



## **STATEMENT ON STUDENTS, YOUNG PEOPLE, EDUCATION COMMUNITY BY COMMISSIONER MARIYA GABRIEL**

Brussels, 3 March 2022

The Russian military aggression against Ukraine is an act of war and constitutes a violation of international law, undermining European and global security and stability.

We, the European Union, stand by Ukraine and its people.

Thanks to our Erasmus+ students' exchanges and the European Solidarity Corps volunteers, we have been promoting understanding and solidarity among people from all countries and all backgrounds.

Young Ukrainians have continuously worked for a better future, which is now at risk.

We are determined to supporting Ukrainian students, young people, teachers and educators in these extremely challenging times with the following measures.

First, I have asked for the greatest level of flexibility in the implementation of the Erasmus+ projects towards Ukrainian students and higher education staff. The Erasmus National Agencies may apply the force majeure clause for International Credit Mobility activities taking place in Ukraine and Russia. This will allow beneficiaries to cancel, postpone or move activities planned in the most flexible way.

Second, Erasmus National Agencies and participating organisations were instructed to contact individual participants, being currently in Ukraine or in Russia planning to leave to these countries within the coming weeks to explore available options.

Third, Ukrainian students abroad will be offered support adjusted to their needs and their safety would be guaranteed.

I thank all young people in Ukraine for their commitment in these most difficult times and I encourage everyone who can support Ukraine in all possible ways.