

Conference on Ukraine Reconstruction in the Field of Research and Development and Higher Education

When: Wednesday, 17th September 2025
Where: Brno, Czech Republic + online

The conference is part of the RIFF project – Research Infrastructures for the Future of Ukraine: Roadmap for Sustained Growth and Recovery, which is funded by the Horizon Europe programme.

This event seeks to spark meaningful collaboration not only between European and Ukrainian academic communities but also among Ukrainian stakeholders themselves. It is designed for a variety of actors, including researchers, policymakers, and funders. Besides offering fruitful panel discussions, the event will serve as a networking platform intended to lay the groundwork for concrete action aimed at strengthening Ukraine's R&I landscape.

Venue: Masaryk University, Komenského nám. 2, Academic Senate room (city centre)

Agenda

09:00 **SESSION 1 – Welcome**

Speakers

- Radim Polčák, vice-rector, Masaryk University
- Vasyl Zvarych, Ukrainian ambassador to the Czech Republic
- Tomáš Kopečný, Special envoy for reconstruction of Ukraine, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic (TBC)

09:15 RIFF project presentation by Ondřej Hradil, Masaryk University, RIFF project coordinator

09:45 **Coffee break**

10:15 **SESSION 2 – Panel discussion on Ukraine reconstruction in the field of research (incl. research infrastructures) and higher education**

Panelists:

- Radim Polčák, vice-rector, Masaryk University
- Vasyl Zvarych, Ukrainian ambassador to the Czech Republic
- Tomáš Kopečný, Special envoy for reconstruction of Ukraine, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic (TBC)
- Rector of a Ukrainian university
- Business representative
- NGO representative

12:00 **Lunch**

13:00 **SESSION 3 – Presentations from various initiatives supporting research (incl. research infrastructures) and higher education in Ukraine by the EU, individual member countries, and third countries**

- *European Commission strategy on supporting Ukraine in research and higher education*, Frederik Sondergaard, Policy officer, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission
- *R&I sector developments across UNECE, WIPO and SEI studies: supporting EU integration, recovery and green transition*, Lyudmyla Tautiyeva, EFIS, Belgium
- *[Policy Support Facility in Ukraine](#) on research infrastructures - outcomes*, Jelena Angelis, EFIS, Belgium
- *The [LUKE project](#) - Linking Ukraine to the European Research Area: a Joint Funding and Capacity Building Platform for Enhanced Research and Innovation Cooperation*, Jörn Grünwald, project coordinator, DLR Project Management Agency
- *[MSCA4Ukraine Initiative](#)*, Oksana Seumenicht, MSCA4Ukraine Programme Director, Humboldt Foundation (TBC)

14:30 Coffee break

15:00 SESSION 3 – continued

- *Developing UK-Ukraine research and innovation collaboration through government-led initiatives*, Hana Sediva, FCDO, British Embassy Kyiv
- *Supporting Ukrainian universities in the context of war: United Kingdom -Ukraine Twinning Initiative and beyond*, Gintaras Steponavičius, Cormack Consulting Group
- *German initiatives in Ukraine*, Florian Frank, Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space, Germany (TBC)
- *French initiatives in Ukraine* (TBC)
- *Donations of research equipment to Ukrainian institutions*, Jörgen Larsson, RI Logistika, Sweden

16:30 Meeting end

Project abstract:

RIFF - Research Infrastructures for the Future of Ukraine: Roadmap for Sustained Growth and Recovery abstract

The RIFF project will facilitate an upgrade of R&I system in Ukraine by offering a fresh and forward-looking perspective on the Ukrainian research infrastructures (RIs). RIFF will deliver “Roadmap for Recovery and Enhancement of RIs in Ukraine” using both (1) bottom-up approach with an open call for proposals, robust training, awareness raising and dissemination strategy towards potential applicants, rooted in a network of eight partners in Ukraine; and (2) top-down approach with a robust consultation process involving a broad range of stakeholders from the government, policymakers and the scientific community. It will reflect also the green and digital transition priorities. The roadmapping process will apply peer-review methodology established by ESFRI and engage panels of internationally renowned experts. RIFF activities will efficiently connect Ukrainian RIs to EU/ESFRI through the implementation team linked to major European RIs and a comprehensive strategy for enabling mobility and knowledge exchange between EU RIs and the Ukrainian scientific community, including training programme for Ukrainian RI managers, operators and policymakers. Finally, we will implement an ambitious promotion programme among national and international stakeholders.

The robust roadmapping approach of RIFF, assisted by leading international experts, will offer credible steps towards recovery and enhancement of RIs in Ukraine. The Roadmap will provide guidance for national funding of RIs, and will also be a trustworthy investment guideline to international donors.

RIFF is coordinated by **Masaryk University**, with the consortium comprising the following institutions from the European Union and Ukraine:

- Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY
- European Future Innovation System Centre
- Gesis - Leibniz-Institut für Sozialwissenschaften
- Instytut Molekularnoy Biologii i Genetyky nan Ukrainy
- INESC TEC- Instituto de Engenharia de Sistemas e Computadores
- Kyiv Academic University
- National Science Center Kharkiv Institute of Physics and Technology
- Lviv Polytechnic National University
- National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine NAS of Ukraine
- National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy
- National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine
- Uniwersytet Jagielloński
- Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca
- National Research Foundation of Ukraine

