

NUSCT renews its call for an immediate end to the Russian Armed Forces aggression in Ukraine

On occasion of the Network of Universities of Small Countries and Territories 4th Annual Meeting held at the University of Greenland, in Nuuk, Greenland, member universities' rectors unanimously agreed on the need to follow up on their 2 March 2022 Declaration condemning the Russian military aggression against Ukraine.

NUSCT Rectors expressed deep concern for the evolution of the armed invasion of Ukraine, for the mounting civilian and military casualties, for the destruction of cities and villages, for the accumulating evidence of Russian armed forces' criminal acts of war, for the expanding usurpation of Ukraine's territory, for the perpetration of programmatic and systematic efforts to efface national identity through destruction of Ukraine cultural heritage, in and beyond occupied territories, and for the vanishing prospects for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in accordance with international law.

Considering the above, the **Network of Universities of Small Countries and Territories (NUSCT)** - comprised of the University of Akureyri, the University of Andorra, the University of the Faroe Islands, the University of Gibraltar, the University of Greenland, the University of Liechtenstein, the University of Malta, the Mediterranean University of Montenegro, the University of Nicosia and the University of San Marino - renews its condemnation of the invasion of the Ukrainian territory and the breach of its sovereignty by the Russian armed forces, while calling on world leaders and international organisations to increase their efforts and commitment to achieve an immediate halt to this military aggression, and for the diplomatic and peaceful resolution of this and all conflicts world-wide, present and future.

Higher education institutions played an essential role during the post-WWII world order in promoting tolerance, dialogue and peaceful coexistence among adversary nations and ideological blocks. Higher education institutions, better equipped today than in the previous century to inform and assist nations in the pursuit of this most dignifying of human endeavours, that is creating and maintaining a peaceful, just, solidary and sustainable global community, should actively be engaged in achieving a permanently conflict-free world.

Nuuk, 3 May 2022

NUSCT (<u>www.nusct.net</u>) is a European network to enable universities in small countries and territories that share similar characteristics and contexts to establish collaborations, share strategies and best practices, and have a unified voice in international fora.

The following universities are members of NUSCT:

- Háskólinn á Akureyri (University of Akureyri)
- O <u>Universitat d'Andorra (University of Andorra)</u>
- o Fróðskaparsetur Føroya (University of the Faroe Islands)
- O University of Gibraltar
- Ilisimatusarfik (University of Greenland)
- O <u>Universität Liechtenstein (University of Liechtenstein)</u>
- O L-Università ta' Malta (University of Malta)
- O <u>Univerzitet Mediteran (Mediterranean University)</u>
- <u>Univerzitet Crne Gore (University of Montenegro)</u>
- Ο <u>Πανεπιστήμιο Λευκωσίασ (University of Nicosia)</u>
- O <u>Università degli Studi della Repubblica di San Marino (University of the Republic of San Marino)</u>