

INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM

"KYIVAN RUS: COMMON HERITAGE"

Agreement on Creation and Cooperation

Initiator: Charitable Organization "Charitable Fund 'Culture.UA'"

Date: August 28, 2025

Note: This document is the Ukrainian version of the agreement, equivalent to the English version "Kyivan Rus: Common Heritage Consortium Agreement" dated August 28, 2025.

Executive Summary (Виконавче резюме)

The International Consortium "Kyivan Rus: Common Heritage", initiated by the Charitable Fund "Culture.UA" (Director: Ihor Anatoliiovych Boldin), is focused on researching, preserving, and popularizing the heritage of Kyivan Rus as an integral part of European civilization. The Consortium's mission is to decolonize historical narratives, integrate Ukraine into global academic and cultural networks through interdisciplinary research, digitization, education, and cultural diplomacy.

The project's uniqueness lies in its comprehensive approach, combining scientific research, the creation of a digital archive (3D models, manuscripts), educational programs (dual degrees, mobility), monument restoration, and international exhibitions. The Consortium unites leading Ukrainian universities, museums, and invited state partners, while remaining open to engaging international institutions.

Expected outcomes (over 36–48 months):

- ≥30 international scientific publications indexed in Scopus/WoS.
- A digital archive with ≥650 digitized objects, integrated with the Europeana platform.
- ≥130 participants in academic mobility programs.
- ≥7 monument restoration projects.
- International exhibitions in ≥20 countries.
- Engagement of ≥20 new international partners.
- Audience reach of ≥500,000 views through marketing campaigns.

Funding is secured through EU grants (**Horizon Europe, Creative Europe**), international funds (**Getty Foundation, British Academy**), state sources, and internal revenues. The Consortium will enhance the international status of Ukrainian institutions, strengthen Ukraine's global presence, and establish a sustainable platform for cooperation.

1. Initiator and Founding Partners

The initiator of the International Consortium "Kyivan Rus: Common Heritage" is the Charitable Fund "Culture.UA" (Director: Ihor Boldin), which has experience in implementing cultural and scientific projects aimed at promoting Ukrainian heritage and attracting international grants.

At this stage, the following key Ukrainian institutions have joined the Consortium, confirming their readiness to cooperate and willingness to join the **Governing Board**:

- **Lviv National University named after Ivan Franko** (Representative: Ruslan Bohdanovych Siromskyi, Dean of the Faculty of History).
- **National Architectural-Historical Reserve "Ancient Chernihiv"** (Representatives: Nataliia Borysivna Rebova, General Director; Olena Mykolaivna Zolotnytska, Research Associate).
- **Sumy State University** (Representatives: Alla Hryhorivna Yarova, Associate Professor of the Department of Journalism and Philology; Maryna Mykolaivna Nabok, Associate Professor).
- **Khmelnitskyi National University** (Representative: Larysa Anatoliivna Kornitska, Associate Professor).
- **Ternopil National Pedagogical University named after Volodymyr Hnatiuk** (Representative: Mariia Yosypivna Markovych, Head of Department, Associate Professor).
- **Volyn National University named after Lesia Ukrainka** (Representatives: Vitalii Fedorovych Okhmaniuk, Dean of the Faculty of Culture and Arts; Tetiana Anatoliivna Prokopovych, Head of the Department of Fine Arts).
- **Vinnitsia State Pedagogical University named after Mykhailo Kotsiubynsky** (Representative: Tetiana Petrivna Zuziak, Dean of the Faculty of Arts).
- **Sumy National Agrarian University** (Representative: Mykola Anatoliiovych Mykhailychenko, Associate Professor).
- **Rivne State Humanitarian University** (Representative: Olena Petrivna Vlasnyuk, Associate Professor, Head of Department).
- **Kamianets-Podilskyi National University named after Ivan Ohienko** (Representatives: Ivan Stanislavovych Pidhurnyi, Head of Department, Associate Professor; Illia Volodymyrovych Lashko, Assistant of the Department; Iryna Vasylyivna Paur, Associate Professor).
- **Kherson State University** (Representative: Nataliia Vitaliivna Tereshchenko, Acting Head of the Department of Culture and Arts).
- **Khmelnitskyi Regional Organization of the Union of Artists of Ukraine** (Representative: Nadiia Anatoliivna Boretska, Secretary for Exhibition Activities).
- **KZ KOR "Vyshhorod Historical and Cultural Reserve"** (Representative: Vlada Volodymyrivna Lytovchenko, Candidate of Historical Sciences, Director).

Strategic Partners Invited to Cooperate:

The Consortium plans to engage several key state institutions of Ukraine to provide advisory, resource, and strategic support. Among the potential partners invited to participate:

- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine** (for supporting cultural diplomacy).
- **Ministry of Culture and Strategic Communications of Ukraine** (for ensuring access to monuments).
- **Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine** (for coordinating educational programs).
- **Office of the President of Ukraine** (for strategic advocacy, if needed).
- **President's Fund of Ukraine for Support of Education, Science, and Sports** (for grant support, promoting educational and scientific initiatives, coordinating academic mobility programs, and supporting strategic projects to popularize Ukrainian heritage).
- **Charitable Fund "ART UA"** (for supporting cultural initiatives, attracting local funding, and fulfilling specific tasks within Consortium projects, including organizing events, marketing, and art residencies).
- **Kyiv City State Administration** (for facilitating project implementation and coordinating cultural and scientific events in Kyiv).
- **"Regional State Administrations / Regional Councils"** (for coordination at the regional level, particularly in regions with key Kyivan Rus monuments).
- **City Councils** (for local event support).

Engagement of these institutions will occur through official invitations and consultations during the project implementation phase. Their participation is envisioned as advisory or resource-based, without necessarily granting voting rights in the **Governing Board** unless additional agreements are concluded.

Currently, active engagement of new Ukrainian and international partners is underway. Ukrainian institutions may apply to join via a form on the Charitable Fund "**Culture.UA**" website or by contacting the Secretariat. Foreign institutions are invited to collaborate through official invitations and international conferences, such as "**International Voice of Academics**". The list of participants will be updated quarterly.

2. Mission

Establishing an international platform for researching, preserving, and popularizing the heritage of Kyivan Rus as an integral component of European civilization. The Consortium will contribute to decolonizing historical narratives through academically grounded comparative source analysis, integrating Ukraine into global academic and cultural networks, advancing education, science, and cultural diplomacy, and promoting Ukrainian identity through cultural projects.

3. Objectives

- Conducting scientific research on the history, culture, and art of Kyivan Rus.
- Creating a digital archive (3D models, manuscripts, interactive maps) for broad access.
- Developing joint education and mobility programs (dual degrees, summer schools, academic exchanges).
- Advancing cultural diplomacy (international exhibitions, art residencies, diplomatic presentations).
- Implementing conservation and restoration programs for monuments in partnership with international museums and funds.
- Establishing cooperation with foreign institutions to create joint products, including cultural, scientific, educational, and digital resources.

4. Uniqueness and Added Value

The Consortium positions Kyivan Rus as a European cultural phenomenon, directly countering imperial distortions. This is the first international project to comprehensively combine scientific work, digitization, education, conservation, and artistic diplomacy. Ukrainian partners will gain access to cutting-edge technologies and international grants, while international participants will access unique materials, enabling joint publications and opening new research directions.

5. Benefits for Participants

For international universities and institutions:

- Access to unique Ukrainian sources and expertise.
- Joint publications in leading global journals.
- Opportunities to submit joint grant applications for funding from **Horizon Europe**, **Creative Europe**, **ERC**, and other funds.
- Strengthening positions in Slavic studies, Byzantinistics, and medieval studies.

For Ukrainian universities and museums:

- Enhanced international status and rankings.
- Access to laboratories and advanced technologies, particularly for conservation.
- Opportunities to participate in joint grant projects, ensuring research funding.
- Academic mobility and experience exchange with leading global institutions.
- International promotion through exhibitions and media.

6. Main Areas of Cooperation (Work Packages)

WP1. Research and Publications Formation of interdisciplinary research teams to study the history, culture, and art of Kyivan Rus. Funding will be secured through **Horizon Europe (Marie Skłodowska-Curie)** grants and the American Council of Learned Societies (**ACLS**) to support mobility and joint publications.

WP2. Digital Heritage Creation of an interactive archive, 3D models of key monuments (e.g., Saint Sophia's Cathedral and the Golden Gate), and manuscript digitization. The project includes integration with the Europeana platform.

WP3. Education and Mobility Development of dual master's programs and PhD collaborations. Funding for student and faculty exchanges will be secured through **Erasmus+** and other grant programs.

WP4. Cultural Diplomacy Organization of international exhibitions, art residencies, and diplomatic presentations. Funding will come from **Creative Europe** grants and cultural funds of partner countries.

WP5. Conservation and Restoration Engagement of leading global experts for monument assessment and work. This area will be funded through targeted grants from **Getty Foundation** and other specialized funds, with mandatory preparation of joint grant applications.

WP6. Marketing and Communications Development and implementation of a promotion strategy for the Consortium targeting the academic community, the public, and international partners.

- Creation of an official Consortium website with an interactive digital archive, news, and project information.
- Active presence on social media (X, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn) to engage younger audiences and promote results.
- Collaboration with international media (scientific journals, cultural publications like **The Guardian Culture**, **BBC Culture**) to highlight Consortium activities.
- Organization of public events (lectures, webinars, presentations at international forums) to raise awareness about Kyivan Rus heritage.

Funding: **Creative Europe** grants, internal revenues from events, and sponsorship support.

7. Organizational Structure

The Consortium does not acquire legal entity status and operates based on this document and decisions of the **Governing Board**.

Governing Board (Керівна рада): Representatives of universities and strategic partners, including R.B. Siromskyi, N.B. Rebova, M.Y. Markovych, V.F. Okhmaniuk. Chair: Representative of the Charitable Fund "Culture.UA".

- Regular decisions (coordination, resources, new members): Adopted by a two-thirds majority.
- Key decisions (agreement amendments, term extension, withdrawal): Adopted unanimously.
- Decisions are formalized in protocols with the option for electronic signatures.
- Contract signing: All contracts on behalf of the Consortium, including grant agreements, are signed by the Charitable Fund "**Culture.UA**" as coordinator unless otherwise specified by the **Governing Board**. Participants may sign separate contracts within their authority with **Governing Board** approval.
- Intellectual Property: Rights to intellectual property created within the Consortium (e.g., digital products, publications, 3D models) are regulated by a separate agreement defining rights distribution, licensing, and usage. Participants retain rights to their own contributions to the project unless otherwise agreed.

Procedure for Joining New Participants: New participants (Ukrainian or international institutions) may join the Consortium as follows:

1. Submission of an official application via the form on the Charitable Fund "**Culture.UA**" website or by contacting the Secretariat.
2. Review of the application by the **Governing Board** at the next meeting. The decision to join is made by a two-thirds majority.
3. Signing of an additional accession agreement by the new participant, confirming acceptance of this document's terms.
4. Update of the participant list in the agreement annex and on the official Consortium website by the Secretariat.

New participants receive the rights and obligations outlined in the agreement, including the possibility of joining the **Governing Board** (subject to criteria set by the **Governing Board**).

Scientific Board (Наукова рада): Leading scholars in history, archaeology, and art history, including M.M. Nabok, I.V. Paur, L.A. Kornitska.

Secretariat: Coordination of projects, grants, and communications. Funding attraction through grants will be managed by the Charitable Fund "**Culture.UA**".

WP Leaders: Responsible for achieving specific results in their areas will be appointed during project implementation.

Strategic Partners (MFA, Ministry of Culture, MES, President's Fund, Kyiv City Administration, OPU, Regional Administrations, City Councils): Participate as observers without voting rights, providing advisory and resource support. Their representatives may be invited to **Governing Board** meetings as needed.

8. Implementation Period

The Consortium is established for 36 months with the possibility of extension to 48 months, effective from the signing date of this document. Implementation plan:

- **Preparatory (0–4 months):** Formation of boards, launch of initial pilot projects, preparation of grant applications.

- **Main (5–24 months):** Implementation of research and educational programs, conducting exhibitions, conservation work.
- **Final (25–36 months):** Publications, result evaluation, development of a sustainability plan.
- **Extension (37–48 months, subject to Governing Board decision):** Scaling, additional research, restorations, and partner network expansion, contingent on grant funding approval.

9. Funding

The financial model is based on diversified sources, coordinated by the Charitable Fund "Culture.UA":

- EU Grants: **Horizon Europe, Creative Europe, ERC**—targeted grants for research and cultural events.
- International Funds: **Getty Foundation, British Academy**—grants for conservation and scientific research.
- State Sources: MFA, Ministry of Culture, MES, President's Fund of Ukraine for Support of Education, Science, and Sports, Regional Administrations, City Councils—as strategic partners contributing funding through targeted grants and programs.
- Internal Revenues: Income from auctions, exhibitions, licensing of digital products.
- Personnel Costs: Compensation for **Governing Board, Scientific Board**, Secretariat, and WP leaders will be covered by grant budgets (including administrative costs), state sources, or internal revenues, as stipulated by funding terms.

10. KPIs (Key Performance Indicators)

- **Quantitative Indicators:**
 - ≥30 international scientific publications.
 - ≥3 international conferences with participation from 15+ countries.
 - ≥130 students and faculty in mobility programs.
 - ≥650 digitized objects in the open archive.
 - ≥7 restoration projects.
 - International exhibitions in ≥20 countries.
 - Engagement of ≥20 new international partners (universities, museums, funds).
- **Qualitative Indicators:**
 - Achievement of a citation level for Consortium publications in international databases (Scopus, Web of Science) of ≥10 citations per article within 4 years.
 - Indexing of at least one Consortium academic journal in Scopus or Web of Science.
 - Audience reach of ≥500,000 views through marketing campaigns (website, social media, media).
 - Positive feedback from ≥80% of mobility program participants (based on anonymous surveys).

11. Risks and Mitigation

- Security Risks: Data duplication on cloud servers, creation of backup sites in EU countries.
- Financial Risks: Multi-source funding and a 10% budget reserve fund.
- Academic Risks: Double-blind review of publications, engagement of international experts.

12. Sustainability

Post-initial cycle, the project will continue through:

- An open digital archive of Kyivan Rus heritage.
- An international academic journal.
- Permanent exchange programs.
- A network of universities, museums, and institutions.
- Preparation for association registration.

13. Final Provisions

- **Withdrawal:** Each participant may withdraw with 3 months' notice, forfeiting rights to intellectual property created within the Consortium.
- **Amendments:** Made in writing, with the consent of all participants.
- **Governance:** The document is governed by Ukrainian law. Disputes are resolved through negotiations.
- **Intellectual Property:** Jointly created products (digital archives, publications, 3D models, etc.) belong to Consortium participants proportional to their contributions unless otherwise specified in a separate agreement. Digital products intended for public access (e.g., on the Europeana platform) are licensed under open standards (**Creative Commons** or similar) unless the **Governing Board** decides otherwise. Disputes regarding intellectual property are resolved through negotiations or per Ukrainian law.
- **Language and Copies:** The document is drafted in Ukrainian for Ukrainian participants and in English for foreign institutions as two equivalent versions. Both versions are official and used concurrently. The document is signed in multiple copies—one for each participant, considering the relevant language version.

14. Contact Details of Participants

Charitable Fund "Culture.UA" Location: Ukraine, 49000, Dnipro, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, Budivelniv St., 23, Office 312 Tax ID: 45105257 Phone: +38 (056) 798 40 69

Lviv National University named after Ivan Franko Location: Ukraine, 79000, Lviv, Universytetska St., 1 Tax ID: 02070631 Phone: +38 (032) 239 41 00

National Architectural-Historical Reserve "Ancient Chernihiv" Location: Ukraine, 14000, Chernihiv Oblast, Chernihiv, Preobrazhenska St., 1 Tax ID: 02498151 Phone: +38 (0462) 645 964

Sumy State University Location: Ukraine, 40007, Sumy Oblast, Sumy, Kharkivska St., 116 Tax ID: 05408289 Phone: +38 (0542) 687-774

Khmelnyskyi National University Location: Ukraine, 29016, Khmelnytskyi Oblast, Khmelnytskyi, Instytut'ska St., 11 Tax ID: 02071234 Phone: +38 (0382) 67-02-76

Ternopil National Pedagogical University named after Volodymyr Hnatiuk Location: Ukraine, 46027, Ternopil Oblast, Ternopil, M. Kryvonosa St., 2 Tax ID: 02125544 Phone: +38 (0352) 43-58-80

Volyn National University named after Lesia Ukrainka Location: Ukraine, 43025, Volyn Oblast, Lutsk, Voli Ave., 13 Tax ID: 02125102 Phone: +38 (0332) 71-30-89

Vinnitsia State Pedagogical University named after Mykhailo Kotsiubynsky Location: Ukraine, 21100, Vinnitsia Oblast, Vinnitsia, Ostrozkyi St., 32 Tax ID: 02125094 Phone: +38 (0432) 61-66-20

Sumy National Agrarian University Location: Ukraine, 40021, Sumy Oblast, Sumy, H. Kondratieva St., 160 Tax ID: 04718013 Phone: +38 (0542) 62-78-17

Rivne State Humanitarian University Location: Ukraine, 33028, Rivne Oblast, Rivne, Stepan Bandera St., 12 Tax ID: 25736989 Phone: +38 (0362) 26-48-69

Kamianets-Podilskyi National University named after Ivan Ohienko Location: Ukraine, 32300, Khmelnytskyi Oblast, Kamianets-Podilskyi, Ohienko St., 61 Tax ID: 02125616 Phone: +38 (03849) 3-05-13

Kherson State University Location: Ukraine, 73000, Kherson Oblast, Kherson, Universytetska St., 27 Tax ID: 02125609 Phone: +38 (0552) 32-67-06

Khmelnytskyi Regional Organization of the Union of Artists of Ukraine Location: Ukraine, 29013, Khmelnytskyi Oblast, Khmelnytskyi, Kamianetska St., 48 Tax ID: 02940374 Phone: +38 (0382) 72-03-14

KZ KOR "Vyshhorod Historical and Cultural Reserve" Location: Ukraine, 07300, Kyiv Oblast, Vyshhorod, Shkilna St., 58 Tax ID: 22208149 Phone: +38 (04596) 5-45-56

15. Signatures of Participants

Note: Signing this document confirms agreement with its content, equivalent to the English version "Kyivan Rus: Common Heritage Consortium Agreement" dated August 28, 2025.

[Signature Field: Institution Name, Representative's Full Name, Date, Signature]