



International academic cooperation in the field of public health in the context of the migration crisis caused by the war in Ukraine.

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450 years of the National University "Ostroh Academy"



Traditions and Innovation

This October, the academy celebrates its 450th anniversary, successfully integrating standards into the European training of public health specialists in Ukraine.

Pioneer of the industry: one of the first universities in Ukraine to begin training in the field of "Public Health".

Full cycle of education: today, we successfully graduate bachelors, masters and postgraduates.



It should be noted that 8 million people are internally displaced.

More than 12,000 multi-storey buildings, more than 100,000 private estates and more than 500 industrial enterprises were destroyed or damaged by the invader in Ukraine.





Relevance

Over the past decade, the role and effectiveness of national public health systems has become increasingly important and significant in the socio-economic life of each country and in the world. This has become especially evident in the development of the global pandemic caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which has become a global threat and public health emergency.

The event demonstrated the shortcomings of the existing basic models of the healthcare system, which proved inadequate in effectively counteracting the global biological threat. This necessitated the development of more effective mechanisms and tools to address such challenges in the present and future.

The war in Ukraine has had significant environmental consequences.

Since February 2022, the Russian military aggression has not only resulted in a humanitarian catastrophe but also poses a real threat to the environment.

The insidious attack has the potential to cause catastrophic consequences in the field of public health at both the regional and global levels.





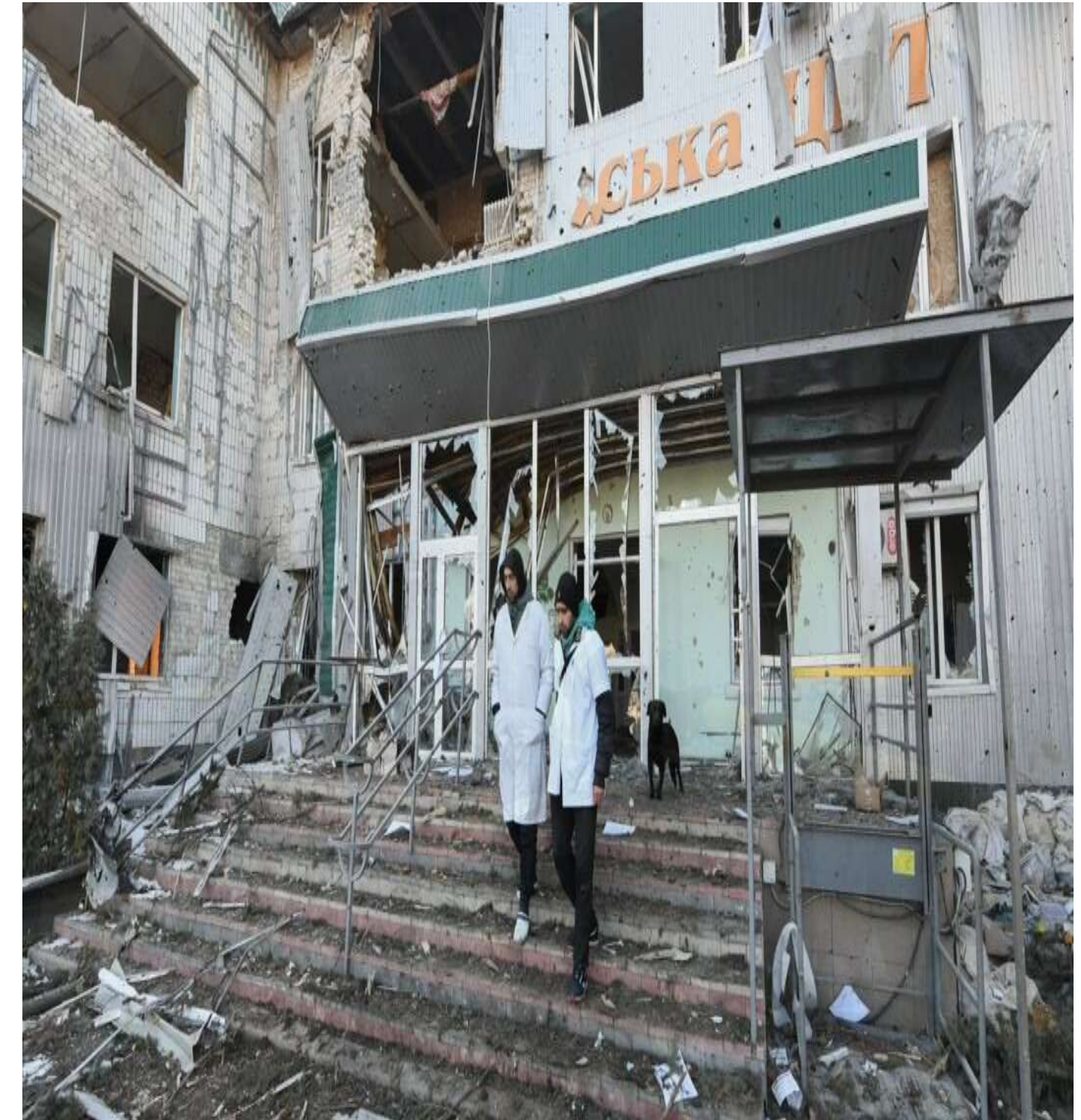
The medical infrastructure of Ukraine was significantly damaged as a result of the full-scale invasion - 1,218 health care facilities were damaged

In particular, 540 hospitals were partially destroyed, and 173 were completely destroyed.

The Minister of Health of Ukraine Viktor Liashko told about this in an interview with Ukrinform.

The head of the Ministry of Health added that the experts of the World Bank and the World Health Organization estimated the damage to the health care system of Ukraine in tens of billions of dollars.

According to him, the government does not plan to restore institutions that have been destroyed by more than 90%. These hospitals will be built "from scratch" according to the new project, he added.





Since the beginning of the war, the Center for Public Health of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine with regional centers and their separate structural units, under martial law, continues to monitor the situation in the rear and during emergencies throughout Ukraine 24/7.

In particular, it is:

- radiation monitoring and dosimetric control;*
 - chemical monitoring and control;*
 - monitoring the quality and safety of drinking water by microbiological and other indicators;*
 - established groups of epidemiological surveillance and control;*
- formed disinfection teams.*

In September 2025, the Procedure for assessing risks to the health and sanitary-epidemiological well-being of the population and for carrying out appropriate preventive, examination, consultation and other measures based on the results of such an assessment was approved, which is attached.

Results

The fundamental document delineating the policy in the domain of the health workforce at the global level is the WHO Global Strategy for Health Workforce Development: Workforce 2030 and the report of the UN High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth, entitled "Working for Health and Development: Investing in the Health Workforce."

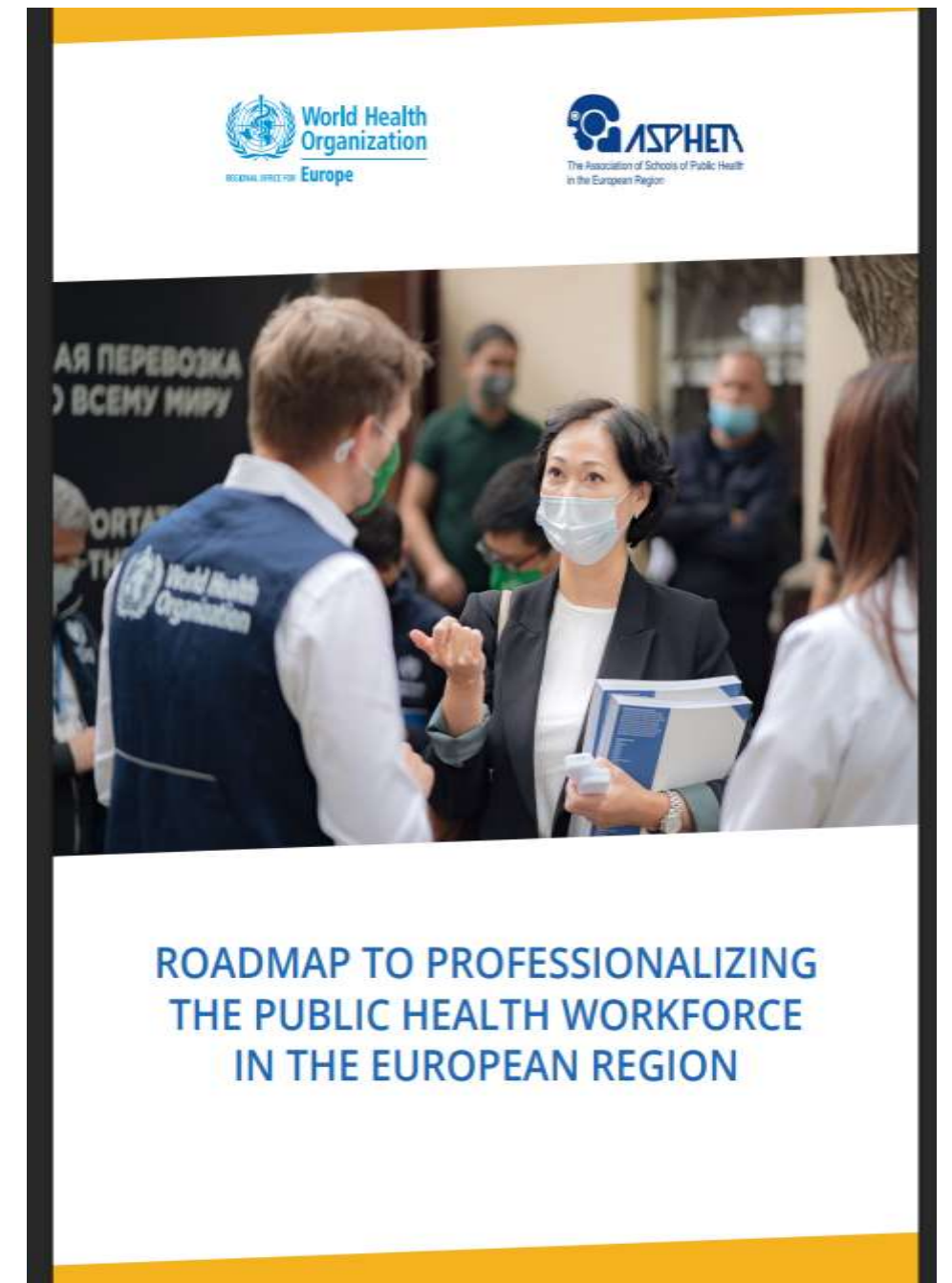


Global strategy on
human resources
for health:
Workforce 2030





Among the main goals and objectives are to ensure a regulatory and legal framework for human resources development; to create a dynamic and sustainable system of education and professional development for human resources in the public health system; and to develop leadership, management, and legislative capacity within the public health system. The program's defined objectives align with the Roadmap for the Professionalization of Human Resources in the Public Health System, developed by the WHO and the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region in 2022. Implementation of the Program will help improve the staffing situation in the public health system, increase public recognition and the prestige of professions within the system, enhance the cost-effectiveness of public health service delivery, and more.



In November 2023, ASPHER, together with WHO, published a foundational statement: “A New Public Health Curriculum for a “New Normal”.

The draft ASPHER Core Curriculum for Public Health, Release 1.0, was presented at the 17th European Conference in Lisbon, and represents a collaborative effort by practitioners and academics in over 60 schools and institutes across Europe over the past 2.5 years. It aims to identify where and how education can be improved to best prepare current and future professionals to make the most of their contributions to their communities, nationally and internationally.





Today, these categories of teachers have divided into two groups, each of which is critically important for our common academic mission:

The first group has transferred and is working directly at foreign higher education institutions. They have become a living intellectual bridge, bringing to European universities unique experience in healthcare management in real-world war conditions.

The second group, despite being abroad, continues to participate remotely in the educational process of training public health specialists in Ukraine, ensuring continuity of education.

This is probably the same “ethic of solidarity and diversity” that ASPHER wrote about in its statement on the “new normal.”



The philosophy of the ASPHER CCP Core Curriculum Program is based on three pillars: continuous connection, knowledge sharing, and collegiality.

The academic migration of Ukrainian teachers has created a unique network, and our common task within ASPHER is to prevent the irreversible loss of these personnel, and to transform this forced movement into a real “circulation of knowledge” and a tool for deep integration of Ukrainian higher education into the European space. We must create flexible network consortia, involving Ukrainian scientists abroad in the joint design and implementation of new European curricula and educational programs.



Rethinking the educational trajectory of specialist training.

ASPHER rightly states: traditional didactic approaches no longer work. The “new normal” requires a public health specialist not just knowledge of epidemiology or biostatistics, but the ability to work in a multidisciplinary, interprofessional and cross-sectoral environment.

The ASPHER CCP Ed 1.0 program is clearly focused on improving and modernizing training so that future graduates can bring maximum benefit to their communities and society at both the national and international levels.

The war has shown that a public health specialist in Ukraine — and in the future in any European country — must possess competencies that were previously considered secondary:

Political Literacy

Big Data Management and Artificial Intelligence (Digital & AI advancements)

Environmental sustainability and the concept of One Health (One Health & Sustainability):





We cannot wait for the war to end to begin reform. Undergraduate and graduate programs must prepare dual-purpose professionals: those who can ensure the sustainability of the system now and those who will lead the large-scale post-war reconstruction (Build Back Better).

Post-war reconstruction of Ukraine is not just about restoring hospital walls, it is about building a completely new architecture of the public health system, which is fully compatible with the logic of the new ASPHER Core Curriculum, where prevention, health promotion, and crisis preparedness are synonymous with national security.





The most important practical task facing us in the context of International academic cooperation in the field of public health in the context of the migration crisis caused by the war in Ukraine, follows directly from the need to professionalize the human resource potential, which is declared in the Common Competency Framework of WHO and ASPHER.

In order to link these functions with practice, there is an urgent need to develop an updated draft of the Professional Standard for Public Health Professionals, which can become a "universal dynamic template". (Universal Dynamic Template).

We propose to create a basic competency matrix that fully complies with the standards of the ASPHER CCP program, but its architecture should be modular. Each national system will be able to take this "universal core" and add its own specific modules caused by national threats, confirming them with verified sources.



I call on the ASPHER Executive Committee, the Core Curriculum Programme development team, members of our working group, perhaps at the site of the National University of Ostroh Academy, to create a professional platform for solving and piloting urgent issues. Let us together transform today's tragic challenges into new, reliable safety and health standards for all of Europe. Let us together make Ukraine's experience the foundation of safety and professionalism for all of Europe.

Public health has no borders. Health security in Ukraine is health security throughout Europe. The academic community of the Ostroh Academy is open to cooperation. We have intellectual potential, we have practical experience of living and working in war conditions, and we strive to combine them with your expert resources to save human lives.



Results.

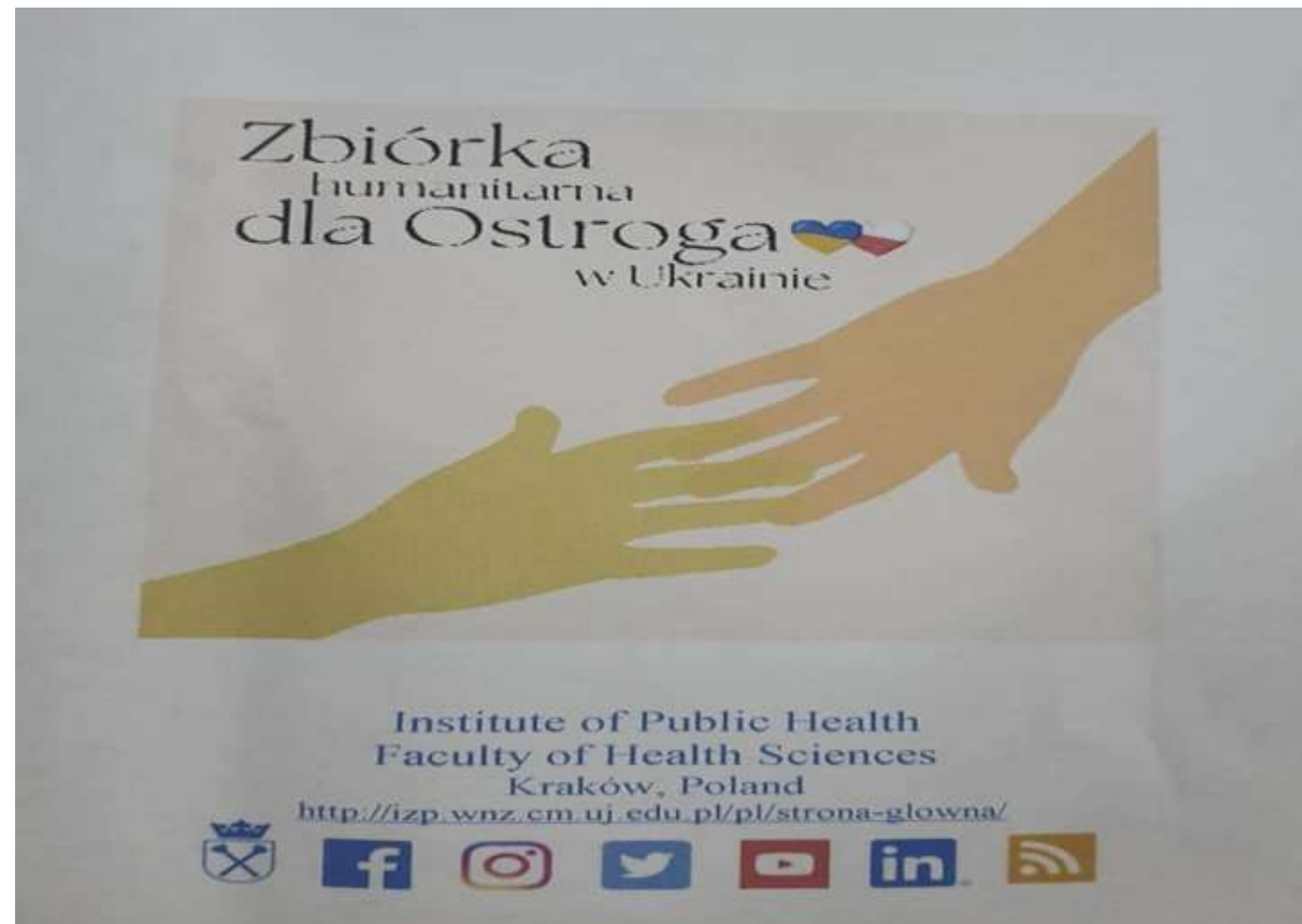


In light of the emergence of novel challenges and threats in the domain of public health, we have petitioned UNESCO to undertake a review and potential amendment of the international standard.

"INTERNATIONAL STANDARD CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION / Fields of education and training 2013 (ISCED-F 2013)"

In instances where no code exists for public health as a specialty, detailed field descriptions are provided under the heading "Public health."





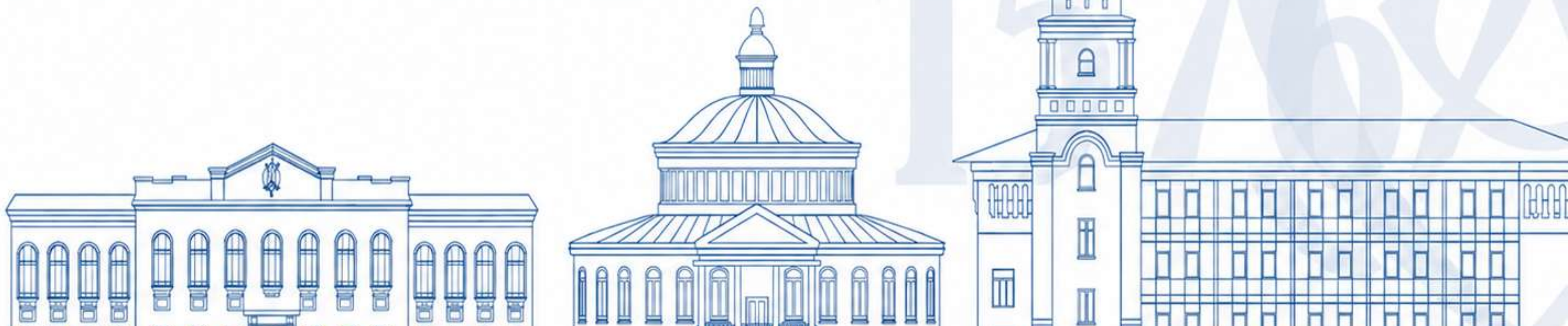




Narodowy Uniwersytet
„Ostrozka Akademia”



Tradycja, która tworzy przyszłość





Thank you for your attention!

УСЕ БУДЕ УКРАЇНА!

СЛАВА УКРАЇНІ!

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