

MUNI

MSCA4Ukraine

Supporting displaced Ukrainian researchers: the role of host institutions

Mission and values

- The mission of Masaryk University is to contribute through its scientific activities, student education and social activities to the high quality and healthy life of all generations, and to a **free, cohesive and secure society**
- Values:
 - **Respect**, as the basis of internal culture, solidarity and partnership in all negotiations. Respect for the principles establishing equal opportunities and transparency, as well as respect for the principles of academic ethics.
 - **Freedom**, respected and defended as a social imperative. Also, freedom as a principle of internal organisation of the university in the form of academic freedom of teaching and research or freedom of choice of students' own curriculum profile, but also as a principle of institutional autonomy of the university vis-à-vis the state.
 - **Responsibility**, emphasising the role of the university as a **co-creator of public opinion, a solver of local and society-wide issues** and a provider of a public service open to all. Also, the individual responsibility of students and staff reflected in respect for university rules and belonging to the university.

Connected to the mission but hidden: university culture

- In case of crises, you need:
 - Prompt reaction to the society's needs
 - Suitable infrastructure
 - Actions
- MUNI Helps: volunteer centre for students and staff
- The university offered support for students and staff:
 - Students from Ukraine: from 71 (in 2021) to 488 (in 2022)
 - Staff from Ukraine: from 22 (in 2021) to 120 (in 2022)
 - Remote admission for students of the UA universities in 2022: 1800 students took the entrance exam at MU
 - Psychological help, Language courses, accommodation, scholarships
 - Vacancies at MU
 - Opportunities for PhD students to consult dissertations in progress

Focused on Ukraine

- European Digital UniverCity (EDUC) from 2023 - Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University (PNU), associate partner
- EDUC Wide - Project for Inclusive Research Development, under Horizont Europe, call for the European Excellence Initiative, PNU full partner
- Digital University – Open Ukrainian Initiative - creates a national online learning platform for almost 300 local universities
- MSCA4UA:
 - 4 scholars from the first call
 - 2 applications for the second call

Was it worth it?

Opportunities:

- Increase our understanding of the UA HE institutions
- A unique experience to incorporate many new students and staff into our structures, particularly into our research groups
- Taught us a lesson on how to react in a state of emergency and how to adapt to a new situation
- Increase the internationalization opportunities

Was it easy?

Obstacles:

- Language and cultural barriers
- Help vs. incentives
- Different levels of digitalization
- Recognition of qualification
- Sustainable funding
- Brain gain vs. brain drain

MASARYK UNIVERSITY