



Polish-Ukrainian MEiN-PW Project „Polish-Ukrainian Cooperation of Academic Stakeholder Organisations Representing Rectors for Improving University Performance”

Leader: prof. Jerzy Woźnicki

SUMMARY OF THE CONSULTATION MEETING

OF THE DELEGATION OF THE UNION OF RECTORS OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, CONFERENCE OF RECTORS OF ACDEMIC SCHOOLS IN POLAND AND POLISH RECTORS FOUNDATION WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION

9 JUNE 2022, UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW, GOLDEN HALL

List of participants:

1. Prof. Michael Murphy, President of European University Association
2. Prof. Arkadiusz Mężyk, President of CRASP, Rector of Silesian University of Technology
3. Prof. Jerzy Woźnicki, President of the Polish Rectors Foundation, Polish-Ukrainian Project Leader
4. Prof. Petro Kulikov, President of the Union of Rectors of Higher Education Institutions of Ukraine (URHEIU), Rector of Kyiv National University of Construction and Architecture
5. Prof. Nataliia Lazarenko, Rector of Vinnytsia Mykhailo Kotsiubynskyi State Pedagogical University
6. Prof. Stanislav Nikolaienko, Rector of National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine
7. Prof. Olha Porkuiian, Rector of Volodymyr Dahl East Ukrainian National University
8. Prof. Oleksandr Spivakovskiy, Rector of Kherson State University
9. Prof. Mykola Trofymenko, Rector of Mariupol State University
10. Prof. Igor Tsependa, Rector of Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University
11. Oleksii Kalashnikov, Head of the Secretariat of the URHEIU
12. Prof. Taras Finikov, President of the International Foundation of Education Policy Research (Kyiv)
13. Dr Iryna Degtyarova, Program coordinator of the Polish-Ukrainian MEiN-PW Project

Agenda

1. Welcome by prof. Jerzy Woźnicki, Polish-Ukrainian Project Leader.
2. Introducing the aim of the Consultation meeting and participants by Iryna Degtyarova, coordinator.
3. Welcome by the President of EUA prof. Michael Murphy, remarks on the EUA membership for URHEIU.
4. Welcome and comments by the Ukrainian delegation led by prof. Petro Kulikov.
5. Welcome and comments of the President of CRASP prof. Arkadiusz Mężyk.
6. Discussion
7. Conclusions.

Meeting summary

1. **The Consultation meeting** was organised within the Polish-Ukrainian Project called “Polish-Ukrainian Cooperation of Academic Stakeholder Organizations Representing Rectors for Improving University Performance”, which is implemented by the Warsaw University of Technology (WUT) in cooperation with the national rectors’ conferences in Poland (CRASP) and Ukraine (URHEIU) and Polish Rectors Foundation (PRF), and funded by the Ministry of Education and Science of Poland. **The aim of the**



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meeting was to discuss perspectives of cooperation, including support for the process of acquiring EUA membership for the Union of Rectors of Higher Education Institutions of Ukraine with the special conditions and define formal requirements to achieve this goal. Of course, the eligibility criteria should be met.

- Information about the Project and the Polish Rectors Foundation and its role in the CRASP strategic and research activities** was presented (see attached). It was underlined that all CRASP strategic documents defining development of higher education in Poland during the last 25 years were prepared by PRF, including Act of higher Education of 2005, Strategy of higher education in 2009, Program of development of higher education in 2015, etc. PRF started cooperation with Ukraine 10 years ago, by addressing it to the level of the national rectors' conferences.
- The idea to support URHEIU membership in the EUA** has been discussed before, and especially it was one of the most important appeals at the Joint Meeting of the CRASP and URHEIU Boards on 24th March 2022, and then it was included into the [Resolutions of the CRASP Presidium of 31 March 2022 on supporting the activities of Ukraine in the area of higher education, science and innovation](#).
- Main speeches:**

Prof. Michael Murphy, President of EUA stressed, that it is a privilege and a humble experience to be in the meeting with Ukrainian rectors. Since February 2022 the university system across Europe significantly changed, and the European partners are doing the best to be supportive for Ukrainian universities, students, researchers, citizens. Russian members of EUA were suspended. In Budapest there was a dedicated session on Ukraine. Our principle is to enable Ukraine to be a regular member of the European community at the national, societal, economic, and academic level, to assist Ukrainian universities in shaping societies. Ukraine's transition to be a member of the European society. EUA has invited Ukrainian rectors' conference to make a formal application. There is nothing very complex, guiding principles are: 1) formal existence of national conference, 2) that conference enjoys the membership and support of majority of Ukrainian universities, and there is no competing organisation to perform such role; 3) the capacity in the rectors' conference to represent the views of the universities of Ukraine and to translate back the policies and practices of EUA; 4) network of rectors subscribes to the principles of Magna Charta Universitatum (to prove sharing values). The further process is with the Secretariat. The decision in the EUA has been made that there is no fee on admission, the same applies to the individual members (there are 26 members have fee waived and also for new members). Secretariat of EUA is operating to have it happened. But if there are any difficulties, the President should be informed to bridge any gaps. Prof. Murphy confirmed his full disposal for URHEIU full membership in EUA.

Prof. Petro Kulikov expressed his gratitude on behalf of URHEIU and highlighted that it is not possible to integrate with the EU socially, economically, politically without education and without engagement of the universities both from European countries and Ukraine. International cooperation of Ukrainian



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universities with European partners contributes to the increasing the quality of education, research and exchange. Cooperation with CRASP, PRF and Polish universities has always been unique and important for Ukraine. EUA brings a lot to the development of higher education in Europe, by spreading its values and expertise. URHEIU is grateful for giving us a green light and accepting to EUA. Its is about giving a chance to develop. Ukraine has always had a reputation as a country with a good level of research across the globe. The members of URHEIU are around 80 rectors of HEIs, and not everybody is accepted, there are some criteria to become a member of URHEIU. Some of them are also members of EUA. My task is to develop URHEIU organisationally and bring younger generation, young progressive minded persons to the positions as for example Mykola Trofymenko. URHEIU is very keen on development of partnerships and cooperation with EUA. I would like to express our gratitude to the Polish Ministry and WUT for Polish-Ukrainian Project. Thank you prof. Woźnicki for support for all processes.

Prof. Arkadiusz Mężyk stressed that application to EUA is a good way to start cooperation in research and education. At 11.00 there will be a meeting with the Presidents of German and French Rectors' Conferences. Poland has started supporting Ukrainian institutions from the day 1 of the war of aggression. The Silesian University of Technology was established in 1945 by professors from Lviv University of Technology. There are many tools helping Ukrainian universities, students and researchers (e.g. <https://ukraina.irk.edu.pl/pl/>). Rector Mężyk clarified the difference between CRASP and PRF: these are two different organisations, working together and never competing.

- Prof. Jerzy Woźnicki** informed that PRF since 2005 has been organising **Summer Schools of Strategic Management** for rectors, vice-rectors and for chancellors, bursars, chief accountants. There have been 26 such conferences so far. It was also displayed as a leadership scheme for university leaders in the report of the NEWLEAD Project. In 2022 a small group of Ukrainian rectors who can speak Polish will come and participate in the School and next year a dedicated Summer School for Ukrainian Rectors will be organised. The details are available at [PRF website](#). Prof. Igor Tsependa will form a group.
- Prof. Mykola Trofymenko** stressed that the Ukrainian institutions face a huge challenge, and it is clear that universities are not the walls but the people. Mariupol State University was completely destroyed in Mariupol, and now it is displaced to the Kyiv National University of Construction and Architecture. And now they try to change the philosophy of university, rebuild it on something new. One of the peculiarities will be the internationalisation of the educational programs (each program will have an international aspect, some courses, double degree, scholarships, trips abroad, internship abroad foreign partner). It is a chance to save students and keep them in Ukraine. Huge challenge is that many pupils, students, were forced to leave Ukraine due to Russia's military aggression. A new enrolment campaign will be started without students. EUA and Polish partners give a chance to save students and HE in Ukraine, because if Ukraine will not have youth, there is no future.



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7. EUA President reminded that at the EUA conference in Budapest a clear statement was made: **countries and universities hosting Ukrainian students, doctoral candidates and researchers must not engage in brain drain promotion.** This is a critical value.
8. At the EUA a **special task-force** has been created to guide reconstruction of Ukrainian system of the post-war and ready to begin it immediately. URHEIU is asked to recommend 1-2 members for that task-force. The group s being chaired by prof. Ivanka Popovich who had experience of Baltic war. EUA is open and keen to have individual academics from Ukrainian universities participating in EUA events without fee and most of the EUA services are available to Ukrainians without charge.
9. For **individual application process** a normal procedure is applied with a fee exemption but EUA will expedite the process and help, so the criteria are not changed but the process is accelerated.
10. The Summary will be prepared and shared by Iryna Degtyarova.

Dr Iryna Degtyarova



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