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EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION
OF INSTITUTES FOR
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PETITION LETTER FOR OPENING ERASMUS+ PROGRAM FOR UKRAINE

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**European Association of Institutes for
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On 28 February 2022, five days after Russia launched its illegal and unprovoked invasion and unjustified aggression, Ukraine presented its application for membership in the European Union. On 7 March 2022, the Council of the European Union requested the Commission to submit its Opinion on this application. EU Heads of State and Government endorsed this decision at the informal leaders meeting in Versailles.

Ukraine has concluded working arrangements, cooperation agreements or memoranda of understanding with several EU agencies. The National Erasmus+ office was founded in Ukraine to increase the awareness, visibility, relevance, effectiveness and impact of the international components of the Erasmus + Programme . Moreover, and partly in solidarity with Ukraine as a consequence of the invasion, many European educational institutions are motivated and committed to developing cooperation with their Ukrainian counterparts and would welcome the acceleration of facilitative mechanisms to achieve this acceleration. For example, Folkuniversitetet Sweden has engaged four Ukrainian universities in various Erasmus projects as full partners.

The undersigned respectfully requests to request the European Education and Culture Executive Agency to enable the participation of Ukrainian educational institutions as full partners in Erasmus+ applications. In practice we would like to see Ukraine as a Third Country Associated to the Erasmus+ Programme, with a status equivalent to other non-EU associated countries like Turkey, North Macedonia, Serbia, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. This action will give the Ukrainian partners the necessary access and experience to fully capitalise upon their potential in support of a future full membership of Ukraine as a member state of the European Union, bringing even closer the EU and its citizens with Ukraine and its citizens.