

SEPIE - Crue-Internacionalización y Cooperación Joint Communiqué concerning the measures to be taken on international mobility due to the situation in Ukraine (02.03.2022)

Dear friends,

Since the outbreak of armed conflict in Ukraine, SEPIE, the Spanish Universities Ministry's Service for Internationalising Education and *Crue-Internacionalización y Cooperación* [the Specialised University Network for Internationalisation and Cooperation of the Spanish Rectors' Conference] have been in permanent contact with the aim of coordinating their communication actions concerning the consequences of the conflict on international mobility.

We therefore issue this **joint communiqué** that we hope will help to clarify the most important points:

First, the main referent concerning the European Commission's Erasmus directives is SEPIE. SEPIE works in close collaboration with the Commission, as well as being in permanent contact with the Spanish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation.

Second, SEPIE issued two briefing notes on [28.02.2022](#) and [02.03.2022](#), respectively, concerning mobility to and from Russia and Ukraine and neighbouring countries. In brief, the *force majeure* clause can be applied to those Erasmus+ programme mobility activities taking place in the countries mentioned in the above briefing notes. In other words, outgoing mobilities can be cancelled, postponed, or transferred in the most flexible possible manner. Moreover, we encourage Universities to prolong the stays of Ukrainian participants in Spain within the Programme's regulations.

Given the exceptional circumstances and, in order to give all members of our university communities equal treatment as a demonstration of our solidarity with the Ukrainian people, *Crue-Internacionalización y Cooperación*, encourages Spanish universities to apply the same mobility criteria to/from the said countries financed with own funds.

Third, concerning outgoing mobility, we would like to remind that all students, teachers, and personnel from Spanish universities who find themselves in the abovementioned countries must register as travellers and keep in touch with their nearest Spanish consulate. They must also keep themselves up to date with the recommendations issued by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union, and Cooperation. We must make it absolutely clear that, at present, the situation in the neighbouring countries is one of complete normality and cancelling mobilities is not advised.

Finally, the Ministry of Universities has requested incoming/outgoing mobility data to Russia and Ukraine from all Spanish Universities. Once this data has been analysed, we will evaluate the possible actions to be undertaken in order to alleviate, as much as possible, the effects of the conflict upon people from the countries affected and who are currently in our universities. As well as incoming students, these measures must also include those students studying degrees.

Furthermore, the Spanish Ministry for Universities will, together with the Crue, set a plan to give momentum to the actions being undertaken at universities with regard to students, teachers, and administrative and services staff who are beneficiaries' or potential beneficiaries of international protection.

We recommend that situations arising with people of Russian nationality who are in are universities should be referred to the Russian Embassy in Spain, which should provide them with a reply.

SEPIE and *Crue-Internacionalización y Cooperación* would like to send a message of solidarity to all of those suffering the consequences of the armed conflict in Ukraine, as well our outright rejection of any type of violence. We are monitoring developments and would be pleased to address any further questions that you might wish to put forward.

Affectionately,

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