



# RIFF

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# Conference on Ukraine Reconstruction in the Field of Research and Development and Higher Education

**When:** Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 9:00-16:30

**Where:** Brno, Czech Republic + online

The conference is part of the [RIFF project – Research Infrastructures for the Future of Ukraine: Roadmap for Sustained Growth and Recovery](#), which is funded by the Horizon Europe programme.

This event seeks to spark meaningful collaboration not only between European and Ukrainian academic communities but also among Ukrainian stakeholders themselves. It is designed for a variety of actors, including researchers, policymakers, and funders. Besides offering fruitful panel discussions, the event will serve as a networking platform intended to lay the groundwork for concrete action aimed at strengthening Ukraine's R&I landscape.

**Venue:** *Masaryk University, Komenského nám. 2, Brno, Academic Senate room (city centre)*

## Agenda

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09:00 **SESSION 1 – Welcome**

Moderator: Michael Murad, Deputy Director, Centre for Informed Society, Czech Republic

**Speakers**

- Radim Polčák, Vice-rector, Masaryk University, Czech Republic
  - Vasyl Zvarych, Ukrainian ambassador to the Czech Republic
  - Václav Velčovský, Director General of International Affairs, EU, and ESIF Section, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic
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09:15 RIFF project presentation by Ondřej Hradil, Masaryk University, RIFF project coordinator

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09:30 **SESSION 2 – Panel Discussion on Ukraine Reconstruction in the Field of Research and Higher Education**

Moderator: Michael Murad, Deputy Director, Centre for Informed Society, Czech Republic

**Panelists:**

- Radim Polčák, Vice-rector, Masaryk University, Czech Republic
  - Vasyl Zvarych, Ukrainian ambassador to the Czech Republic
  - Václav Velčovský, Director General of International Affairs, EU, and ESIF Section, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic
  - Jan Mrkvička, People in Need NGO, Director of Relief & Development Department, Czech Republic
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10:30 Coffee break

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11:00 **SESSION 3 - The Voice of Ukraine: Statements from the Ukraine Research and Higher Education Community**

Moderator: Ricardo Migueis, Head of the INESC Brussels HUB, Belgium

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**Setting the scene: Science, Technology and Innovation in Ukraine: Past, Present and Future**, Anastasiia Konstantynova, Principal consultant, Technopolis Group and co-author of ERA Country Report on Ukraine 2024

- Grygorii Mozolevych, Director General of the Science Development Directorate, Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine - *online*
- Natalia Shakhovska, Rector, Lviv Polytechnic National University, Ukraine - *online*
- Olga Iermakova, Head of the Department of Economic and Ecological Development of Seaside Regions, State Organization “Institute of Market and Economic & Ecological Research of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine”; Member of the Scientific Committee of the National Council of Ukraine for Science and Technology Development, Ukraine

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12:00 Lunch

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13:30 **SESSION 4 – Presentations of initiatives and players supporting research and higher education in Ukraine**

Moderator: Annika Thies, DESY, Germany

- *European Commission strategy on supporting Ukraine in research and higher education*, Frederik Sondergaard, Policy officer, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission – *online*
- *German initiatives in Ukraine*, Jörn Grünewald, DLR Project Management Agency - *online*
- *French initiatives in Ukraine*, Claire Madl, CEFRES - French Research Center in Humanities and Social Sciences
- *Developing UK-Ukraine research and innovation collaboration through government-led initiatives*, Hana Sediva, FCDO, British Embassy Kyiv - *online*
- *R&I sector developments across UNECE, WIPO and SEI studies: supporting EU integration, recovery and green transition*, Lyudmyla Tautiyeva, EFIS Centre, Belgium

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14:45 Coffee break

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15:15 **SESSION 4 – continued**

Moderator: Lyudmyla Tautiyeva, EFIS Centre

- *[Policy Support Facility in Ukraine](#) on research infrastructures - outcomes*, Jelena Angelis, EFIS Centre, Belgium
- *The [LUKE project](#) - Linking Ukraine to the European Research Area: a Joint Funding and Capacity Building Platform for Enhanced Research and Innovation Cooperation*, Inese Gavarane and Olga Bolibok, ZSI-Centre for Social Innovation, Austria
- *Through Science to Solidarity: MAVKA Beamline at SOLARIS under [LEAPS Initiative Light for Ukraine](#)*, Alexander Kordyuk, Director of Kyiv Academic University, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and Michał Młynarczyk, Deputy Director for Finance and Administration, SOLARIS National Synchrotron Radiation Centre, Poland
- *Donations of research equipment to Ukrainian institutions*, Jörgen Larsson, RI.Logistica Association, Sweden
- *Supporting Ukrainian universities in the context of war: [United Kingdom-Ukraine Twinning Initiative](#) and beyond*, Gintaras Steponavičius, Cormack Consulting Group, United Kingdom - *online*

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16:30 Final remarks and conference end

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## RIFF – Research Infrastructures for the Future of Ukraine: Roadmap for Sustained Growth and Recovery abstract

The RIFF project will facilitate an upgrade of R&I system in Ukraine by offering a fresh and forward-looking perspective on the Ukrainian research infrastructures (RIs). RIFF will deliver “Roadmap for Recovery and Enhancement of RIs in Ukraine” using both (1) bottom-up approach with an open call for proposals, robust training, awareness raising and dissemination strategy towards potential applicants, rooted in a network of eight partners in Ukraine; and (2) top-down approach with a robust consultation process involving a broad range of stakeholders from the government, policymakers and the scientific community. It will reflect also the green and digital transition priorities. The roadmapping process will apply peer-review methodology established by ESFRI and engage panels of internationally renowned experts. RIFF activities will efficiently connect Ukrainian RIs to EU/ESFRI through the implementation team linked to major European RIs and a comprehensive strategy for enabling mobility and knowledge exchange between EU RIs and the Ukrainian scientific community, including training programme for Ukrainian RI managers, operators and policymakers. Finally, we will implement an ambitious promotion programme among national and international stakeholders.

The robust roadmapping approach of RIFF, assisted by leading international experts, will offer credible steps towards recovery and enhancement of RIs in Ukraine. The Roadmap will provide guidance for national funding of RIs, and will also be a trustworthy investment guideline to international donors.

RIFF is coordinated by **Masaryk University**, with the consortium comprising the following institutions from the European Union and Ukraine:

- Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY
- European Future Innovation System Centre
- Gesis - Leibniz-Institut für Sozialwissenschaften
- Instytut Molekularynoi Biologii i Genetyky nan Ukrainy
- INESC TEC- Instituto de Engenharia de Sistemas e Computadores
- Kyiv Academic University
- National Science Center Kharkiv Institute of Physics and Technology
- Lviv Polytechnic National University
- National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine NAS of Ukraine
- National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy
- National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine
- Uniwersytet Jagielloński – SOLARIS National Synchrotron Radiation Centre
- Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca
- National Research Foundation of Ukraine



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## How to get to the venue?

**Venue:** [Masaryk University, Komenského nám. 2, Academic Senate room](#)

To reach the venue, take a tram to the Česká station. From there, it is just a 5-minute walk.

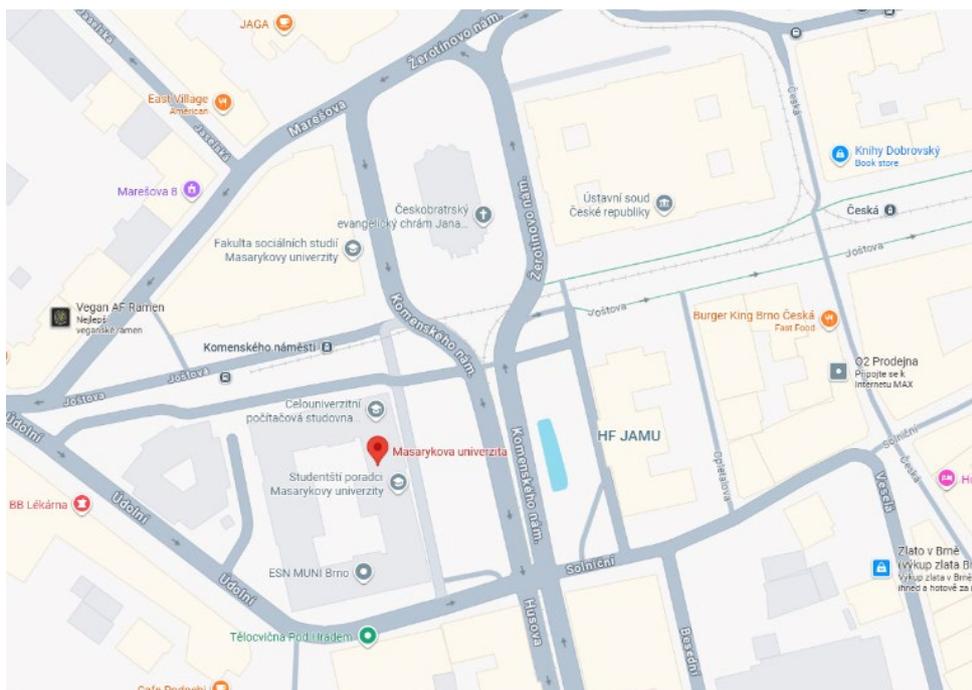
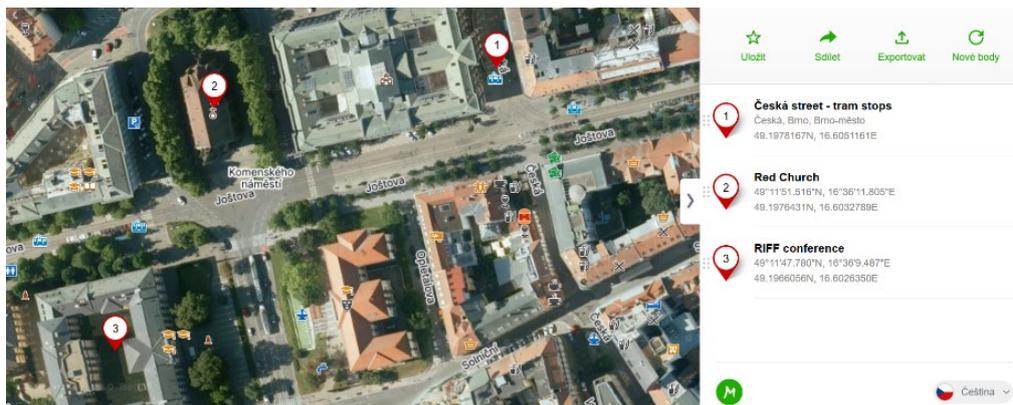
If you are coming from the Main Train Station, you can take tram number 12 or 9 to Česká.

From the tram stop:

- Walk past the Red Church.
- Continue to Komenského náměstí 2, where the Conference will be held.

You can find the route here: <https://mapy.com/s/fodalopoha>

**In the building, you will find arrows/signs in the building to guide you to the correct room.**





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## Transportation in Brno

The Brno Public Transport Authority efficiently covers the entire city with an extensive and reliable public transport network.

**Beep and Go:** The city offers a seamless contactless payment system, allowing passengers to "beep" their cards or mobile devices and move swiftly through the city.

The city transport connections can be found here: <https://www.dpmb.cz/en>

**Get on**  
Have the card prepared before boarding the vehicle, so you don't cause a jam at the door.

**Check in**  
Tap your card against the reader every time you board a vehicle (even if you are only transferring).

**Go!**  
Now you can just sit down and relax — you can be 100 % sure you have a valid ticket.

... and if your journey is shorter than fifteen minutes, there is one more step to follow:

**Check out**  
Short journeys under 15 minutes must be ended by a check-out, to let our system know it must charge you only the short-time ticket.

**Advice:** Don't worry! Checking out gives you a short-term 15 minute ticket. Validity of this ticket does not end with checking out, but really only 15 minutes after checking in. You don't have to wait to check out till the last second before leaving the vehicle. If you know your journey will be short, you can check in and immediately check out.



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## Conference Speakers



### Michael Murad

Centre for Informed Society & Association for International Affairs

Michael has been the coordinator of the Czech-German Young Professionals Program (CGYPP) at the Association for International Affairs since 2020 and Deputy Director of the Center for an Informed Society since September 2023. Between August 2020 and August 2023, he worked at the European Values Centre for Security Policy, where he developed training programs on security and foreign policy. Since 2011, he has been working at EUTIS, o.p.s., where he is currently the Chairman of the Board. Previously, he worked closely with other governmental and non-governmental organizations and universities. Michael holds a degree in Security and Strategic Studies from the Faculty of Social Studies at Masaryk University and a law degree from the same university.



### Radim Polčák

Masaryk University

Radim Polčák is Vice-Rector at Masaryk University, a professor at the Institute of Law and Technology at the MU Faculty of Law, and a visiting professor at the Faculty of Law at Georg-August Universität Göttingen. His research centers on IT law and legal theory. He founded the Masaryk University Journal of Law and Technology and Review of Law and Technology, chairs the international Cyberspace conference, and is a founding member of the European Law Institute and the European Academy of Law and ICT. He served as a Special Adviser to the European Commission on robotics and data protection (2017-2018). He is an arbitrator for domain name disputes at the .eu and .cz tribunals under the Czech Chamber of Commerce Arbitration Court, a national expert for the Czech Republic in the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI) under the OECD, and a member of the Legislative Council of the Czech Government, the DSA Advisory Panel of the CTU Council Chair, and the Appeals Committee of the National Cyber and Information Security Agency (NÚKIB). His awards include the Lawyer of the Year award in the ICT law, the New Europe 100 Challenger, the NÚKIB Chair's Award, and is a member of the Cybersecurity Hall of Fame.



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## Vasyl Zvarych

Ukrainian Ambassador to the Czech Republic

Vasyl Zvarych was born on January 27, 1977, in Stryi, Lviv region, Ukraine. He graduated with honors in 1999 from the Faculty of International Relations at Ivan Franko Lviv State University. He began his diplomatic career in 1999 as a first-category specialist in the Department for the Caucasus and Turkey at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and subsequently served as attaché in the Department for Central and Eastern European Countries. Over the course of his career, he has held several senior diplomatic posts, including Counselor at the Embassy of Ukraine in the United States, Deputy Head of Mission and Minister-Counselor at the Embassy of Ukraine in Poland, and Director of the Second Territorial Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. From 2022 to 2024, he also served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the Republic of Poland. On June 21, 2024, he was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the Czech Republic and presented his credentials to President Petr Pavel on July 2, 2024.



## Václav Velčovský

Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports of the Czech Republic

Václav Velčovský combines academic expertise and policy-making experience. Since 2015, he has served as Deputy Minister – currently Director General – at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic, where he is responsible for international cooperation, EU affairs, and European funding, particularly for regional schools, higher education institutions, and research and development. Under his leadership, the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) have been used to implement transformative changes in the Czech education and research system, including initiatives in joint education, digitalization, internationalization, smart specialization, e-resources, open data, and open science. Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, he implemented a range of pro-Ukrainian initiatives supporting students, researchers, and institutions affected by the conflict. Earlier in his career, he worked at the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, where he was in charge of international relations, and at the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, focusing on civil service reform. Earlier, he worked at the Czech Ministry of the Interior on international relations and at the Government Office on civil service reform.



## Ondřej Hradil

Masaryk University

Ondřej is head of Department of Research Infrastructures at the rectorate of Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic. He has a passion for research infrastructures and core facilities that he likes to share with people from far and wide. This can be documented by his involvement in many activities on the Czech and European levels, such as being part of the Czech ESFRI delegation,



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vice-chair of the ESFRI Implementation Group or leading the research infrastructures activities of EDUC, one of the European University alliances. Ondřej is the coordinator of *RIFF – Research Infrastructures for the Future of Ukraine: Roadmap for Sustained Growth and Recovery* project.

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## Jan Mrkvička

People in Need

Senior humanitarian and development leader with over 20 years' experience directing large-scale relief and development programs across more than 25 countries. As Director of People in Need's Relief & Development Department, manage a €200M portfolio and lead a global team of 2,000 staff, reaching over 4 million people annually. Skilled in strategic planning, organizational development, humanitarian response, and partnership building. Recognized mentor and trainer in leadership, theory of change, and organizational development.

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## Ricardo Migueis

INESC Brussels HUB

Ricardo Migueis is Head of the INESC Brussels HUB, representing Portugal's largest research and technology organization at the EU level. With over two decades of experience across Europe and Latin America, he has held senior roles across science policy, research and technology infrastructures, and R&I strategy. His previous positions include Chief of Staff to the Portuguese Secretary of State for Science, Deputy Secretary-General of CESAER, Advisor to the Board of the Portuguese Innovation Agency (ANI) for technology infrastructures and funding synergies, and Coordinator of the National Roadmap for Research Infrastructures. He chaired the ESFRI Energy Strategy Working Group, the Science Europe Research Infrastructures Working Group, and the Board of the European Marine Biology Resource Centre (EMBRC). He also served as Vice-Chair of EPOS and was a Board Member of EMSO and ELIXIR. From 2008 to 2016, he was Portugal's Delegate to ESFRI. Ricardo has coordinated strategic projects on smart specialisation, regional innovation, and knowledge circulation, and has long-standing experience as an evaluator and monitor for Horizon Europe, the European Innovation Council, and Structural Funds programmes. At INESC, he leads strategic engagement with EU institutions.

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## Anastasiia Konstantynova

Technopolis Group (Amsterdam)

Anastasiia Konstantynova has over 15 years' experience in international cooperation projects related to industry, research and innovation. Her geographic focus lies in Eastern Europe (Ukraine) and globally. As a Principal Consultant at Technopolis, Anastasiia has been leading a wide range of studies and evaluations for such clients as DG GROW, DG RTD, DG NEAR,



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AFDB and UNIDO. Example of her projects include monitoring science, technology and innovation in the Eastern Partnership countries (esp. Ukraine and Moldova), part of the Global Service Facility for DG RTD; assessing the impact of war in Ukraine on the European science, technology and innovation landscape for Japan Science and Technology Agency, as well as running EU4Business Facility Phase III project for DG NEAR. Prior to joining Technopolis, Anastasiia worked in industry - Lufthansa Systems, strategy consulting, business support agency – Steinbeis Europa Zentrum, research at Orkestra – Basque Institute of Competitiveness and development agency, UNIDO. Anastasiia has successfully defended her doctoral thesis (magna cum laude) from Catholic University Eichstaett-Ingolstadt (Germany) and has graduated with Master's in International Relations from the same institution. Originally from Ukraine she is native in Ukrainian, fluent in English, German, Spanish, Russian and has some basic understanding in Dutch and Polish.

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## Grygorii Mozolevych

Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine

Grygorii Mozolevych is an expert in science policy development in Ukraine, from 2024 serving as the Director General of the Science Development Directorate at the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. Since 2018, he held key positions within the ministry, focusing on research infrastructure development, strategy coordination, and integration in European Research Area. He holds a Ph.D. degree in Transport Systems. With over 20 years of academic experience, he is also an Associate Professor at the Kyiv Aviation Institute.

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## Nataliya Shakhovska

Lviv Polytechnic National University

Nataliya Shakhovska is a Ukrainian computer scientist, professor, corresponding member of Ukrainian Academy of Science, and academic leader specializing in AI, machine learning, and digital transformation in education. She currently serves as the Rector of Lviv Polytechnic National University, one of the oldest and largest technical universities in Eastern Europe, where she advocates for international collaboration, modernization of higher education, and integration of digital and sustainable development strategies into academia. Her research focuses on intelligent information systems, explainable AI, big data analytics, and their applications in healthcare, infrastructure, and smart cities. She has authored and co-authored numerous scientific publications, supervised doctoral research, and led interdisciplinary projects at the intersection of AI, engineering, and social impact.



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## Olga Iermakova

Institute of Market Problems and Economic and Ecological Research of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

Olga Iermakova is a Doctor of Economics, Professor, Head of the Department of Economic and Ecological Development of Seaside Regions, and Head of the Council of Young Scientists at the State Organization “Institute of Market and Economic & Ecological Research of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine”. She also serves as a part-time Professor at Odesa National Economic University, and is a Member of the Scientific Committee of the National Council of Ukraine for Science and Technology Development. She holds a Master’s degree in Management of Research Infrastructures from the University of Milano-Bicocca (2024), obtained under the EURIZON Fellowship Programme for Ukrainian Research Infrastructure Leaders. She is the initiator and author of the concept for the Blue Economy National Node of the Ukrainian Black Sea Region – UKRMARI.



## Annika Thies

Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY

Annika Thies is Head of the EU Office at DESY and a lawyer by training representing DESY in the Coordination Board of LEAPS, the European alliance of light sources, also serving as co-spokesperson of the LEAPS Strategy Group on ERA. Between 2005 and 2022, she was based in Brussels, working first as a lawyer for the German Aerospace Centre (DLR) and the Helmholtz Association’s Brussels office, and from 2008 to 2011 in DG RTD of the European Commission, where she contributed to establishing the ERIC legal framework. From 2014 to 2022, she was Director of the Helmholtz Association’s Brussels office. In parallel, she co-ordinated the DESCA initiative (2006–2008; 2011–2022), which developed the widely used model consortium agreement for EU projects. She has recently served as an external expert for DG RTD and as coordinator of the eRImote project, which advanced remote and virtual access to Research Infrastructures by collecting good practices, fostering cross-domain exchange, and delivering an open Information Platform and policy recommendations.



## Frederik Søndergaard

European Commission

Frederik is a Policy Officer at the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD), in the unit for international cooperation with Europe and Americas. He follows the EU-level international cooperation with Ukraine and Türkiye in research and innovation. In the context of Ukraine, Frederik oversees the implementation of Ukraine’s association agreement to Horizon Europe and is involved in setting-up and implementing support measures for Ukraine’s research and innovation ecosystem in response to Russia’s full-scale invasion.



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## Jörn Grünewald

DLR Project Management Agency

Jörn is senior scientific manager at DLR Project Management Agency, Bonn, Germany. In this context he is supporting the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR) in its international research cooperation activities with (non-EU) Eastern European Countries, South Caucasus, Central Asia. Together with his colleagues Henriette Kirch and Adrian Steinert, Jörn is the coordinator of the Horizon Europe project *LUKE – Linking Ukraine*

*to the European Research Area – Joint Funding and Capacity Building Platform for Enhanced Research and Innovation Cooperation.*

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## Claire Madl

French Research Center in Humanities and Social Sciences (CEFRES, CNRS-MEAE)

As a deputy director, Claire Madl coordinates scientific activities (e.g. regular seminars), fellowship programs and the development of partnerships with Central European academic institutions. She is also the editorial manager and communication coordinator of the Centre; as chief librarian, she is more particularly in charge of its scientific information policy. She has a doctorate in

history and her research is devoted to the history of the book (i.e. authorship, reading and publishing) in the Habsburg monarchy in the 18th and 19th centuries.

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## Hana Sediva

British Embassy Kyiv

Hana Sediva is the UK Government's Science & Innovation Officer for Ukraine at the British Embassy Kyiv (working remotely from Vilnius). This is a new role within the UK's Science and Technology Network (STN) that leads on developing science partnerships and deploying science diplomacy around the world. In this role, Hana supports collaborative links in science and technology between the UK and Ukraine. She holds a PhD in digital health from the University of Westminster.

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## Lyudmyla Tautiyeva

European Future Innovation System (EFIS) Centre in Brussels

Lyudmyla Tautiyeva is a Policy Analyst at the EFIS Centre in Brussels. She has been working in the field of research and innovation (R&I) policy for over 7 years with experience supporting reform agenda of Moldova and Ukraine within OECD and UNECE. Lyudmyla covers the topics of innovation policy governance, research and technology infrastructures (incl. at the EU level with



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focus on Eastern Europe), and support to innovative entrepreneurship. Among her recent engagements, Lyudmyla has provided analysis and policy recommendations on R&I sector transformation in Ukraine under the Policy Support Facility for Ukraine (2025), the project on green transition of Ukraine by the Stockholm Environmental Institute, and WIPO 2025 Assemblies report on war impacts on R&I policy with focus on agriculture sector. Lyudmyla is of Ukrainian origin and lives and works in Paris, where she advocates for continued support to Ukraine via French media and think tanks.

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## Jelena Angelis

European Future Innovation System (EFIS) Centre in Brussels

Jelena Angelis is Principal Researcher and Principal Investigator at the EFIS Centre in Brussels. She has been working in the field of research and innovation (R&I) policy and regional development since early 2002 with more than a decade of these focusing on the Research Infrastructure (RIs) topic. Jelena covered topics of importance to the university-level facilities, a network of national facilities as well as the ESFRI linked RIs. On the European and global level she was a member of two RI-related Working Groups at the European Commission's DG RTD; a member of the DG RTD's High-Level Expert Group assessing the progress of RIs towards implementation and long-term sustainability; a member of the OECD Expert Group on socio-economic impacts of RIs. On the national level she was part of the national expert group in Lithuania in 2024 to update the national RI Roadmap, led the study on synergies between national facilities in Sweden; formulated principles and stages of application of the RI evaluation methodology. She also works with stand-alone RIs as well as numerous universities and public research organisations considering establishing RIs.

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## Inese Gavarane

Centre for Social Innovation

Inese Gavarāne is a multidisciplinary expert in research management, RTDI policy and internationalisation from Latvia, currently based in Austria. She holds a Doctor's degree in Ecology and has expanded her expertise into capacity building for R&I funding agencies, research management and strategic development. With over a decade of experience in research, teaching and project management, she established the Research and Business Centre "REBUS" at Daugavpils University, Latvia. Among ongoing projects, she is currently a senior researcher at Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI), through which she also serves as a task leader for science-business collaboration in Ukraine and a work package leader on communication within the Horizon Europe project LUKE "Linking Ukraine to the European Research Area – joint funding and capacity-building platform for enhanced research and innovation cooperation."



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## Olga Bolibok

Centre for Social Innovation

Olga Bolibok is a senior researcher and project manager at the Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI) in Vienna, with over a decade of experience in research, innovation and development policy, EU integration, and cultural diplomacy. She has served as an expert and advisor at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC), the College of Europe, and the Government of Ukraine, where she coordinated reforms in innovation development and science funding. Her international policy advisory work includes collaborations with UN DESA, UNIDO, the World Bank, and GIZ.



## Alexander Kordyuk

Kyiv Academic University & Institute of Metal Physics of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

Alexander is an experimental physicist with extensive experience in synchrotron-based ARPES measurements of quantum materials, mainly at BESSY, SLS, and Elettra. He is currently a professor at Kyiv Academic University (KAU), where he also serves as director, head of the Department of Superconductivity at the Institute of Metal Physics of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, and principal investigator of the German-Ukrainian Center for Quantum Material Research – a joint laboratory of KAU and IFW Dresden. He is also the current president of the Ukrainian Synchrotron and Neutron Community (USyNC) and the Ukrainian representative in the Light4Ukraine project, which aims to build the Ukrainian beamline (MAVKA) at the SOLARIS synchrotron.



## Michał Młynarczyk

National Synchrotron Radiation Centre SOLARIS, Jagiellonian University

Michał Młynarczyk is a Deputy Director for Finance and International Cooperation at the National Synchrotron Radiation Centre SOLARIS, Jagiellonian University, and serves as a Head of the Coordination Board of LEAPS (League of European Accelerator-based Photon Sources). With over two decades of experience, he has successfully led and managed numerous large-scale infrastructure projects funded by European structural funds, both in the public and private sectors. As one of the initiators of the SOLARIS Centre, Poland's largest and most interdisciplinary research infrastructure, he has played a decisive role in shaping its national and international standing over nearly 20 years. Michał is strongly committed to advancing European cohesion in research and innovation. He is particularly engaged in initiatives supporting widening countries and Ukraine, working to ensure balanced development and innovation across the EU. In this mission, he actively collaborates with major European research infrastructures such as CERIC-ERIC and ELI, building bridges, fostering solidarity, and strengthening the role of science as a driver of integration and progress.



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## Jörgen Larsson

RI.Logistica

Jörgen has been the Senior Logistics Officer at the European Spallation Source ERIC in Lund, Sweden, for ten years, having spent his whole career in the field of logistics in different executive positions. During 2000-2003, he was the CEO of Tellusecure AB, engaged in the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research and technological development and demonstration activities (2007-2013), aimed to enhance industrial competitiveness and promote excellence in scientific and technological research in Europe. With the ambition and drive to reach excellence in relation to research institutes' supply chain processes, he initiated the founding of the non-profit RI.Logistica Association in 2022 with members across Europe supporting the movement and helping each other, being the chairman of the board since 2023.



## Gintaras Steponavicius

Cormack Consultancy Group

Gintaras is director of Cormack Consultancy Group for CEE+, a leading UK consultancy in the field of internationalization of Higher Education. Prior to joining CCG, he had a longstanding experience of working in public sector – he was Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania (2008-2012) and member of Lithuanian Parliament (2000-2020). In his position as a Minister he launched and implemented higher education reform introducing voucher based funding of students, new management of universities. He initiated a number of universities mergers and was pursuing systemic internationalisation of HE in Lithuania. He was also involved in supporting education reforms in such countries as Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Albania. As a director of CCG, Gintaras focuses on development of strategic partnerships between universities from UK, Australia, Canada with their counterparts in Central Eastern Europe, Ukraine, Causasus and Central Asia.



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