

Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022 has caused vast displacement of people within the country as well as across the EU borders. While the annexation of Crimea had a negative impact on the country's education system, recent events have added additional strain.

Outbound **student mobility** was already substantial in recent years, but it has accelerated even further since the Crimean conflict began. After doubling from some 25 000 to nearly 50 000 between 2007 and 2014, the number of Ukrainian students abroad has since skyrocketed by another 54 % to around 78 000 in 2019.

Approximately 49 000 Ukrainian **students** were attending various higher education institutions across the EU in 2019. This means that approximately 60 % of the 78 000 Ukrainians studying abroad worldwide in 2019 chose to study in the EU. The countries welcoming the highest numbers of students are Poland, Germany, Czechia and Slovakia.

Some 480 Ukrainian students are currently engaged in Erasmus+ activities via the programme's international strand. In the 2015-2019 programming period, **Ukraine** received 40 % of the available funding in the Eastern Partnership region, and over 9 000 Ukrainian students and staff participated in more than 1 300 Erasmus projects.

Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Commissioner Mariya Gabriel announced, on 2 March 2022, that the Commission would grant maximum flexibility in the implementation of Erasmus+ projects involving Ukrainian

higher education students and staff. National Erasmus agencies can apply the *force majeure* clause for international mobility activities taking place in Ukraine and Russia. This will allow beneficiaries to cancel, postpone or rearrange planned activities in the most flexible way possible.

In addition, the Commission has invited Erasmus national agencies and participating organisations to contact beneficiaries who are currently located in Ukraine or Russia

### Ukrainian students worldwide

Number of young people studying worldwide



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or who are planning to move to these countries in the coming weeks, to explore all options. In all cases, Ukrainian students abroad will be offered assistance tailored to their needs, to ensure their safety.

**Ukrainian students worldwide and in the EU** Sources: EducationFair.nl, [Market report Ukraine](#), 2020 (worldwide); and UNESCO, [Global flow of tertiary-level students](#), 2019 (worldwide and EU). **Erasmus** Source: European Commission, [Erasmus+ for higher education in Ukraine](#), 2020.

### Ukrainian students in the EU

