



Scientific Data about Society in Ukraine

Ukraine in European Research Infrastructures in the Social Sciences and Humanities

Webinar: May 22, 2023, 9:30h-12:30h CET, Zoom. Please register to get access: [Link](#)

EASSH in cooperation with the ESFRI Strategic Working Group Social and Cultural Innovation

The webinar aims to be a mutual learning opportunity for involvement of Ukraine in research infrastructures, addressing research infrastructure-practitioners, funders from the European, national and private level as well as delegates from ESFRI and national research infrastructures. It will give the floor to research infrastructures that have already started cooperation with Ukraine to talk about their lessons learnt and challenges encountered. Also, the webinar intends to highlight the potential impact of social sciences and humanities research infrastructures for different policy areas. It will finally highlight current funding gaps and opportunities. The discussion will be concluded by a proposal for next steps in collaboration in the near future.

9:30 Welcome

Gabi Lombardo, Director, European Alliances for Social Sciences and Humanities (EASSH)

Jana Kolar, Chair, European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI)

Andrii Kuznetsov, First Deputy Executive Director, National Research Foundation of Ukraine

Dejan Dvorsek, Deputy Head of Unit, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

10.00 Experiences and examples of involving Ukraine in SSH-research infrastructures

Importance of involving Ukraine in SSH-research infrastructures

Denisa Fedáková, Vice-Chair, ESFRI Strategic WG Social & Cultural Innovation

Supporting social science data collection in Ukraine

Rory Fitzgerald, Director of the European Social Survey (ESS) ERIC

Andrii Gorbachyk, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, National Coordinator of the ESS in Ukraine

Brienna Perelli-Harris, member of the Consortium Board of the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP)

Natalia Kharchenko, Executive Director, Kyiv International Institute for Sociology (KIIS)

Axel Börsch-Supan, Managing Director, Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) ERIC

Supporting social science data archiving in Ukraine

Yana Leontiyeva, Head of Czech Social Science Data Archive (CSDA), a member of the Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA) ERIC

Olga Zhmurko, Czech Social Science Data Archive (CSDA)

Yulia Sakhno, Manager of Kyiv Archive

Initiatives supporting Ukrainian researchers and language resource & technology development

Jurgita Vaičėnėnienė, National Coordinator of CLARIN Lithuania

Anna Kryvenko, Associate Researcher, Institute of Contemporary History Ljubljana and Chief Consultant at the National Institute for Strategic Studies, Kyiv

Questions and answers

11:30 Support for the R&I System in Ukraine and the perspective of research infrastructures

Dejan Dvorsek, Deputy Head of Unit, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

11:45 Discussion: Challenges, Opportunities and Needs ahead of the road

12:30 End

Motivation

It has become ever more visible that better knowledge about Ukraine and its society is crucial for Ukraine, Europe and its international partners. In order to better understand society in Ukraine it is important to collect scientific data about attitudes, beliefs and behaviour of people in Ukraine. It is also important to document cultural heritage in Ukraine and save data of cultural heritage assets in museums, archives, etc. In all domains it is crucial to collect scientific data and enable research for scientific purposes, but also to gather scientific evidence to support the reconstruction of Ukraine. It also lies at hand, that potential impact generated by social sciences and humanities research infrastructures is important for European policies such as social, labour or migration policies as well as EU foreign policy.

There is interest and potential to include Ukraine in European research infrastructures in the social sciences and humanities in the coming years: On the one hand, ESFRI-research infrastructures have interest to include Ukraine and on the other hand members of the Ukrainian research community have shown potential to join. Moreover this cooperation within ESFRI can also lead the way to collaboration with international research communities and infrastructures, which is essential for the long-term development of the scientific system in Ukraine. Also, there are several initiatives to support the R&I system in Ukraine, initiatives from Member States and from the European Commission.¹ On 9 June 2022, the Agreement associating Ukraine to Horizon Europe, the EU research and innovation programme (2021-2027), and to the Euratom Research and Training Programme (2021-2025) entered into force. The Ukrainian research and innovation actors can fully participate in these programmes on equal terms with entities from the EU Member States. After the association of Ukraine to Horizon

¹ Initiatives from the European Commission: MSCA4Ukraine, EIC4Ukraine, ERC4Ukraine, Research Infrastructures (RI) are encouraged to offer fast track access to Ukrainian researchers (HORIZON-INFRA-2023-SERV-01), Hop On Facility to join ongoing projects, etc. Also the EC plans a Horizon Europe Office in Kyiv in 2023, [Link](#)

Europe, the EU-Ukraine Joint Committee expressed the importance of research infrastructures in its first meeting, emphasising support for research infrastructure.²

Many of the initiatives focus on the support of individuals. Supporting individuals to do their research or for mobility is an important part of developing research infrastructures. Specific initiatives to support data collection in Ukraine or the inclusion of Ukraine in European research infrastructures have started only recently. Social sciences and humanities research infrastructures that support the collection of scientific data on attitudes, beliefs, behaviour, health aspects, work, ageing, family and gender aspects, of tangible and intangible cultural heritage assets and archiving of data, tools and digital objects in repositories are important to advance science in Ukraine and about Ukraine. It is also an important basis for comparative cross-country research in Europe and beyond. In many ways, it will also provide helpful and comparable data that can support the reconstruction of Ukraine. Ukraine status as an EU candidate country highlights the need for better data also for evidence-based policy.

Getting an overview: Online webinar

As a first step, this webinar will showcase first experiences and current examples of involving Ukraine in SSH-research infrastructures.

Some ESFRI-research infrastructures from the social sciences and humanities have already started activities with Ukraine or are currently exploring different pathways. The European Social Survey (ESS) ERIC is preparing a data collection in Ukraine as part of the coming 11th wave of data collection in Europe. SHARE ERIC and GGP work on collaborations with researchers and organisations in Ukraine to organise future data collections. The Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA) ERIC supports Ukrainian data experts. They work on saving data assets in Ukraine as well as on developing tools and services to provide better access to data especially from researchers outside of Ukraine. Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure (CLARIN) ERIC currently explores several pathways for cooperation with researchers from Ukraine, for instance in helping to develop language and text corpora or translation systems. These examples show the potential for collaboration with Ukraine that already exists today.

These efforts are supported through different mechanisms. The ESFRI-research infrastructures support certain ad-hoc activities with their own funds in-kind. Other activities are funded through individual grants. Some research infrastructures have received first support from Member States. Larger, more systematic activities to include Ukraine in these research infrastructures will need additional support from the European level.

² "... Given the expected worldwide efforts for Ukraine's post-war recovery, the parties agreed to coordinate efforts in support of R&I and its special contribution to the reconstruction of a modern Ukraine. This includes exploring capacity-building support in research infrastructure ...", DG Research & Innovation, 18.11.2022, First EU-Ukraine Joint Committee meeting on R&I under Ukraine's association agreement to Horizon Europe, [Link](#)