



Rome Declaration of Intent for Science, Research, and Innovation in Ukraine¹



¹ This declaration of intent was put forward for signature at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Rome on 11 July 2025 marking the launch of the International Coalition for Science, Research, and Innovation in Ukraine.

Preamble

Recognising the severe impact of the war on the Ukrainian research and innovation (R&I) ecosystem, with nearly 30% of research institutions physically damaged and 20% of researchers displaced, while those remaining facing severe funding shortages, inadequate facilities, and challenging working conditions (UNESCO, 2024).

Affirming the fundamental role of science, research, and innovation in fostering resilience, sustainable development, and economic recovery and underscoring their critical importance for Ukraine's reconstruction and modernisation during and after Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

Acknowledging the importance of international cooperation and partnerships in advancing research and innovation in Ukraine and the need to strengthen and support its integration into the global scientific community, while valuing the significant efforts already undertaken by numerous stakeholders.

Emphasising the fundamental role of open science, ethical research practices, and equitable access to resources and opportunities, while recognising the importance of upholding the highest standards of research security and integrity in international collaborations.

Recalling the intention expressed in the Communiqué of the G7 Science and Technology Ministers' Meeting 2024 in Bologna, Italy, to establish "regular, enhanced engagements between the G7 members, Ukraine, and relevant international stakeholders for sharing expertise, best practices, and solutions on leveraging science, technology, and innovation for sustainable reconstruction".

Considering the Strategic Action Plan of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine by 2027, the comprehensive Action Plan for Sciences led by UNESCO as an initial key guiding framework, and the ongoing efforts of the European Commission, along with other international partners, in support of Ukraine's research and innovation ecosystem.

Building on the high-level discussions on science, research, and innovation held at the Ukraine Recovery Conference 2024 in Berlin, Germany, and the dedicated session at the Ukraine Recovery Conference 2025, held on July 10-11 in Rome, Italy.

Standing united in our desire to support Ukraine in the reconstruction and recovery of its science, research, and innovation ecosystem – overcoming the challenges posed by the ongoing crisis – and determined to work together in a spirit of partnership, solidarity, and shared responsibility.

Building upon the efforts of the Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Science, the Italian Ministry of University and Research, the European Commission, and UNESCO.

We hereby, reunited in Rome on the occasion of the Ukraine Recovery Conference 2025, launch the **International Coalition for Science, Research, and Innovation in Ukraine** ("the Coalition"), a joint multi-stakeholder effort to foster science, research, and innovation as pillars of Ukraine's recovery and long-term development, open to the future accession of new stakeholders who wish to join.

Purpose of the Coalition

The purpose of the Coalition is to **address the need for urgent and long-term recovery of the Ukrainian research and innovation sector** for the benefit of Ukraine's long-term modern and sustainable societal and economic recovery by:

- Advocating for the role of science, technology and innovation as key drivers for a modern, inclusive, and sustainable recovery of Ukraine's societal, environmental, and economic recovery, in light also of relevant commitments of the UN Pact for the Future. This includes awareness initiatives on the critical role of research and innovation in reconstruction and advocacy efforts to ensure that priority is given to science on the reconstruction agenda.
- Supporting the reconstruction and modernisation of Ukraine's science and research ecosystem. This includes technical assistance for reconstruction, access to cutting-edge equipment, capacity development in science management, and support in the implementation of research security measures, along with application of open science principles;
- Supporting Ukrainian scientists and innovators, especially those in Ukraine, during and after the war, to enable them to continue their scientific work. This includes joint research projects and grant opportunities, capacity building and skills development initiatives, scholarships and mobility opportunities, joint studies and doctoral programs, fostering participation of Ukrainian scientists in global scientific collaborations and academic networks;
- Encouraging technology transfer to foster innovation-driven economic recovery. This includes support programs for spin-offs and tech start-ups, enhancing access to venture capital and funding opportunities, advise for the development of intellectual property protection policies, and targeted support for research and innovation efforts in key sectors for Ukraine's economic recovery;
- Supporting the development of reforms and actions to further integrate Ukraine into the global research and innovation ecosystems and, notably, the European Research Area. This includes early support for transformation processes on the path to long-term integration into the EU, training in the acquisition of EU funds and the administration of EU projects, and facilitating Ukraine's participation in international research projects and networks.
- Developing and expanding an international consensus on the challenges and needs of Ukraine's research and innovation sector, as they develop.

Objectives and Activities

To achieve its purpose, the Coalition aims to:

- Facilitate coordination among Coalition Members, providing strategic guidance and a common agenda for international cooperation, while maintaining the flexibility to adapt to evolving circumstances;
- Establish a structured dialogue between the Ukrainian government and scientific institutions and the Coalition Members to align international efforts with national priorities;

- Connect actors active in the field and scale-up effective collaboration by identifying synergies, avoiding duplications, and sharing best practices and lessons learnt;
- Promote international joint initiatives that address Ukraine's research and innovation needs;
- Promote access to financial, infrastructural, human, and technical resources to support Ukraine's science, research, and innovation ecosystem;
- Mobilise financial resources for projects initiated by partners under the Coalition;
- Develop and keep up-to-date assessments on challenges and needs of Ukraine's research and innovation sector;
- Increase visibility and awareness of the Coalition Members' initiatives.

Regular Consultation Mechanism

1. The Coalition intends to set up a Regular Consultation Mechanism aimed to ensure regular and dedicated engagement to progress towards the aims of the Coalition.
2. This Regular Consultation Mechanism is intended to operate at two levels: High-level Steering Committee and Technical Level.
3. Both levels should be co-chaired by Ukraine and the European Commission. The Chairs of the meetings should have the overall responsibility for the preparations of their respective level, including proposing agendas and documents to be tabled for endorsement by the Coalition. The Chairs are supported by the Secretariat.

High-level Steering Committee

1. The Coalition also intends to organise a High-level Steering Committee to be convened annually in person, alongside each Ukraine Recovery Conference. Its objective should be to ensure political steering and strategic guidance from all Coalition Members.
2. The members of the High-level Steering Committee should be ministerial-level representatives, or the equivalent, or highest representative of non-governmental organisations and private entities. Each Coalition Member designates one representative.
3. The High-level Steering Committee discusses the challenges to Ukraine's science, technology and innovation sector, exchanges information of ongoing actions and best practices to support Ukrainian science, technology, and innovation, as well as a means to advocate towards the broader circle of stakeholders for support for science, technology, and innovation in Ukraine and for realising its potential for Ukraine's modern and sustainable societal and economic recovery.
4. For the purpose of implementing its intended function, the High-level Steering Committee should:
 - 4.1. Issue High-level Declarations recognising challenges to Ukraine's science, technology, and innovation sector, outlining shared priorities and ambitions to address them, and welcome the joint and coordinated efforts developed under the Coalition;

- 4.2. Adopt recommendations on the basis of inputs from the Technical Level, including reports on good practices for the recovery of Ukraine's science, technology, and innovation sector.
5. Every meeting should be followed by the publication of joint press material and any deliverable adopted during the meeting as well as a summary report made available shortly after the meeting.
6. The first High-level Steering Committee meeting should be held in 2026, in the margins of the next Ukraine Recovery Conference.

Technical Level

1. The Technical Level should convene at least three times a year, in the lead up to the meeting of the High-level Steering Committee. The format of the Technical Level should be decided case by case, preferably online.
2. Each Coalition Member nominates two experts as regular participants at the Technical Level meetings. Other representatives of the Coalition Members may participate at the Technical Level meetings for relevant discussion points.
3. The Technical Level should develop a common understanding of specific challenges of Ukraine's science, technology, and innovation sector, share information about planned initiatives for the purpose of coordinating efforts and fostering collaboration, and share best practices for supporting the recovery of Ukraine's science, technology, and innovation sector as well as its potential to support the long-term modern and sustainable societal and economic recovery of Ukraine.
4. Members of the Technical Level may propose agenda points for any upcoming Technical Level meetings to the Secretariat. Information on planned and ongoing measures to support Ukraine's science, technology, and innovation sector are a standing point of the agenda.
5. To assist the High-level Steering Committee, the Technical Level should, by consensus:
 - 5.1. Adopt the agenda of the High-level Steering Committee meetings and the ensuing summary report;
 - 5.2. Approve materials proposed for adoption at the High-level Steering Committee meetings;
 - 5.3. Adopt ad hoc communication materials and updates on the work ongoing amongst the Coalition Members, notably on joint efforts and actions mobilised amongst them;
 - 5.4. Advice on technical matters, as relevant.
6. When tasked by the High-level Steering Committee, the Technical Level may establish dedicated configurations to discuss specific topics of science, technology, and innovation.

Secretariat

1. The Regular Consultation Mechanism should be supported by a Secretariat comprising, at Technical Level, representatives of Ukraine, the European Commission, UNESCO – drawing on its normative and technical leadership in science and education –, and the country in charge of hosting the Ukraine Recovery Conference.

2. Other Technical Level members may join the Secretariat, provided that they are nominated by a government entity or an international organisation once their accession to the Coalition is granted and their willingness to be part of the Secretariat expressed and granted by the High-level Steering Committee. Participation in the Secretariat necessitates in-kind contributions towards expanding the activities of the Coalition.
3. The Secretariat should:
 - 3.1. Define the priorities for international support and monitor progress and achievements of the Coalition over time;
 - 3.2. Organise and prepare High-level Steering Committee and Technical Level meetings, including administrative aspects such as preparing agendas and minutes and facilitating logistics;
 - 3.3. Map existing and new initiatives of the Coalition Members, facilitates coordination among them, and promotes joint actions, when relevant;
 - 3.4. Prepare draft reports, recommendations, and communication material;
 - 3.5. Maintain and regularly update a dedicated webpage, aimed at enhancing the visibility of the Coalition's work;
 - 3.6. Ensure transparency and accountability in all Coalition actions.
4. The European Commission intends to provide administrative and logistical support. Coalition Members are invited to provide additional funding or technical assistance for secretarial functions.

Regular Consultation on Ukrainian Needs

1. Representatives of Ukraine may use the Coalition to express and prioritise its needs.
2. Ukraine may, in advance of any Technical Level meeting, provide the Secretariat with a list of needs, notably based on national priorities and strategic plans of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. Drawing on the framework of UNESCO's Action Plan for Sciences in Ukraine – notably on the findings of the Ukrainian Scientific Forum, as an inclusive multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue and exchange –, UNESCO may supplement the list of needs with the consent of the representatives of Ukraine and in consultation with the other Members of the Secretariat.
3. The list of needs should be discussed at the following Technical Level meeting. The members of the Technical Level may propose adjustments to the list, hereunder recommendations for prioritisation as well as actions in line with good practices to address the needs. Members are furthermore encouraged to share their own insights and lessons learnt, relevant to these discussions. The Technical Level should endorse the list. The High-level Steering Committee and the Technical Level must take into account this list of needs in their work.
4. This process may be replicated for any configuration set up under the Technical Level.

Membership

The following entities may join the Coalition:

- Government entities;
- International and intergovernmental organisations;
- Research funding agencies involved in joint research funding or other kinds of international collaboration, organisations representing research performing entities or research infrastructures, national academies of sciences, or equivalent organisations;
- Private companies involved in philanthropy and/or research and development;
- Non-governmental organisations involved in philanthropy and/or research and development;
- Foundations, development banks, and financial institutions.

Intentions of Members

When joining the Coalition, Members express their will to:

- Actively engage in the Coalition's activities;
- Share knowledge, expertise, and resources (e.g. financial and in-kind contributions, including human capital, material contributions, and capacity building efforts), on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, to support the Coalition's objectives;
- Uphold principles of transparency, inclusivity, and cooperation in all Coalition initiatives.

Accession

1. Any entity outlined under "Membership" may apply to join the Coalition by submitting a written request for accession to the Secretariat (see Annex 1), subject to its approval.
2. All entities interested in becoming a member of the Coalition must be actively engaged with or intend to support, with financial or in-kind contributions, one or more entities in Ukraine's science, technology or innovation sector or entities inside or outside Ukraine actively supporting the sector, including UNESCO's activities to implement the Action Plan for Sciences in Ukraine.
3. Accession is automatically granted to Ukraine, the G7 Members, the European Commission, and UNESCO.
4. Any Member may withdraw from the Coalition by notifying the Secretariat in written form at any time.

Amendments

Amendments to the Coalition may be made by joint decision of all Coalition Members.

Final Section

1. The Coalition should be governed by Rules of Procedure proposed by the Secretariat and approved by the High-level Steering Committee.

2. This is a declaration of intent that does not constitute an instrument of public international law and does not create any financial obligations or legally binding commitments under international law. Therefore, no provision of this Declaration is to be understood or performed as a legal obligation or commitment of the Members.
3. The working language of the Coalition will be English.

Signed in Rome on July 11, 2025, by the founding Members of the Coalition and the first adherents who participated in the dedicated session on Science, Research, and Innovation for Ukraine at the Ukraine Recovery Conference 2025.

**For the Ministry of University and Research
of the Italian Republic**

Anna Maria Bernini

**For the Ministry of Education and
Science of Ukraine**

Yevhen Kudriavets

For the European Commission

Ekaterina Zaharieva

**For the United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization**

Lidia Arthur Brito

**For the Ministry of Research, Technology
and Space of Germany**

Rolf-Dieter Jungk

**For the Ministry of Science and Higher
Education of Poland**

Andrzej Szeptycki

Upon its launch at the Ukraine Recovery Conference 2025, **Austria, Bulgaria, the Republic of Croatia, Denmark, Lithuania, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** agreed to adhere to the Rome Declaration of Intent for Science, Research, and Innovation in Ukraine.

The Coalition remains open to the future accession of new stakeholders wishing to join under the terms outlined in the “Accession” section.

Annex 1: Joining the International Coalition for Science, Research, and Innovation in Ukraine

To join the Coalition, please send an e-mail with the subject “Joining the International Coalition for Science, Research, and Innovation in Ukraine” and the following content to: EC-R-I-COALITION-UA-SECRETARIAT@ec.europa.eu.

[COUNTRY] / ORGANISATION represented by MINISTRY / AGENCY / ETC,

is joining the “International Coalition for Science, Research, and Innovation in Ukraine” and agrees to adhere to the Rome Declaration of Intent for Science, Research, and Innovation in Ukraine.

Our focal point for the Coalition is (for internal use only):

- Name: _____
- Function: _____
- Unit: _____
- E-mail: _____

By sending an e-mail to join the Coalition, I consent to having the European Commission store my submitted information in accordance with the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).