



Brussels, 15 March 2022,

**Subject: Erasmus+ action for Ukraine**

Dear Commissioner Gabriel,

EASSH sharply condemns the military aggression by Russian forces against Ukraine, a sovereign European state. We are deeply concerned for the wellbeing of civilians from and in Ukraine, in particular artists, students and academics in the arts, social sciences, humanities and their families, as well as those in Russia peacefully protesting the war.

EASSH stands in solidarity with all those affected and displaced by this violent conflict, and we would like to refer to your statement on 3 March 2022: 'We are determined to support Ukrainian students, young people, teachers and educators in these extremely challenging times'.

Therefore, EASSH is turning to you to take action by creating an **Erasmus+ action for Ukraine**. Members of EASSH – universities, academies and disciplinary associations in Social Sciences and Humanities – are collaborating to help refugee students and academics enrolled, and working, in Ukrainian higher education. However, the demand is not sustainable with the current resources. The action could provide Ukrainian students and possibly scholars a place at a university or academy in any EU country. The place would be for at least one year with a grant to cover living expenses.

The Erasmus+ action would imply a simple process for those universities and students who want to participate. We believe that the existing, EU-wide network of Erasmus+ offices is ideally equipped to implement the necessary procedure to welcome students.

This would send a clear message from the European Commission on actively and sustainably promoting European values. It would offer tangible support to many young people to continue their studies in such difficult times.

EASSH also recommends making Ukrainian students eligible for Erasmus+ funding a permanent feature of the programme. Exchange, research, and collaboration across borders can only flourish in freedom and peace. We would welcome any offer of collaboration to develop further such a programme.

Yours sincerely,

Silvana Colella, President, EASSH