



Statement

European Plant Science Organisation
<https://epsoweb.org>

Stop war in Ukraine Offer support to Ukrainian scientists

Brussels, 28.2.2022

In the last few days, we have witnessed the incomprehensible and unimaginable descend on Europe for the first time in more than 80 years: an unprovoked, brutal, full-scale war on one of the European family of nations, Ukraine, and its people by its neighbour, the Russian Federation. While violating several international treaties securing Ukraine's border, it also violates international law:

Article 51(2) of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions:

"The civilian population as such, as well as individual civilians, shall not be the object of attack. Acts or threats of violence, the primary purpose of which is to spread terror among the civilian population, are prohibited."

The UN convention, article 2, paragraph 4:

"The Organization and its Members, in pursuit of the purposes stated in Article 1, shall act in accordance with the following principles....

4. All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations."

We as scientists wish to contribute to building a better Europe and world. At this critical moment, our immediate goal is to do our best to alleviate the suffering we are witnessing daily in Ukraine.

Concrete actions you as scientists can take:

An international, grassroots initiative is underway to help scientists in harm's way due to the war in Ukraine. The effort was begun by Andrew Kern, Univ. Oregon, @pastramimachine. The idea is to facilitate refugee scientists in finding a host lab abroad. Given EPSO's commitment to pan-European plant science, this initiative seems highly relevant to us.

One simply lists the relevant information in the online Google spreadsheet. It is getting a lot of traffic, so you may have to try several times, or at off-hours, to get your listing in. The list:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jGFCgP2kj1ZAN6xy6EoRN1bozagk9VEsbzYalkkYcQ/htmlview#gid=0>

In the Annex we list further initiatives across Europe we will update in the coming days. Send us such information to add there.

The EPSO Board and Executive Director on behalf of the EPSO members

Contacts

Alan Schulman, EPSO President, alan.schulman@helsinki.fi
Marie-Theres Hauser, EPSO Board, marie-theres.hauser@boku.ac.at
Przemysław WOJTASZEK, EPSO Board, przemow@amu.edu.pl
Karin Metzloff, EPSO Executive Director, Karin.Metzloff@epsomail.org

Useful links

<https://epsoweb.org>

EPSO publications: <https://epsoweb.org/news/>

EPSO team and Board: <https://epsoweb.org/about-epsoweb/epsoweb-team-board/>

EPSO member institutes and universities: <https://epsoweb.org/about-epsoweb/epsoweb-members/>

EPSO representatives: <https://epsoweb.org/about-epsoweb/epsoweb-representatives/>

About EPSO

EPSO, the European Plant Science Organisation, is an independent academic organisation that represents around 200 research institutes, departments and universities from 32 countries, mainly from Europe. EPSO's mission is to improve the impact and visibility of plant science in Europe. <https://epsoweb.org> | EU Transparency Register Number 38511867304-09

Annex

Germany

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation: Philipp Schwartz-Initiative Extension of deadline to nominate Ukrainian researchers

From: Philipp Schwartz-Initiative Schwartz-Initiative@avh.de

Sent: Freitag, 25. Februar 2022 14:16

Dear representatives of universities and research institutions in Germany,
dear members of the scientific community,

In view of the crisis in the Ukraine, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation is offering the opportunity for universities and research institutions in Germany to submit complete applications for Ukrainian scholars under immediate threat in the current selection round of the Philipp Schwartz Initiative. Against this background, the following exceptions are made:

1. Special deadline for nominations

Nominations of Ukrainian scholars at acute risk may be submitted until **18 March 2022**. Please note that the deadline for nominations of other scholars will not change; they must still be submitted by **4 March 2022**.

2. Special provision on proof of threat

In view of the acute exceptional situation and in consultation with the Federal Foreign Office, the requirement for proof of the threat from a third party is waived. Instead, the individual risk

situation must be presented by the nominee in German or English in the form of a personal statement of up to one page. Existing proofs from third parties can be added as a supplement.

3. Supplementation of already submitted applications

Nominations for Ukrainian researchers can also be added to already submitted applications. Please submit the following documents for this purpose:

- Cover sheet (Annex 3a)
- Individual nomination (Annex 3c) with attachments
- Financing plan (Annex 3e)

We kindly ask for your understanding that these special regulations only apply to nominations of Ukrainian scholars, while in the case of nominations of other persons the usual regulations for Philipp Schwartz nominations including the application deadline of 4 March 2022 remain unchanged. Our [programme information and programme guidelines](#) still apply equally to at-risk scholars from all countries of origin. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions, for example regarding eligibility criteria such as doctorate or equivalent research achievements.

If you have any questions, please contact us via schwartz-initiative@avh.de

On the general positioning of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation see [press release](#).

Sincerely,

The Philipp Schwartz Initiative team
Alexander von Humboldt Foundation