

Dear all,

Here is the summary of information provided at our meetings concerning cooperation with Ukraine Monday and Tuesday last week.

- The EU and Norway have extended a temporary collective protection for Ukrainians making it easier for Ukrainian refugees to come to the countries in the European Union and to Norway.
- We will allow the use of remaining funding in the projects to be redirected to student and staff mobility if the students may take courses and the faculty may use the time productively at the Norwegian institutions to develop their competences. If you have this opportunity, get in touch with us with a request.
- We remind you that you may bring staff and students that have relevance to your academic cooperation. If you collaborate within the realm of physics, you cannot bring in students in literature for the project funding. This is due to the project agreements and framework of the Eurasia Programme. However, you are allowed to bring in Ukrainian students/staff from other Ukrainian universities apart from your partner institutions as long as they are working/studying within the subject/discipline of your academic cooperation. Students and scholars from partner universities should, however, be prioritized.
- As proposed by one of the project coordinators, HK-dir may allow funding from one project being spent to support mobility relevant to another project. Such measures must be based on a clear approval from the relevant management level at the involved institutions. Please get in touch with us at HK-dir if this is a relevant option for you.
- The monthly scholarships to faculty and students should follow the set rates for scholars by the Research Council of Norway (RCN) (<https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/apply-for-funding/funding-from-the-research-council/Personal-Overseas-Research-Grants/>). The rate for 2021/2022 are 21 000 NOK per month for single PhD students, postdocs and scholars. Ukrainian students (MSc) staying in Norway can obtain a monthly scholarship up to the applicable rate for monthly living expenses as determined by the Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund (Lånekassen). The rate for 2021/22 is 11 487 NOK per month (11 months per year). The grants for Master-/Bachelor students will not be taxed. The grants for PhD-students and scholars may be subjected to taxation. If you bring in Ukrainian students and staff you should check what they are entitled to as refugees, to prevent double funding.
- Usually, the Eurasia Programme does not provide extra scholarship for families, but in this critical situation we will allow the projects to use the rates for scholars with families, which is a set rate of 37 000 NOK per month.
- Regarding the Eurasia Programme, the ending date is still 30 of June, but we will allow spending of funds to 1 September.
- There is for now no more available funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs due to large budget cuts in the section that funds the programme by the new government.