



**EURETES**  
European Research Training  
in Social Sciences

Alliance de Recherche  
PARIS • PRAGUE • LVIV

War & society  
CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE  
Válka & společnost  
STŘEDNÍ & VÝCHODNÍ EVROPA  
Війна & суспільство  
ЦЕНТРАЛЬНА ТА СХІДНА ЄВРОПА

# Background

Russia's large-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 caused an upheaval on a scientific scale unseen since 1991. It has contributed to the emergence of new fronts and borders in Eastern Europe, while marking the return of conventional warfare on land, brutal occupations and neo-imperial revisionist logics, the systematic destruction of the Ukrainian economy, infrastructure and national heritage, and the experience of large-scale forced mobilities - the largest since 1945.

The social sciences are essential to understanding the ongoing war and the political, ideological, social, economic and environmental upheavals it is causing. Russia's war against Ukraine has accelerated the reconfiguration of our research fields and confirmed the importance of Central and Eastern Europe for understanding contemporary European history.

To meet these multiple challenges, EHESS has decided to support a European interdisciplinary scientific cooperation project under the EURETES program, starting in spring 2023. Under the title «*War and Society in Central and Eastern Europe (20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> centuries)*», this research alliance brings together historians, sociologists, anthropologists and geographers, students, young researchers and established scholars, from the Center for Russian, Caucasian, East European and Central Asian Studies (CERCEC - EHESS), the Institute of International Studies at Charles University in Prague, and the Center for Urban History in Lviv.

# The project

The *War and Society* Research Alliance proposes to structure the encounter between historians and sociologists from different scientific traditions around the experience of war in Central and Eastern Europe. The aim is to conduct collective research on war as a process of movement - of bodies, bonds, institutions, goods, ideas, legacies and possible futures. Collaboration between the three institutions is based on shared scientific principles:

- ↘ **The importance of interdisciplinary, transnational and multilingual research**
- ↘ **An understanding of the war phenomenon through the prism of social actors, their experiences, practices and subjectivities**
- ↘ **A focus on the temporalities of war, and an ambition to think of war as an event unfolding over variable time spans**
- ↘ **A commitment to ambitious and ethical empirical research**

The research alliance is a place for the emergence and structuring of new scientific dynamics born of the transformations linked to the Russian-Ukrainian war. In particular, it encourages the circulation of researchers, starting with students and young researchers, in order to provide a European framework for research and research training around a common scientific project.

# Joint actions

- ↘ **Supporting the mobility of young researchers**
- ↘ **Collective training support for students and young researchers**
- ↘ **Project writing support for young researchers**
- ↘ **Ukrainian visiting professors program (including young researchers)**
- ↘ **Organization of scientific events and publications**
- ↘ **Support for the dissemination of research on wars in Central and Eastern Europe in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries to various national and European audiences.**

# Our partners

The Centre for Russian, Caucasian, Eastern European and Central Asian Studies (CERCEC, CNRS-EHESS) is one of France's leading interdisciplinary research centers on Eastern Europe and the former Soviet space. In addition to its team of CNRS researchers and EHESS lecturers and a rich network of associate researchers, it welcomes master's, doctoral and post-doctoral students.

A high-level interdisciplinary research center since 2004, the Lviv Center for Urban History (CUH) has also become an important host site for many social and human sciences researchers from eastern and southern Ukraine, and one of the key institutions in the collection of war testimonies since February 2022. Thanks to its excellent international integration, the CUH is collectively committed to transforming our area studies field, including by rethinking the training of young researchers and the sources and methods used.

The Institute of International Studies at Charles University in Prague is home to interdisciplinary research on all cultural areas. Its two doctoral schools offer training of excellence rooted in modern history and area studies. The Institute hosts a dynamic research team focusing on the articulation of war and post-war periods in Europe in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, examining political, economic and social reconfigurations and reconstructions, including the history of post-war psychiatry.

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