



## **ESREA statement on the war in Ukraine**

ESREA is a European research association that stands for the promotion of high-quality research on adult education and learning. The association stands for free discourse, free exchange of knowledge and experience in support of the development of democratic societies and active citizenship. We strongly believe in the importance of adult education in fostering values of equality, freedom, and solidarity – practices that continuously are endangered by anti-democratic movements.

We are therefore horrified by the current acts by the Russian government in invading Ukraine and the pain, destruction, suffering and dislocation this has caused. We are also outraged by the Russian government's attack on their own citizens, on democracy and on free speech and independent media. We thereby declare our complete solidarity with Ukraine, with our research colleagues in Ukraine, their families, and our students from Ukraine as well as with our research colleagues and university students in Russia who currently do not have the freedom to speak against the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian government. We strongly welcome the solidarity efforts to support Ukrainian refugees across Europe and the world. We will seek to develop a critical and solidaristic response of adult education to this situation, to grasp its complex roots and to deal with the long-term effects of this terrible war.

The ESREA presidium