

# Science Europe continues to stand with the National Research Foundation of Ukraine (NRFU) and the Ukrainian research community

## Statement on the Fourth Anniversary of the War in Ukraine

Today, 24 February 2026, marks four years since the Russian invasion and occupation of Ukraine. Four years on, the war has become the largest and deadliest conflict in Europe since World War II. On this symbolic day, Science Europe and its Member Organisations express our solidarity with, and support for, the people of Ukraine and our valued member, the National Research Foundation of Ukraine (NRFU).

We admire the resilience of the NRFU, Ukrainian research institutions and researchers. We express our support and encourage the Ukrainian research community to continue their activities while recognising the extremely difficult circumstances in which they are operating. The NRFU, Ukrainian research institutions and Ukrainian researchers can count on the unwavering support of Science Europe, and we continue to stand with our friends and colleagues in Ukraine.

Despite the ongoing war, NRFU and the Ukrainian research ecosystem have demonstrated a strong commitment not only to rebuilding their sector but also to developing research and innovation policies further, in line with international best practices. In this respect, Science Europe is collaborating with the National Research Foundation of Ukraine to organise targeted workshops for in-depth discussion of key topics, including implementing Open Science, developing research monitoring tools, and promoting a balanced funding ecosystem that supports both bottom-up and top-down research priorities.

We are also encouraged by the increase in public spending in Ukraine for research and innovation, which will play a key role in the post-conflict phase, as well as initiatives such as the International Coalition for Science, Research, and Innovation in Ukraine, which was officially launched in Rome during the [2025 Ukraine Recovery Conference](#).

Science Europe continues to support NRFU participation in our Working Groups, activities, events and partnerships to help strengthen the Ukrainian R&I ecosystem, during the war and reconstruction.

Through this continued engagement, Science Europe and its Member Organisations reaffirms its enduring commitment to NRFU and the Ukrainian research community.