

## **Purpose of the Project**

The proposed project intends to support Ukrainian universities and Ukrainian scholars - gender studies scholars in particular - by addressing needs outlined above. The project will deepen the already existing partnership between Lund University (LU), Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (TSNUK) and Ilia State University, Tbilisi (ISU). With support from Swedish institute 2022 (seed money), the three universities are currently implementing the project *Digital Capacities Building for Gender Studies Advanced Teaching and Learning Internationally*. The mentioned project will end in December 2022. The proposed new project aims to expand the network by establishing a new partnership with V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Ukraine (KhNU) and European Humanities University, Vilnius (EHU). The project is tailored to the needs of the two Ukrainian universities involved, while other partners will also benefit from most activities envisioned by the project.

To achieve this general purpose, the project will pursue the following objectives:

### **1. Develop a supportive network of GS scholars**

As mentioned above, in the dire circumstances created by the war, it is difficult to maintain adequate level of instruction and research at Ukrainian universities. The supportive academic network of gender studies scholars in Ukraine and partner universities in Georgia, Lithuania, and Sweden will serve (1) to develop and exchange the resources for teaching and research, (2) using the gender-sensitive approach to foster mutual support of scholars in academic activities; (3) the network will reach out to Ukrainian gender studies scholars in exile and (4) will work on developing gender studies agenda of war-torn and post-war Ukraine, post-USSR countries and Europe which advocate gender equality and studies of Ukraine; (5) the network will have a spill-over effect of support for Ukrainian students on-site and in exile via networking. Among the instruments for networking will be meetings in physical space – several workshops at partner universities, as well as regular online meetings and workshops, a conference, and a digital platform for sharing teaching materials and other resources.

International cooperation will facilitate a better integration of Ukrainian gender scholars into the international community and enhance the quality of their research and instruction; in present context, such cooperation will also lend much needed support to and strengthen positions of Gender Studies as an academic discipline within participating universities.

### **2. Develop a course on gendered society**

The aim of the project is to jointly develop an online course (7.5 ECTS) on gendered society. The course will consist of recorded lectures (around 15) and will have all the reading material online. Several of the lectures will be given during the project runs (by zoom or recorded). Especially lectures to Ukraine students in Ukraine or at the involved universities outside Ukraine. By these lectures students in Ukraine will meet professors and students outside Ukraine and internationalisation of education can still be possible. This course, with recorded lectures and teaching material, can be used a long time after the project. In terms of content, the course is divided into different modules: a/ general, theoretical frameworks, b/ a comparative focus on gender issues in post USSR countries, and c/ gender issues in war-time and post-war Ukraine.

The course (or it's selected modules) will be available as educational resource for gender studies programs at participating universities; it can be also used in sociology, cultural studies, Ukraine studies programs. The online availability of study materials and recorded lectures will ensure that Ukrainian students who have migrated within the country or abroad can use them.

### **3. Develop a digital platform for gender studies scholars.**

A digital platform for sharing teaching materials, including recorded lectures, contact persons in the gender studies network and other resources will be developed. All universities in Ukraine will have Information about, and access to, the platform. Non-Ukrainian partners of the project will have access to it too. The platform will be dynamic and the content will be added during the entire project period. The platform can be used a long time after the project ends.

### **4. Support Ukrainian universities in developing gender equality strategies and action plans**

The project envisions supporting institutionalization of the gender equality policy at Ukrainian Universities, developing the instruments for actions and monitoring of their efficiency via promotion of Gender Equality Strategy and Gender Equality Action Plan development. Such strategies and plans are vital instruments for universities for promoting gender equality in academic careers, teaching and research, life-work balance, women's rights protection.

Some of the partner universities (namely, LU and EHU) already have these instruments and their role will be to share their experience and provide recommendations. Through discussions, they may also come up with suggestions for revisions of their respective documents. ISU is currently in the process of developing a similar strategy, so it will benefit from the partnership in the project and, at the same time, contribute to it by sharing its own fresh experience of developing and instituting gender equality policy.

It is important that the proposed project imply involvement of gender studies faculty in the development of the universities' gender equality policy. This will ensure that the selection of measures, setting of objectives, defining of indicators will be informed by the insights from gender scholarship and will not be reduced to technocratic approach.

As a side effect, this project will gather research and teaching approaches and material in Gender issues in Ukraine and for Ukrainians in forced migration both in Ukrainian and in English that will advocate Ukrainian and Gender studies in European Universities-partners in the project, available online for wider audiences. This network will maintain a human resource of gender studies and serve as a source for the gender mainstreaming policy in University education during the war period and post-war rebuilding of Ukraine.