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## **Cherkas Global University's Academic Projects: Eastern European Scientific Information Agency (2018–2023)**

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### **Abstract**

This paper is dedicated to the fifth anniversary of the Eastern European Scientific Information Agency (EESIA) – a functional unit within the private research organization Cherkas Global University. It provides insight into the mechanics of the Agency's operation and the nature and structure of information materials offered to readers through it.

EESIA's primary mission is to inform members of the academic-pedagogical community of new research findings in the study of various aspects of the history of Central-Eastern Europe.

The main source base for this work is open-access academic journals' electronic resources that contain the findings of research studies covering the topic in question that are published on EESIA's website.

The prospects for the Agency's further development are pretty sound – this can be substantiated by statistics on the popularity of materials published on the website, which continues to grow.

**Keywords:** Eastern European Scientific Information Agency, Cherkas Global University, scientific information, education, education policy, education reform, female employment, gender segregation, democracy, armed conflict, civil conflict

### **1. Introduction**

In October 2023, the Eastern European Scientific Information Agency (EESIA) celebrated a milestone birthday, turning 5. Since its foundation in 2018, the Agency has been headed by Doctor of Historical Sciences Sergey Degtyarev, who is a member of the staff of Cherkas Global University (Washington, DC, USA) and is a professor at Sumy State University (Sumy, Ukraine). EESIA is a

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functional unit within Cherkas Global University (whose President is Aleksandr Cherkasov) functioning as part of the Department of Scientific Information.

The Agency's primary objective is to familiarize members of the academic-pedagogical community and anyone interested in the subject with the latest developments in research on the history of Central-Eastern Europe.

## 2. Materials and methods

The principal sources drawn on during the writing of this paper were the following electronic resources:

- Cherkas Global University's website (<https://cherkasgu.net/>);
- Eastern European Scientific Information Agency's website (<https://eesiag.com/>);
- websites of a number of academic journals that serve as a platform for covering the latest developments in research on the history of Central-Eastern Europe.

Of particular mention is the collection of documents released in 2022 – it serves as a sort of documentary chronicle of Cherkas Global University's 30-years' work ([Cherkas Global University..., 2022](#)). The publication also contains materials covering different units within the university, including EESIA.

Methodologically, use was made of the retrospective, problem-historical, and statistical methods. The use of these methods helped gain insight into the origins and mechanics of the operation of EESIA as a functional unit within Cherkas Global University, establish the thematic focus of information materials offered by it, and analyze quantitative figures in the work of the Agency.

## 3. Discussion

EESIA is the direct outcome of the development of Cherkas Global University as a research institution. While the thematic domain of informing the academic community is confined with EESIA to Central-Eastern Europe, the primary objectives for the work of the Agency and Cherkas Global University are absolutely correlated. Above all, these are extensive popularization of historical science and promotion of short- and long-term collaboration among historians and pedagogues for the purpose of producing new objective and relevant historical knowledge.

In conjunction with the above, the paper's historiographical basis is the research by Cherkas Global University staff and other researchers. Above all, these are the summarizing articles about Cherkas Global University itself ([Tarakanov, Ponomareva, 2019](#); [Taran, 2021](#)), its international activity ([Cherkasova, 2023b](#)), and its functional units, such as Cherkas Global University Press and the P.A. Cherkasov Fundamental Electronic Library ([Cherkasova, 2022](#); [Cherkasova, 2023a](#)). Some of the information used in this study was derived from the article devoted to the academic and pedagogical work of the head of Cherkas Global University, Doctor of Historical Sciences Professor Aleksandr Cherkasov ([Tarakanov, Ludwig, 2019](#)).

## 4. Results

From April to the beginning of October 2018, EESIA operated in test mode. In that period, a mere 19 information materials appeared on the website. In October of the same year, the Agency began to work in active mode, informing its audience of an average of 10–15 research findings by scholars around the world monthly (Table 1). By the end of October 2023, the total number of such materials was nearly 900.

**Table 1.** Dynamics of the Uploading of Information Materials to EESIA's Website (2018–2023)

| Year | Number of information materials |
|------|---------------------------------|
| 2018 | 61                              |
| 2019 | 174                             |
| 2020 | 187                             |
| 2021 | 170                             |
| 2022 | 146                             |
| 2023 | 129 <sup>1</sup>                |

<sup>1</sup> Data as at the end of October 2023

Information materials for EESIA are searched for on the websites of open-access academic journals. While some of these publications are little-known across the wider international academic community, they are fairly good sources to tap for original research (e.g., *City History, Culture, Society, Czech-Polish Historic and Pedagogical Journal, Sumy Historical and Archival Journal, and Res Gestae. Historical Journal*).

Over the period it has been in operation, the Agency has had 77 academic journals (as at the end of October 2023) serve as sources for filling its resource base. The geographical affiliation of these journals is fairly diverse. Most are published in Europe (e.g., Croatia, Ukraine, Czechia, Poland, Slovakia, Russia, Belarus, Moldova, Romania, and Serbia), with some produced in Turkey and the US as well. The intensity of the use of content from these journals varies too. [Table 2](#) displays the numbers of information materials derived from them.

**Table 2.** Quantitative Figures for EESIA as at the End of October 2023

|    | Source name   | Number of information materials derived |
|----|---|---|
| 1  | <i>Anali Zavoda za Povijesne Znanosti Hrvatske Akademije Znanosti i Umjetnosti u Dubrovniku</i> | 7                                       |
| 2  | <i>Ancient Sumy Land</i>  | 38                                      |
| 3  | <i>Annales. Series Historia et Sociologia</i>   | 2                                       |
| 4  | <i>Annales Universitatis Paedagogicae Cracoviensis. Studia Politologica</i>                     | 4                                       |
| 5  | <i>Antiquities of Lukomorie</i>   | 26                                      |
| 6  | <i>Anthropological Measurements of Philosophical Research</i>                                   | 4                                       |
| 7  | <i>Arkhivy Ukrayiny</i>   | 15                                      |
| 8  | <i>Arts</i>   | 13                                      |
| 9  | <i>Brukenthal. Acta Musei</i>   | 5                                       |
| 10 | <i>Bylye Gody</i>   | 80                                      |
| 11 | <i>Central European History</i>   | 7                                       |
| 12 | <i>Central European Papers</i>  | 6                                       |
| 13 | <i>City History, Culture, Society</i>   | 21                                      |
| 14 | <i>Consensus</i>  | 2                                       |
| 15 | <i>Contemporary European History</i>  | 6                                       |
| 16 | <i>Crusader</i>   | 3                                       |
| 17 | <i>Culture and Arts in the Modern World</i>   | 4                                       |
| 18 | <i>Czasopismo Prawno-Historyczne</i>  | 8                                       |
| 19 | <i>Czech-Polish Historic and Pedagogical Journal</i>  | 23                                      |
| 20 | <i>East European History</i>  | 7                                       |
| 21 | <i>East European Historical Bulletin</i>  | 24                                      |
| 22 | <i>Eminak</i>   | 34                                      |
| 23 | <i>Ethnography. Practices, Theories, Experiences</i>  | 3                                       |
| 24 | <i>European Historical Studies</i>  | 14                                      |
| 25 | <i>European Journal of Contemporary Education</i>   | 19                                      |
| 26 | <i>European Researcher</i>  | 1                                       |
| 27 | <i>Gardarika</i>  | 7                                       |
| 28 | <i>Historical and Political Researches</i>  | 13                                      |
| 29 | <i>History and Historians in the Context of the Time</i>  | 4                                       |
| 30 | <i>History Notebooks</i>  | 10                                      |
| 31 | <i>History of Science and Technology</i>  | 14                                      |
| 32 | <i>History Pages</i>  | 8                                       |
| 33 | <i>History Studies. International Journal of History</i>  | 16                                      |
| 34 | <i>Ideology and Politics</i>  | 5                                       |
| 35 | <i>Intermarum: Istoriya, Polityka, Kul'tura</i>   | 19                                      |
| 36 | <i>International Journal of Slavic Studies</i>  | 1                                       |
| 37 | <i>Journal of Ancient History and Archeology</i>  | 21                                      |
| 38 | <i>Journal of the Belarusian State University. History</i>                                      | 7                                       |

|    |   |    |
|----|---|----|
| 39 | <i>Journal of Humanities, Culture and Social Sciences</i>   | 1  |
| 40 | <i>Journal of International Network Center for Fundamental and Applied Research</i>   | 6  |
| 41 | <i>Journal of the Institute of Croatian History</i>   | 1  |
| 42 | <i>Judaica Ukrainica</i>  | 4  |
| 43 | <i>Kwartalnik Historyczny</i>   | 9  |
| 44 | <i>Kyiv-Mohyla Humanities Journal</i>   | 21 |
| 45 | <i>Manuscript and Book Heritage of Ukraine</i>  | 4  |
| 46 | <i>Media Education (Mediaobrazovanie)</i>   | 3  |
| 47 | <i>NaUKMA Research Papers</i>   | 3  |
| 48 | <i>Propaganda in the World and Local Conflicts</i>  | 10 |
| 49 | <i>Res Gestae. Historical Journal</i>   | 9  |
| 50 | <i>Revista Arheologică</i>  | 10 |
| 51 | <i>Romanian Journal of History and International Studies</i>  | 10 |
| 52 | <i>Rusin</i>  | 8  |
| 53 | <i>Russkii Arkhiv</i>   | 6  |
| 54 | <i>Russkaya Starina</i>   | 5  |
| 55 | <i>Scholarly Works of the Faculty of History, Zaporizhzhia National University</i>  | 12 |
| 56 | <i>Scientific and Theoretical Almanac Grani</i>   | 18 |
| 57 | <i>Scientific Bulletin of the Nikolaev National University named after V.O. Sukhomlinsky. Historical Sciences</i>   | 3  |
| 58 | <i>Slavery: Theory and Practice</i>   | 8  |
| 59 | <i>Slověne. International Journal of Slavic Studies</i>   | 14 |
| 60 | <i>Social Evolution &amp; History</i>   | 1  |
| 61 | <i>Stratum Plus</i>   | 4  |
| 62 | <i>Striy</i>  | 8  |
| 63 | <i>Sumy Historical and Archival Journal</i>   | 58 |
| 64 | <i>Terra Sebus. Acta Musei Sabesiensis</i>  | 12 |
| 65 | <i>The Research Papers of Kamianets-Podilskyi National Ivan Ohienko University: Historical Studies</i>  | 2  |
| 66 | <i>Tomsk State University Journal of History</i>  | 8  |
| 67 | <i>Transylvanian Review</i>   | 1  |
| 68 | <i>Ukrainian Historical Journal</i>   | 16 |
| 69 | <i>Ukrainian Historical Review</i>  | 2  |
| 70 | <i>Ukrainian Peasant</i>  | 18 |
| 71 | <i>Vestnik of Saint Petersburg University. History</i>  | 3  |
| 72 | <i>Vestnik Volgogradskogo Gosudarstvennogo Universiteta. Serija 4, Istorija. Regionovedenie. Mezhdunarodnye Otnoshenija [Science Journal of Volgograd State University. History. Area Studies. International Relations]</i> | 27 |
| 73 | <i>V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University Bulletin 'History of Ukraine. Ukrainian Studies: Historical and Philosophical Sciences</i>  | 9  |
| 74 | <i>Voprosy Istorii</i>  | 1  |
| 75 | <i>Zaporizhzhia Historical Review</i>   | 8  |
| 76 | <i>Zhurnal Ministerstva Narodnogo Prosveshcheniya</i>   | 2  |
| 77 | <i>Zograf</i>   | 10 |

Owing to EESIA, many researchers and members of the wider public have had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the latest works that explore the history of Central-Eastern Europe spanning from early times to the present day.

The criteria for selecting information materials for publication on the website are as follows:

- originality of the research idea;
- novelty of the research idea;
- social significance of the research idea.

The popularity of EESIA's resource base is attested by the fact that more than 510 materials (59 %) therein have between 1,000 and nearly 8,000 views. The most popular article currently is "Dead Men Attack" (Osovets, 1915): Archive Sources Approach', published in *European Researcher* in 2011 (Cherkasov et al., 2011). The number of such materials and their popularity continue to grow.

Let us take a look at what an information material posted on EESIA's website looks like (Figure 1). First there is the material's headline. Normally, it is the same as the name of the article. The page then displays the following: 1) name of the resource (academic journal) that carries the full version of the material; 2) thematic illustration; 3) abstract to the material; 4) full bibliographical description of the material; 5) link to the online resource that contains the full-text version of the article.



The screenshot shows the EESIA website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo 'Eastern european Scientific Information Agency' and links for 'HOME', 'NEWS', and 'HISTORY'. Below the navigation bar, the breadcrumb trail reads 'Main page » »History »'. The date '04 June 2020' is displayed. The main heading is 'IT ALL STARTED IN 1989: BREAK-UP OF YUGOSLAVIA AND KOSOVO'S STRUGGLE FOR NATIONHOOD' in bold black text. Below the heading, the category 'Ideology and Politics' is shown. The central image is a map of Yugoslavia with the flags of its constituent republics and Kosovo overlaid. Below the image, there is a short abstract of the article. At the bottom of the page, there are links for 'Previous' and 'Next' articles, and the 'Number of views' is listed as 2277.

**Fig. 1.** What a published item looks like on EESIA's website

To make search as convenient as possible for users, EESIA is equipped with a catalogue of keywords and phrases. Arranged in alphabetic order in the 'Topics' section, these help users conduct effective search for materials as per their queries.

Naturally, a great deal of attention is paid to research findings by Cherkas Global University staff, whose academic interests are fairly broad and diverse, inter alia encompassing various aspects of the history of Central-Eastern Europe. Furthermore, sources for filling EESIA's resource base include academic journals produced by Cherkas Global University Press. Above all, these are *Bylye Gody*, *European Journal of Contemporary Education*, *Media Education (Mediaobrazovanie)*, *Gardarika*, *Propaganda in the World and Local Conflicts*, *Slavery: Theory and Practice*, and *History and Historians in the Context of the Time*.

Let us now take a look at some of the thematic areas to which materials offered by the Agency to members of the academic-pedagogical community and all those interested in the history of Central-Eastern Europe are devoted.

The focus of a significant portion of such information materials is on the history of public education. This includes the research focused on the development of university, secondary, and primary education in Austria-Hungary (Degtyarev et al., 2018), in different regions across the Russian Empire (Cherkasov et al., 2021; Lebid, 2022a; Lebid, 2022b; Lebid, Degtyarev, 2023; Voytsekhivs'ka, Paliyenko, 2019), and in other countries (Degtyarev et al., 2019a; Degtyarev et al., 2020; Jędrychowska, 2020; Štěpánek, 2019; Gulczyńska, 2019).

A whole raft of information materials are devoted to the history of the development of various state institutions (Degtyarev et al., 2019b), the bureaucratic apparatus (Bezdrabko, 2019; Degtyarev, 2016; Degtyarev, Polyakova, 2019; Shevchuk, 2020; Degtyarev et al., 2022), and the foreign policies and diplomatic relations of various countries (Degtyarev, Zavorodnia, 2018; Sabanchiev et al., 2017; Papa, 2018; Zavorodnia, Naumov, 2020).

Modern-day society is regularly faced with issues relating to human rights violations, with issues of special concern including infringements on people's liberty and human trafficking. The origins of these issues go back many centuries. There are many historians who have devoted a significant amount of attention to the history of slavery, analyzing the causes and effects of this phenomenon. EESIA, in turn, recognizes the high social significance of such research and strives to ensure as much promotion for it within the academic community as possible and stimulate more research in this area (Cherkasov et al., 2018a; Cherkasov, 2020; Sarfo, 2020; Mamadaliev, 2016; Odrin, 2019; Peretyatko, 2018; Peretyatko, 2020; Peretyatko, 2021; Šmigel', 2020; Stepanenko, 2019; Vozgrin, 2018).

Of no less importance to modern science is research investigating the causes behind conflicts between countries, peoples, and particular social groups. The participants in such conflicts often seek to achieve their goals by means of propaganda, imposing on people ideas that are consistent with the agenda promoted by them. This mechanism has been around for a long time. Research into propaganda conducted for political purposes has lately become a fairly popular field in historical science. The findings from such research will definitely be useful in tackling issues of peace and security, which are among the major concerns for the world community today. Therefore, EESIA has paid particular attention to covering this in the academic periodical press (Crețu, 2017; Czarniecka, 2019; Garazha, 2018; Kutsyk, 2017; Lebid, 2020; Mosienko, 2018; Pylypenko, 2019; Romanko, 2019).

In addition, information materials offered by the Agency cover the findings of research studies in other thematic areas as well (e.g., military history, biographical studies, modern archaeological research, history of human settlements, history of social phenomena (e.g., longevity, alcohol abuse, and prostitution), art history, ethnography, archaeography, and history of science and technology).

## **5. Conclusion**

Since its foundation in 2018, the Eastern European Scientific Information Agency has conducted a large amount of work informing members of the academic-pedagogical community of the latest research findings in the study of various aspects of the history of Central-Eastern Europe. The prospects for the further development of this activity are pretty sound, as it is a fairly broad and multi-aspect subject that is being researched currently by many scholars around the world. Certain aspects of the history of said region are socially significant and concern issues of peace and security, quality education, gender relations, and so on. In addition, the Agency is a platform for popularizing research findings by Cherkas Global University staff. The range of open-access academic publications that are a source of information materials for EESIA is set to expand in the future. This will enable anybody willing to do so to have even greater access to the latest research findings and utilize them in their own research and pedagogical or public work.

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