



June 2026

Newsletter #3

Introduction

Between **October 2025** and **May 2026**, the FreeAc project implemented a series of key academic and dissemination activities, including **guest lectures, workshops, and webinars**. These activities engaged **scholars and practitioners from Ukrainian and European partner institutions** and supported the **ongoing exchange of knowledge on academic freedom, higher education development, and related societal challenges**.

During this period, FreeAc also contributed to **strengthening collaboration within the consortium and sustaining project visibility across academic networks**.

Experts' meeting in Palermo



The FreeAc experts' meeting in Palermo took place on **28 April 2026** and brought together **experts, policymakers, and higher education representatives from Ukraine and across Europe**.



Promoting Academic Freedom in Ukraine
Project number: 2023-1-AT01-KA220-HED-000164930

The meeting focused on reviewing **key research findings and contributing to the development of a Strategic Outlook for the recovery of Ukraine's higher education sector**, which is expected to be finalised **by November 2026**.

Discussions addressed major challenges affecting the sector, including **displacement, brain drain, governance, and institutional sustainability**, through collaborative and evidence-based discussions aimed at **identifying practical responses and long-term priorities**.

The meeting strengthened dialogue on **academic freedom, institutional resilience, and European cooperation in support of Ukraine's higher education recovery**.

Analysis of the Effects of the Armed Conflict on Academic Freedom in Ukraine

The desk research on the impact of the war on Ukrainian higher education and academic freedom has been successfully completed. The study examines the **effects of Russia's full-scale invasion on universities, students, and academic staff**, focusing on **displacement, educational continuity, institutional resilience, and academic freedom**. It also provides **recommendations for the recovery and long-term development of Ukraine's higher education sector**, drawing on experiences from other post-conflict contexts.

The main findings of the research were presented and discussed during the FreeAc Experts' Meeting in Palermo on 28 April 2026, contributing to the development of the project's **Strategic Outlook for the recovery of Ukraine's higher education sector**.

The publication is available in both [English](#) and [Ukrainian](#) on the Freeac project website.



Guest lecture series

The FreeAc guest lecture series has been successfully completed, with a total of **13 lectures delivered by scholars and experts from Ukrainian institutions** on topics including academic freedom, social resilience, higher education, sustainable development, justice, and post-war recovery:

- **“Art Against Artillery: Cultural Resilience in Times of Crisis”**, delivered by **Ms. Olga Bozhko-Volynska** on **14 October 2025**. Watch the recorded lecture [here](#).
- **“Using Science in Propaganda and Stolen Ukrainian Universities in the Russian War against Ukraine”**, delivered by **Mr. Oleksii Plastun (Sumy State University)** on **29 October 2025**. Watch the recorded lecture [here](#).
- **“Rebuilding Green: The Role of Climate Justice in Post-War Recovery of Ukraine”**, delivered by **Ms. Tetiana Drakokhrust (West Ukrainian National University)** on **4 November 2025**. Watch the recorded lecture [here](#).
- **“Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression Against Ukraine: Toward Justice and Accountability”**, delivered by **Ms. Svitlana Andreichenko (University of Graz)** on **20 November 2025**. Watch the recorded lecture [here](#).
- **“Ukraine and the World as the Ship of Theseus: The Perfect Storm”**, delivered by **Ms. Olena Kharytonova (Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University)** on **2 December 2025**.
- **“Circular Economy as a Strategy of Sustainable Development in Ukraine”**, delivered by **Ms. Kateryna Nesterova (International Humanitarian University)** on **16 December 2025**. Watch the recorded lecture [here](#).
- **“The Impact of War on Youth Leadership Growth: Ukrainian Case”**, delivered by **Mr. Andrii Andreichenko (Odessa National Economic University)** on **7 May 2026**. Watch the recorded lecture [here](#).
- **“The Potential of Social Entrepreneurship in Ensuring Ukraine’s Economic Development”**, delivered by **Ms. Nadiia Kichuk (Odessa National Economic University)** on **12 May 2026**. Watch the recorded lecture [here](#).



- “Peculiarities of Adaptation to Changes of Enterprises”, delivered by **Mr. Hrinchenko Raisa (Odessa National Economic University)** on **13 May 2026**. Watch the recorded lecture [here](#).

Workshops/Webinars

Between October 2025 and May 2026, a total of **6 workshops and webinars** were organised in the context of the project, which addressed **emerging challenges and skills in higher education**, with contributions from **experts from European partner institutions and Ukrainian academia**:

- “Academic Writing with Generative AI” was delivered by **Ms. Franziska Gürtl (University of Graz)** on **13 November 2025**.
- “Hate Speech and Propaganda Online” was delivered by **Mr. Gregor Fischer-Lessiak (University of Graz)** and **Mr. Pavlo Burdiak (Centre for Democracy and Rule of Law)** on **25 November 2025**.
- “AI in Higher Education Teaching” was delivered by **Ms. Simone Adams and Ms. Barbora Orlická (University of Graz)** on **3 December 2025**.
- “Supporting Veteran Transition into Higher Education” was delivered by **Mr. Christian Lund Pedersen (Aarhus University)** on **6 March 2026**.
- “Communicating Instruments and Strategies for Academia” was delivered by **Ms. Olha Volynska** on **10 March 2026**.
- “Gender Sensitive Higher Education Didactics” was delivered by **Ms. Lisa Scheer (University of Graz)** on **26 May 2026**.

Upcoming activities

On **17 June 2026**, the **workshop “Proposal Funding and Project Writing”** will be held online by **CESIE** and will be delivered by **Ms. Francesca Vacanti and Ms. Simona Sglavo**.

Multiplier events will be organised by **November 2026** by **Adam Mickiewicz University, International Humanitarian University, Sumy State University, and Taras Shevchenko National**



Promoting Academic Freedom in Ukraine
Project number: 2023-1-AT01-KA220-HED-000164930

University of Kyiv, supporting the dissemination of the FreeAc project and its results within academic and institutional contexts.

The project will conclude with a **final international conference in Graz in November 2026**, where the post-war strategic outlook will be presented, focusing on **mitigating brain drain, supporting the restoration and development of the Ukrainian higher education sector**.



Promoting Academic Freedom in Ukraine
Project number: 2023-1-AT01-KA220-HED-000164930



Stay Tuned for More Updates!

As the FreeAc project progresses, we'll keep you informed about our achievements, milestones, and future activities.



Co-funded by
the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.