deliverables: Action plan, agenda and estimation of EU needs for the Key actions for each association Alliance - Ukrainian University(ies)

Ultimate goal: Overall assessment of instruments and funds for a comprehensive commission support plan for Ukrainian universities



How? Examples of actions requested

Urgent & short-term options :

- Opening access to online education programmes, courses, etc. and granting credits for them to Ukrainian students, so that they can end the academic year
- Opening access to databases, libraries, repositories, online training programmes for students and staff (research resources)
- Accepting students for short mobility programmes until the end of the academic year, which will be transferred to their home university credits - and creating a network of "ambassadors"
- Virtual visiting professorship or actual short visits of the universities from UA
- Mini-grants for professors staying in Ukraine
- Joint tutorship for graduates (in case BA or MA thesis is needed for graduation)



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How? Examples of actions requested

Medium & long-term interventions :

- Creation of a restoration fund to help rebuild the universities after the war, fund for technical support
- Elaboration of joint programmes, degrees to help save the home degree from UA, with access to mutual accreditation in international (European) authorities, reliable on higher education quality assurance assessment
- Help with the quality assurance of the education in UA during and after crisis
- Creation of strategic alliances (partnership) between UA universities and partner universities for further rehabilitation and development of Ukrainian higher education system (capacity building projects)





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Third step:

**Deployment of Partnership for
educational collaboration/support
after October 2022**

**based on the needs of
Ukrainian Universities and offering of
European Universities**

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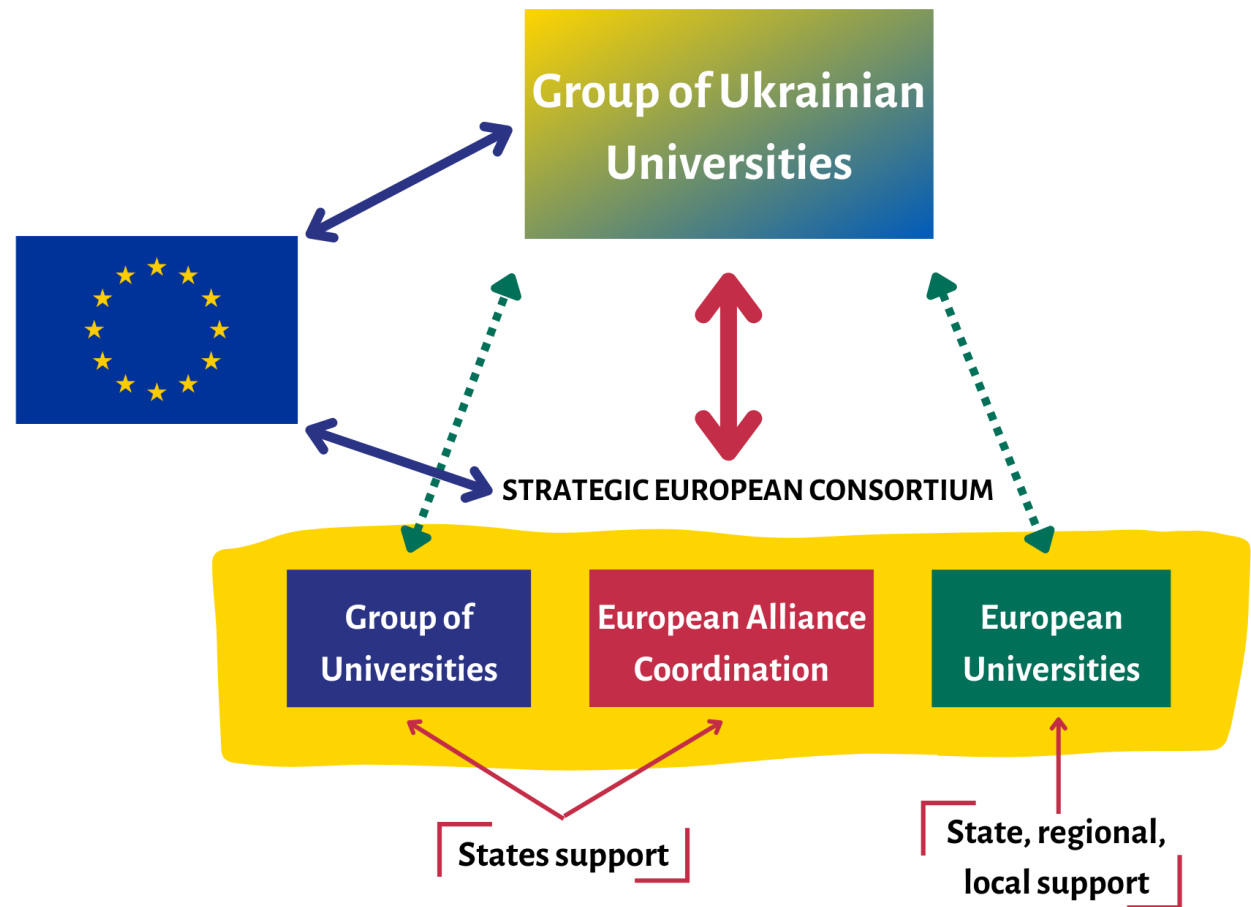
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Complementary solution: **A common EU platform for sharing** **courses to UA Universities**

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Partnership members extension: complementarity of supports



Challenges

- Clear needs analysis is required...
- EU level: how to coordinate all these platforms?
- Alliance level: how to coordinate the participation of non-alliance EU universities?
- UA: How to participate in many alliances?

