

TFK programme, funded projects 2024

Project title: Borderlands in uncertain times: local and regional perspectives under stress	
Coordinator Itä-Suomen yliopisto Paul Fryer, paul.fryer@uef.fi	The project is titled ""Borderlands in uncertain times: local and regional perspectives under stress"" (BLUnT). The project aims to provide students from the UEF and its partner the V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University (KGNU) with a current understanding of the new reality(ies) that has emerged and is being faced by residents of borderlands in Europe, including both Ukraine and Finland, since the beginning of the war in Ukraine. The Russian troop crossing of the Ukrainian-Russian border on 24 February 2022, the culmination of the Russo-Ukrainian conflict that began with the annexation of Crimea and proxy wars in the Donbas in 2014, dramatically changed Ukrainians' attitudes to their borders, which until that time had been seen by many as something inconvenient in the everyday lives of borderlanders. This change in attitudes was mirrored across the region as once relatively open borders to eastern neighbours began to close. The conflict has had a domino effect of consequences on many aspects of every country's borderland policies outside the conflict zone, including Finland's, as well as on the lives of those living closest to borders. These local and regional (national) perspectives on borders, including hard and soft (everyday) security in today's unstable environment, also will be addressed during this intensive course. By the end of this course, students will have insight and knowledge on a) contemporary border(land) theories; b) local and regional policies on border(lands) development; and c) the changing ways that the war has affected the definition and implementation of borderland security and peace on the European continent. Students will acquire skills to better contextualise the effects of borderland development and Europe's responses, within the framework of the continuation of everyday borderland life. These skills particularly are significant for the KGNU because they can be applied directly to support Ukraine's post-war reconstruction efforts. Besides the intensive course, the UEF will host PhD students and staff members from the KGNU for research, guest lecturing, and preparation of the intensive course. With these activities, the aim is to create a self-contained lecture course that KGNU staff may bring back to their institution in Kharkiv to train students on border questions in future, as well as to strengthen co-operation and networking between the two universities.
Partners V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University	



OPETUSHALLITUS
UTBILDNINGSSTYRELSEN

Finnish National Agency for Education EDUFI
Hakaniemenranta 6, P.B. 380, FI-00531 Helsinki
Puh. /Tel. +358 (0) 29 533 1000, Faksi /Fax +358 (0) 29 533 1035
www.oph.fi