Report on C²DH Activities in Support of the Ukrainian Research Community.

Summary of activities March-November 2022

17.11.2022

Marten Düring with contributions from Inna Ganschow, Nina Janz, Helena Jaskov, Sofia Papastamkou, Lars Wieneke, Machteld Venken, Maxim Derian, Volodymyr Nemchenko.

UNIVERSITÉ DU LUXEMBOURG

C²DH
LUXEMBOURG CENTRE FOR
CONTEMPORARY AND DIGITAL HISTORY

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About this Report

The Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24th 2022 has triggered a worldwide wave of support and expressions of solidarity, also among C²DH staff. This report gives an overview of their past activities together with a preliminary review and recommendations for the year 2023. This does not cover private support activities undertaken by C²DH members.

This report consists of three parts: First, a brief summary of the response of Luxembourgish research institutions, published already in June 2022. Second, a chronology of activities by C²DH staff since March 2022. Third, an overview of past and planned activities by C²DH. These activities we group in a) Collaboration and Training in support of Ukrainian researchers and b) Documentation and Preservation with a focus on cultural heritage and future research activities.

At the time of writing, most do not expect the war to end any time soon. This makes it necessary to revisit past support activities regarding their success and effectiveness, to adjust measures according to the changed situation and to identify new opportunities for support also in light of their impact on the centre and its ongoing activities in research and teaching. Overall, the centre will continue and expand its support activities in light of the orientation towards the development of the future Ukrainian research landscape.

Support by the Luxembourgish research community

The following segment was published by Marten Düring as part of a joint publication by the Science for Ukraine team and describes the state of affairs in early June 2022:

Luxembourg support activities for Ukrainian researchers and students are for the most part initiated and financed by the university, the FNR and individual research centres and complemented by non-institutional volunteer initiatives. Research-related support includes 6-month visiting fellowships with allowances for living expenses and accommodation for PhD students, postdocs and professors financed by the University of Luxembourg and distributed across its faculties. For students, the university offers both the option of regular enrollment and access to courses without enrollment ("auditeurs libres").
Most of Luxembourg's interdisciplinary research centres have also offered fellowship positions, financed by their internal budgets. Luxembourgish research institutions are offering psychological (by UL) and financial support alongside mentoring partnerships and forthcoming informal networking events. Unfortunately, national legislation forbids the financing of remote work.
In a second phase, the team's focus shifted to the practical organisation of fellowships, research grants and students including the provision of accommodation, legal prerequisites for employment, insurance, temporary protection status etc. In this phase fell the creation of regular online meetings with representatives of all Luxembourgish research institutions to exchange experiences and new information. The FNR has set up two programmes to

support Ukrainian researchers, limited to PhD level and above: First, principal investigators of already FNR-funded projects can apply for an additional position for researchers in their team, limited to 6 months full time employment with an overall budget of 1M EUR. So far 10 grants have been made available. Second, 5 grants for Ukrainian senior researchers are earmarked as part of the INTER Mobility programme. Proposals to both programmes undergo a fast-track evaluation to ensure short processing times.

There are two special challenges the team dealt with. One is the linguistic reality and the other is the tight housing market. There are three official languages in Luxembourg, namely Luxembourgish, French and German, but English is very widespread too. This multilingualism is also reflected in academic teaching and research. In an effort to helpUkrainian researchers and students adjust to this environment, the university's National Language Institute and volunteers offer intensive language courses in French and German. Because of the country's small size and high-price housing market, refugees had to rely on accommodation offers collected by the Red Cross and Caritas; for short term accommodation, refugees had to rely on volunteer offers.

We are currently in a third phase which focuses on consolidation: the integration of researchers within Luxembourg (networking events, mentoring), and the identification of future needs. As of now, there is no certainty regarding future funding opportunities which will need to be determined based on the evolving situation in Ukraine.

Source:

Rose, Michael and Reinsone, Sanita et al. #ScienceForUkraine: an Initiative to Support the Ukrainian Academic Community. "3 Months Since Russia's Invasion in Ukraine", February 26 – May 31, 2022 (June 15, 2022). Max Planck Institute for Innovation & Competition Research Paper No. 22-13, Available at SSRN: https://ssrn.com/abstract=4139263 or http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4139263

Chronology of C²DH Activities since March 2022

1.3.   Creation of #ukraine channel in the C²DH Slack group by Johanna Jaschik

2.3.   "Russian invasion - a break in identity?" Interview with Inna Ganschow for RTL Today, Luxembourg.

3.3.   Inna Ganschow gives an interview about the reactions to the war in Ukraine among the members of the Russian community Luxembourg: "Wéi erlieft d'russesch Communautéit zu Lëtzebuerg de Krich an der Ukrain?" Radio 100,7, Luxembourg.

4.3.   Donation of lunch vouchers initiated by Vanessa Napolitano. Collected 4132 EUR to buy goods and food directly delivered to the warehouse of LUkraine with Maxime Derian and Sarah Maya Vercruysse (Kirchberg)

4.3.   Marten Düring joins Science for Ukraine network as coordinator for Luxembourg

4.3.   Machteld Venken establishes the contact between the Lviv Center for Urban History and the C²DH to enable backup capacities for Lviv. The data transfer starts the very same day thanks to the support of the central IT department and with the agreement of the rectorate.

5.3.   Johanna Jaschik and Nina Janz publish L'histoire du temps présent / Die Denazifizierung der Ukraine? in Tageblatt

5.3.   Inna Ganschow live on air with former Premier Minister of Luxembourg Jean-Claude Juncker and the current head of the Luxembourg Army General Thull in a round table "De Putin huet mech maaslos enttäuscht", RTL Background, Luxembourg.

6.3.   First mention of the initiative Saving Ukrainian Cultural Heritage (SUCHO) in the #ukraine channel

11. - 14.3.   Support by bus: The support entails transporting medical, food, and shelter supplies to the Ukrainian / Polish border by bus and bringing back refugees from the refugee camps to the German town of Bitburg. Involved Inna Ganschow, Nina Janz, Viktoria Boretska, Helena Jaskov, Guido Lessing in cooperation with MMS Humanitas.

8.3.   The data rescue mission is now extended to more partners across the Ukraine and is supported by the 4CH project coordinated by Lars Wieneke

10.3.   C²DH announces partnership with Science for Ukraine and 4 fellowships for Ukrainian researchers and makes available a budget of 50.000 EUR. In the following weeks Valentyna Kurilyak, Kateryna Zakharchuk, Volodimir Nemchenko and Svitlana Mizerhy join C²DH as visiting fellows.

14.3.   Viktoria Boretska participates to panel discussion "The War in Ukraine"

15.4.   Inna Ganschow contributes to an article of D'Lëtzebuerger Land about the meaning of religion in Putins politics: "Heilsgeschichte aus dem Osten".

16.3.   UL publishes email template with advice regarding support opportunities for Ukrainian scholars and students

16.3.   FNR announces first funding programme for Ukrainian researchers

22.3.   About her personal experience with the humanitarian catastrophe at the Ukrainian borders speaks Inna Ganschow with at the portal inRLP.de "Üble Gerüchte versetzen ukrainische Frauen in Angst - so wollen sie sich schützen".

24.3.   First call of the UL-Ukraine task force, Marten Düring represents C²DH

24.3.   FHSE announces 25 fellowships for Ukrainian researchers and PhD students

30.3.   Call to C²DH team for housing for volunteer fellows by Andreas Fickers and Marten Düring. David Hiez, Suzana Cascao and Guido Lessing offer accommodation for fellows and their partners/families

31.3.   Call to donate food and hygiene products via Vanessa Napolitano

19.4.   Research data transfer from Centre for Urban History / Lviv has completed with overall 60TB of data transferred.

25.4.   Inna Ganschow gives an interview about the Help for Ukrainian Refugees in a radio interview for Weekly Radio Show Luxembourg's in Russian ARA Russia for Peace.

28.4.   Inna Ganschow announces Bomb ShelterBox initiative to donate food and hygiene Products

3.5.   Round table "Dangerous Words and Dangerous Silences: Positioning Europe at the Edge of War" organised by FHES in Belval, Luxembourg with the participation of Inna Ganschow, Georg Mein and Robert Harmsen.

10.5.   Talk given by Inna Ganschow about the oppositional Russian artists currently exhibited in MNHA: "Maxim Kantor. Kunst über Migration, Russland und Krieg" to the abiturients of Europa Specialised Class at the Lycee Aline Mayrisch, Luxembourg.

27.5.   Workshop Witnessing the Now. Challenges for Emergency Archiving and Oral History following the Russian Invasion of Ukraine, Warsaw

7.6.   Initiative to create a Ukrainian instance of the Programming Historian portal first discussed between Marten Düring, Lars Wieneke and Sofia Papastamkou

26.6.   Science for Ukraine report published with contribution on Luxembourg by Marten Düring

6.7.   Guided tour of Belval for Ukrainian scholars organised by Inna Ganschow

1.8.   First meeting of the Luxembourg Ukrainian Research Network (LURN); networking event organised by Inna Ganschow, Marten Düring, Marina Laurent

30.9.   Second LURN event to take place with focus on skills transfer and networking.

20.10.   Conference Voices from the War – Path to Peace : Ukrainian and international Insights, Luxembourg

4.11.   Article "Bilder des Grauens Wunder der Güte" published by LURN-member Iryna Pogrebynska in d'Lëtzebuerger Land, übersetzt von Inna Ganschow

23. - 25.11.   Workshop Witnessing the Now 2. Challenges for Emergency Archiving and Oral History following the Russian Invasion of Ukraine coordinated by Machteld Venken

9.12.   Third LURN event to take place

Support Activities at C²DH

The scope of support activities by C²DH staff varies considerably regarding their scope, potential impact, the commitment of time and other resources. But all speak of the strong commitment to do *something* in support of Ukrainian researchers.

They can be grouped in three phases: A first phase beginning in March 2022 was characterised by an immediate humanitarian response to the outbreak of the war. In this phase fall the creation of the fellowship programme and the search for accommodation, the beginning of data rescue efforts, documentation and preservation activities as well as private initiatives to help Ukrainians flee the country. The second phase between March and June was characterised by consolidation. In this phase efforts focused on the integration of fellows including the provision of housing, contracts and mentorship; the coordination with parallel efforts by the University of Luxembourg; the completion of initial data rescue initiatives and applications for extension grants offered by the FNR. The third phase since June 2022 focuses on sustainable, future-oriented support. During this time the Luxembourgish-Ukrainian Research Network (LURN) was created, a Ukrainian team for the Programming Historian project was created, efforts from the SUCHO began to get consolidated and interviews for the Warlux extension projects began.

We identify three intertwined focus areas of these activities: efforts to foster cooperation between the Ukrainian research community and C²DH, efforts to offer future-oriented training for Ukrainian researchers and students and efforts to document the war, to preserve Ukrainian cultural heritage and to create opportunities for future research activities. The activities are roughly ordered by date of initiation.

Looking ahead, C²DH will continue its activities in support of Ukrainian researchers. The decisive aspect of our engagement needs to be the demonstrable added value for the Ukrainian research community at-large be it in strictly scientific, technical or in symbolic form. C²DH's efforts need to be sustainable, inclusive and future-oriented: Sustainable in the sense that the commitments by C²DH staff need to either run parallel or be integrated into day-to-day tasks and need to be aligned with existing budgets. Inclusive inasmuch as they should stay on supporting and initiating efforts for and in direct exchange with the UA research community. Future-oriented so as to offer focused support for the post-war Ukrainian research community based on selected initiatives, researchers and/or institutions. We propose to continue and expand past activities.

Collaboration and Training

C²DH Fellowship Programme

Brigitte Melchior, Marten Düring, Christoph Brüll, Nina Janz, Maxime Derian, Frédéric Clavert

In spring 2022 C²DH made available 50.000 EUR for four fellowships and with a duration of 6 months. Through a combination of social networks and open calls, 4 researchers were recruited and supported in the process to obtain temporary protection status in Luxembourg.
Each fellow was introduced to a C²DH staff member to act as mentor (Christoph Brüll, Frédéric Clavert, Maxime Derian, Nina Janz) and to serve as a contact point throughout the fellowship. At the time and in light of the high degree of uncertainty regarding the situation of the fellows the main motivation was to offer scholars a place of refuge. Consciously, no expectations for academic output or activities were formulated to allow researchers a maximum of freedom. Depending on their personal situation, fellows chose to pursue their ongoing research activities or to engage in C²DH research projects.

Each fellow further received a work desk, laptop if needed as well as housing at the places of either C²DH/UL staff and colleagues (Andreas Fickers, Suzana Cascao, Guido Lessing, David Hiez) or via the Red Cross.

In the meantime we have learned that many scholars who have left Ukraine are confronted with the expectation from those who stayed in Ukraine to "do something" for their country and have expressed this as an explicit goal in past conversations.
All fellows have greatly appreciated the opportunity to familiarise themselves with "Western" academic life and in particular with the working culture at C²DH, characterised by multidisciplinarity, teamwork and the integration of digital tools in all aspects of research and dissemination. At the same time, scholars are highly motivated to make available their own research expertise and language skills to the centre.

Science for Ukraine

Marten Düring

C²DH joined the [Science for Ukraine](#) initiative in April 2022 and Marten Düring took on the role of national coordinator for Luxembourg. This included the following activities: 1) promoting Science for Ukraine as an information broker for research positions and researcher needs within the Luxembourgish research landscape, 2) securing the endorsement of #ScienceForUkraine by national research institutions such as FNR and ResearchLuxembourg, 3) preparing first fellowship programmes and disseminating information about these opportunities.

In the past months Science for Ukraine has evolved into an international community of researchers and continues to broker positions for Ukrainian researchers, to raise awareness of their needs and to commit to their integration within hosting institutions.

Science for Ukraine constitutes a network through which Ukrainian researchers can be recruited and positions can be brokered. Further, as a collective it allows access to a rich pool of expertise concerning the management of support activities for Ukrainian researchers. Continued participation is recommended whilst C²DH's focus should be on the development of partnerships with individual Ukrainian researchers and institutions.

Joint book project on the Internet of Things

Maxime Derian, Volodymyr Nemchenko

C2DH researcher Maxime Derian and fellow Volodymyr Nemchenko worked together on the translation of Nemchenko's book published previously in Ukrainian into French and enriched through a stronger focus on social contextualisation. The manuscript is now fully written and ready to be submitted to a publisher. Its working title is: "IoT. L'Internet des Objets : écosystème numérique connectant objets et individus" ["IoT. The Internet of Things: a digital ecosystem connecting objects and people"]. The book deals with the technical structure, typology, purpose, issues and different characteristics of the Internet of Things (IoT). Technologies such as the Web of Things, cognitive IoT, MEMS are analyzed. A great deal of attention is paid to familiarising students with the technologies underlying IoT systems, in particular RFID, Big Data, Cloud and Edge technologies, wireless sensor networks (WSNs) and intermodal communications (M2M). Standards and protocols for data transfer in the IoT are also considered in this text. Examples of IoT network implementations and information security issues in these systems are also presented. The social engineering made possible by the ongoing development of ubiquitous computing that constitutes the IoT, combined with the already existing uses of the web, seems capable of causing major anthropological mutations in connection with this trend towards becoming the "digital age". A contextualization in terms of social uses is also present in this book.

LURN - Luxembourg-Ukraine Research Network

Inna Ganschow, Marten Düring, Marina Laurent

On 4th August the first meeting of the LURN network took place at C²DH. Organised by Inna Ganschow, Marten Düring and Marina Laurent, the event had the purpose to connect Ukrainian researchers in Luxembourg who are affiliated to different institutions and had no awareness of each other. For this first edition, 36 Ukrainian researchers joined.

The event gave them the opportunity to present themselves and their research and to identify ideas and needs for future activities. As a first measure, the researchers self-organised in small groups to formulate ideas for future research topics.

Based on feedback by the participating researchers, the second LURN networking event was scheduled for September 30th which focused on the following aspects:
- Skills and know-how about Western academic practices
- Networking opportunities and identification of future employment opportunities
- Create visibility of Ukrainian researchers within Luxembourg, e.g. by a lecture series

During the event, research groups first gave short presentations of their progress and future plans. This was followed by a series of presentations by experts on funding opportunities by the Fonds National de la Recherche, research proposal design, experiences of Ukrainian researchers in Luxembourg, research ethics, the presentation and opening of C²DH's internal training programme catalogue and presentations of ongoing research projects which open opportunities for Ukrainian researchers to join. LURN members agreed to create a LURN LinkedIn and Slack group to facilitate future communication within the network. The event concluded with a presentation by Brent Epperson about his role as the university's ombudsman. Luxemburger Wort covered the event with an article.

On October 21st, Stefano Pozzimicelli of LuxInnovation gave a presentation of opportunities for EU funding for researchers based in Luxembourg which was followed by a Q&A session.

The third LURN event will take place on December 9th. Presentations will focus on academic CVs, mentoring, goal setting, Luxembourgish research culture, EU funding programmes, incubator and entrepreneurship programmes, event and proposal planning, migration law, psychological support, and reflections on the Eastern and Western academic systems.

A fourth event is planned for January 2023.

Internship at Digital Research infrastructure

Lars Wieneke

As a direct output of LURN networking opportunities, 16 year-old pupil Yaroslav Zabolotskyi received the opportunity for an internship at C²DH's Digital Research Infrastructure. During his internship, he had the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with a variety of fields including front- and backend software development and design. Yaroslav Zabolotskyi demonstrated extraordinary talent and capability during his internship and provided important contributions during his time at the C²DH to several projects.

Ukrainian Edition of the Programming Historian Portal

Sofia Papastamkou, Marten Düring, Lars Wieneke

C²DH members helped initiate the development of a Ukrainian instance of the [Programming Historian platform](#) by assembling a team of interested scholars within the Ukrainian DH² scene, reaching out to the PH steering committee and in the form of bilateral exchanges.
Following the example of earlier efforts such as those led by Sofia Papastamkou for French language, this Ukrainian PH instance will adapt existing tutorials to the specificities of the Ukrainian research landscape, e.g. by identifying suitable tools and datasets.
In August 2022 a first call constituted the team and planned the scope of the activities. The initial team lead will be Taras Nazaruk (Lviv Centre of Urban History).

The initiative is now being carried by Ukrainian researchers and should receive all the support necessary by the PH team. It can play a valuable role in the development of the digital history research community in Ukraine and could also be further supported in the form of fellowship projects (see above).

Hands-on History Lecture Series

Marten Düring

The war has also effectively limited the opportunities for Ukrainian researchers to grow their international networks. In an effort to help break this isolation and to create new ties between the Ukrainian research community and C²DH, forthcoming Hands-on History lectures will reserve places for Ukrainian researchers active in one of the centre's research areas. The first speaker will be Dr Martin Kisly, Kiev National University on 22nd November.

Plans for an Inter-institutional Partnership

Andreas Fickers, Machteld Venken, Lars Wieneke, Marten Düring

Bilateral exchanges with Ukrainian scholars have indicated a great interest in the development of institutional partnerships based on shared academic interests in the fields of (digital) history. We are currently exploring opportunities for a permanent partnership between C²DH and a compatible Ukrainian institution.

Ukrainian Contributions to Memorial de la Shoah

Denis Scuto, Iryna Progrebinska

In October the C²DH and its partners launched the [Luxembourgish Memorial de la Shoah](#), an open platform which will collect and publish biographies of Jews living in Luxembourg. We are currently exploring opportunities for LURN participant Iryna Progrebynska to join the project and to actively contribute to its coordination and the research of additional biographies.

MSCA4UKRAINE Grant Applications

Valentyna Kuryliak, Marten Düring

In September, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions published a dedicated call for Ukrainian researchers under the title [MC4UKRAINE](#). Together with other fellows and with support from the University of Luxembourg, Valentyna Kuryliak prepared and submitted her own application in the field of history of religion and migration studies.

Documentation and Preservation

Data transfer from Lviv Centre for Urban History

Lars Wieneke, Machteld Venken

Machteld Venken established the contact between the Lviv Center for Urban History and the C²DH to enable backup capacities for Lviv. The data transfer started the very same day thanks to the support and reactivity of the central IT department and with the agreement of the rectorate.
This bilateral work with Lviv has influenced the formation of an informal network for data rescue on a European level. Together with colleagues from Italy, Belgium, France and Poland the SUM initiative (Save the Ukrainian Monuments) has formed that provides data rescue capabilities to a broad range of Ukrainian institutions. The colleagues from 4CH published a description of the initiative on their website that you can find here: In cooperation with the University of Luxembourg, the C²DH successfully created a backup of 50 Terabyte of research data owned by the Lviv Centre for Urban History.

Contribution to SUCHO Initiative

Helena Jaskov, Lars Wieneke, Frédéric Clavert, Valerie Schafer

SUCHO is an initiative of 1,300+ international volunteers who are collaborating online to safeguard Ukrainian cultural heritage. Since the start of the invasion, SUCHO has web-archived more than 5,000 websites and 50TB of data of Ukrainian cultural institutions, to prevent these websites from going offline. The websites range from national archives to local museums, from 3D tours of churches to children's art centres.

Helena Jaskov submitted a lesson proposal to Programming Historian on behalf of SUCHO on 27.06.2022. It will be based on one of the tutorials for web-crawling on SUCHO's own website. The lesson proposal was accepted on 25.07 and Valérie Schafer and Frédéric Clavert have agreed to be involved in writing a general introduction to web archiving for it. A first draft version exists.

On August 08. 2022 SUCHO started PHASE 2 of its initiative which focuses on curating the SUCHO collection, securing donations, and education efforts. Another important aspect of PHASE 2 is to financially, materially, and logistically support the Ukrainian digitisation effort. (https://www.sucho.org/press-release-20220808-phase-2)

As SUCHO shifts its priorities from emergency (web)archiving activities towards digital preservation and digitisation the existing know-how at the C²DH could be brought in through training activities to increase the capacities of the partners in Ukraine. C²DH members will be involved in a Programming Historian lesson on web archiving developed in the context of SUCHO as well as in the creation of a handbook.

WARLUX – Impact of War Experiences – Past and Present

Machteld Venken, Nina Janz, Kateryna Zakharchuk, Estelle Bunout

Members of the LHI successfully applied for one of the FNR project extension grants for Ukrainian researchers in the context of the FNR Core project "WARLUX" with a [proposal to conduct Oral History interviews](#). The candidate search did, however, prove difficult with two potential candidates having to step back from offers due to personal reasons. The role of researchers has in the meantime been taken on by C²DH fellow Kateryna Zakharchuck.

The task of the fellow is to compose a representative sample of interview candidates (in cooperation with the Ukrainian community in Luxembourg https://ukrainians.lu), to conduct two interviews per week in Ukrainian/Russian/English, to transcribe the interview, take care of the metadata, compose a short biographical note in English and insert the interview file with metadata in the database. The enlarged WARLUX team uses the database and digital collection of oral and written testimonies in order to perform comparative research on the impact of war on individuals in Luxembourg during WWII and today and will submit one article co-authored with the invited researchers for peer review before the end of the project.

Within this project, C²DH shared a memorandum of understanding with partners The Centre for Urban History (Lviv), Polish Academy of Sciences, University of Saint Andrews and the Polish Oral History Association to conduct and collect interviews with Ukrainian citizens with the ambition to archive the testimonies and to make them available for research in spring 2023. As part of the project, C²DH fellow Kateryna Zakharchuck participated in the [Summer Institute - Witnessing the War in Ukraine: Oral History and Interview-Based Research](#).

In addition, Warlux team members co-organised the workshops [Witnessing the Now](#) and [Voices from the War – Path to Peace : Ukrainian and international insights](#) in an effort to bring together scholars from amongst others history, digital humanities and social anthropology to discuss opportunities and challenges on documenting and studying historical events, which have not yet become history.

Digitisation of Ukrainian Books

Andy O'Dwyer

C²DH has offered its book scanning infrastructure to collect and digitise books written by and provided by Ukrainian scholars. This offer has been welcomed by Ukrainian researchers. The collection is accessible for C²DH staff via the Nainuwa platform. At the time of writing it includes 46 titles.

Telegram Archive

Lars Wieneke, Machteld Venken, Valerie Schafer

Telegram is the most commonly used communication app currently used by Ukrainians. The Lviv Centre for Urban History has started an initiative to archive ca. 1000 Telegrams channels and has until now collected ca. 4 TB of data.

The project has the goal to preserve this data for future generations of researchers but faces numerous challenges. Among them are personal rights, ethics, legal implications, copyright, data preservation, enrichment, data storage, sustainability and safety of the archive.