

Eurodoc's Support of Ukraine's Early Career Researchers

The Young Scientists' Council of Ukraine joined Eurodoc in Spring 2014 right after the Revolution of Dignity and the first hybrid stage of the Russian invasion. Before 2022, Eurodoc provided Ukraine with a platform for advocacy and networking, furthering its European integration in the field of research and education. This led to successful joint grant applications such as OPTIMA aimed at bringing Open Science to Ukraine with a budget of €1 million and the involvement of Ukrainian early-career researchers in Eurodoc engagements with key European stakeholders.

After Feb 24, 2022, Eurodoc immediately expressed its solidarity with the people of Ukraine and fully condemned Russia's aggressive war. As part of the international movement of doctoral candidates and researchers at all career stages, the Eurodoc community was [particularly concerned](#) for students, doctoral candidates, and other researchers affiliated with academic institutions and other research facilities in Ukraine. Already on Feb 25, Eurodoc and the Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) released a [joint statement](#) and on Mar 23 an analysis of the [situation](#) in Ukraine.

Simultaneously, Eurodoc created a special task force dedicated to supporting their Ukrainian colleagues. Eurodoc, being a pan-European network, engaged with key stakeholders in the EU and beyond, and thus was in the position to advocate for specific measures to support Ukraine and its academia at the highest level, what the Conference of International NGOs of the Council of Europe equally highlighted as a best practice. Furthermore, we published an [open letter](#) to Mariya Gabriel, then-Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, on supporting Ukrainian academia during and after the war with specific recommendations and calls for action.

Eurodoc believes that the [recommendations remain relevant](#) and is taking further steps concerning their practical implementation, particularly regarding involving Ukrainian entities in EU-funded grants. Eurodoc equally became a full partner in the structural project proposal Open4UA (Erasmus+ KA2) aimed at fostering the reform of Open Science in Ukraine and introducing advanced approaches and mechanisms of research assessment prioritising Open Science at national and institutional levels. The current visit to Kyiv by the president and vice-president of Eurodoc further underlines the importance of advocating for the support of the Ukrainian higher education system for its sustainable recovery.

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Publication Date: July 20, 2023

Eurodoc, the European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers, is a grassroots federation of 25 national associations of early-career researchers (ECRs) from 23 countries across Europe. Eurodoc was established in 2002 and is based in Brussels. As a representative of doctoral candidates and junior researchers at the European level, Eurodoc engages with all major stakeholders in research and innovation in Europe.