

Newsletter – March 2024

UNERA: Ukrainian-Norwegian Education and Research Alliance

We are happy to announce that we are launching a quarterly newsletter that will provide you with the most recent news on the Norwegian-Ukrainian cooperation in research and education. This newsletter is produced by Nord University. We welcome your contributions to the following issues of the newsletters!

Congratulations to the first doctoral candidate under the Cotutelle Agreement

The first doctoral candidate under the Cotutelle Agreement between Nord University and Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv has successfully defended her thesis. Congratulations, Dr. Valeriia Melnyk!



Here, she is photographed together with Professor and main supervisor at Nord University Anatoli Bourmistrov (far left), Associate Professor and co-supervisor Olga Iermolenko, and the main supervisor from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Professor Igor Lyuty (Foto: Kathrine Mathisen).

The title of Valeriia Melnyk's doctoral thesis is *"Management of personal finance in the digital era: The case of Ukraine before and during the war"*. Before the defense, Melnyk also gave a trial lecture under the title *"Digitalization: Implication for Management of Personal Finance and Accountability"*.

Members of the defense committee: Professor Michele Andreaus, University of Trento, Italy; Professor Nataliia Kholiavko, Chernihiv Polytechnic National University, Ukraine; Associate Professor Nataliia Drozd, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine; and Professor Frode Mellemvik, Nord Business School (leader of the defense committee). More information

about the doctoral defence can be found [here](#). Please contact [Valeriia Melnyk](#) if you want to receive a copy of her doctoral thesis.

Launch of the TURBO project



**Funded by
the European Union**

This project has received funding from the European Union (ERASMUS-EDU-2023-CBHE) under grant agreement No. 101129315.

We are happy to announce that we launched the project *“The Universities’ Reaction to Big Obstructions: Building resilient higher education to respond and manage societal crises”* (TURBO). The project is financed by the EU, Erasmus+. The main aim of TURBO is to increase the resilience, preparedness, and responsiveness of Ukrainian higher education institutions (HEIs) by building their capacities, improving competencies, and sharing experiences.

The participants of the project are Nord University (Norway), which is the main coordinator of the project, Kozminski University (Poland), International Foundation for Social Adaptation, and seven Ukrainian universities: Lviv Polytechnic National University, West Ukrainian National University, Chernivtsi National Fedkovych University, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Chernihiv Polytechnic National University, Vinnytsia National Technical University, and South Ukrainian State Pedagogical University named after K.D. Ushynsky.

The first physical meetings in frames of this project with some online participants from Poland and Ukraine on Zoom, and a thematic seminar, *“The role of digitalization in training and social adaptation during the crises,”* took place in February 2024 in Bodø.



The picture is taken during the first meeting of the Steering Committee meeting on 13 February 2024.

For more information about TURBO, please, visit the project’s webpage:

<https://site.nord.no/turbo/>

The New Project has received funding from the Norwegian Research Council

Norwegian Network for
Research on Ukraine
UKRAINETT

We are happy to inform you that the Norwegian Research Council has funded a new 3-year project to continue and expand the [UKRAINETT](#) activities. This should hopefully bring new dynamism to our UNERA network as well. Below, you find a summary of the project's work packages. The project is managed by [NIBR](#) at OsloMet University. Nord University is responsible for the Work Package 2 – organization of the Annual Ukrainett Plus Conference. The first UKRAINETT PLUS conference is expected to take place in Bodø in autumn 2024, Bergen – in 2025, and Oslo – in 2026. We will keep you updated!

Project summary

The UKRAINETT PLUS network expands the scope of an already established cross-disciplinary Norwegian Network for research on Ukraine. It establishes and strengthens formalized cooperation with Ukraine-based research institutions and individual researchers as well as with Ukrainian researchers in Norway.

The project consists of five work packages:

- WP1 Coordination of UKRAINETT Plus (OsloMet)
- WP2 Annual UKRAINETT PLUS conference (Nord University)
- WP3 UKRAINETT Plus activities in Ukraine (OsloMet)
- WP4 Support to initiatives for joint project applications (University of Bergen)
- WP5 Round tables with policy makers (University of Oslo)

The UKRAINETT PLUS first conference, which will be arranged during autumn 2024, will also have hybrid sessions, meaning that even those members of UNERA who might be unable to travel out from Ukraine may also join the conference. We are open to receiving suggestions from you for possible topics for relevant research tracks.

Transforming Institutions and Societies: Accounts for Sustainable Future

We were happy to host many Ukrainian participants from our partner universities in Ukraine in the seminar “*Transforming Institutions and Societies: Accounts for Sustainable Future*” (12 February 2024), arranged in honor of Professor Frode Mellemvik who celebrated his 70th Birthday in February. Both scientific personnel and students from partner universities in Ukraine participated in the seminar.



The world faces turbulent times, which present challenges and opportunities. It is crucial to understand how to transform existing institutions and societies to ensure a sustainable future for everyone. The goal of this seminar was to shed light on this agenda and encourage discussion on the key areas to be focused on for a sustainable future.

The seminar brought together students, academics, practitioners, and policymakers into four dialogue sessions on the following topics: the role of universities in enabling a sustainable future, public sector accountability, social impact, and knowledge and value creation in the High North. The seminar was opened by the Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre.

Interesting facts: Did you know that Bodø is the European Capital of Culture 2024?

Bodø was awarded the status of European Capital of Culture in 2019. The official opening of Bodø2024 was held in the Bodø Harbor on 03 February 2024.

Bodø 2024 is the most significant cultural project in Norway in over ten years and the largest ever in Northern Norway. More than 1,000 cultural events take place in a whole year. Find more information about Bodø2024 [here](#).

Wondering what role Nord University has in this project? Please visit [Monitor 2024 – English \(nord.no\)](https://www.nord.no).



About UNERA

Ukrainian-Norwegian Education and Research Alliance (UNERA) is a network of Ukraine-based researchers and experts from universities, research institutes, non-governmental organizations, and other institutions interested in education and research cooperation with Norway. The Alliance builds upon the longitudinal cooperation between Nord University and the network of Ukrainian universities and NGOs that has continued since 2003 in several projects.

Participation is open to institutions in Ukraine and Norway that have been approved as Partners and Associated Partners of the Alliance. Each institution appoints members, which will be engaged into work of the Alliance. UNERA is based on voluntary commitment. Membership is free of charge.

Important reminder: We are looking forward to getting your suggestions for the Alliance work!

We kindly remind you to share your suggestions for the Alliance work, specifically on the thematic areas where our Alliance could direct its efforts. We will collect your ideas and incorporate them into our Statutes.

The following universities have already submitted their suggestions:

- King Danylo University (Ivano-Frankivsk)
- State University of Economics and Technology (Kryvyi Rih)
- West Ukrainian National University (Ternopil)
- Zhytomyr Polytechnic State University (Zhytomyr)
- University of Customs and Finance (Dnipro)

We are looking forward to getting suggestions from other members of UNERA. Please send them to us by the end of April 2024. Thank you very much!



Announcement: UNERA's logo and slogan competition

We are considering developing our own logo and slogan for UNERA.

Please send your suggestions to Olga Iermolenko olga.iermolenko@nord.no