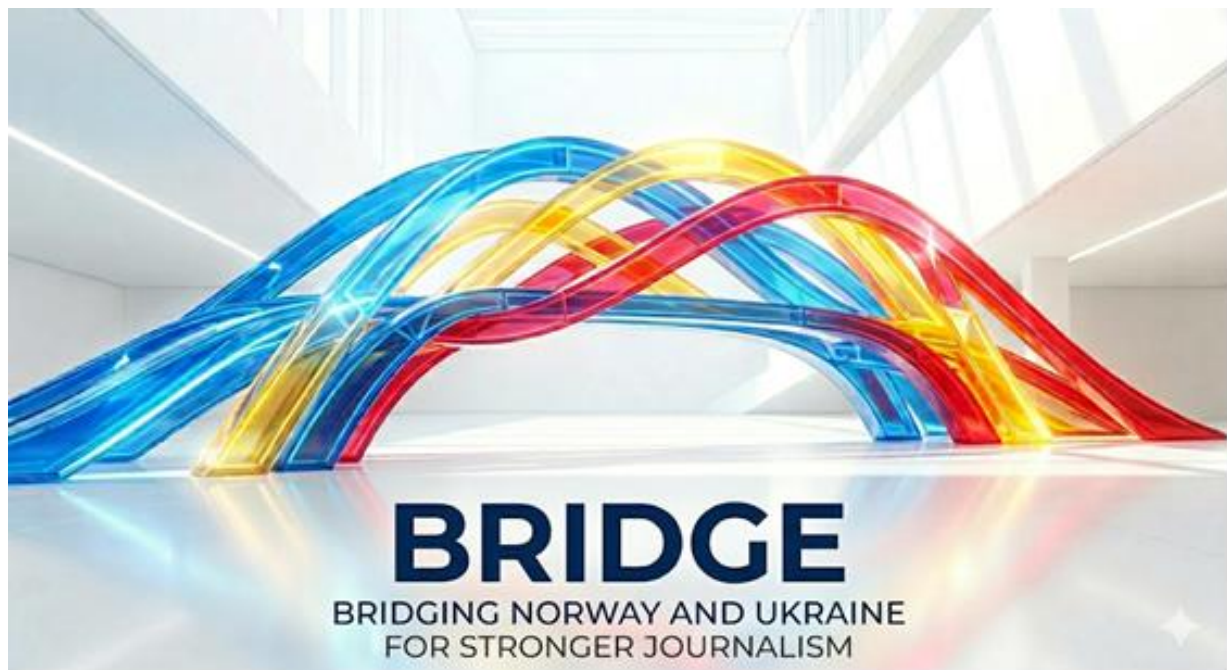




Assoc Prof Franz Krüger, who will lead the project on behalf of NLA, said: “We are very pleased that the ministry saw the value of our proposal and look forward to working with our Ukrainian colleagues who are facing such difficult conditions. We are also grateful for EJTA’s support, which will enable us to draw on the wisdom of colleagues across Europe.”

The Bridge-Ukraine proposal was one of 16 approved under the Norwegian directorate of higher education’s Nansen-EDU call, representing 22% of the total of 76 applications received.

According to a government statement, the support is aimed at supporting skills needs in Ukraine, and thereby the country’s resistance to the Russian war of aggression and ultimate reconstruction of the country.

The higher education minister, Sigrun Aasland, was quoted in a media statement as saying that Ukraine’s universities have shown impressive ability to maintain operations under very difficult conditions. The funding initiative will contribute to strengthen the competence needed for the long-term reconstruction of the country, she said.

The partner institutions include Mariupol State University, forced to move completely to Kyiv due to the destruction and occupation of its city, another on the frontline, Sumy State University, two institutions in Kyiv, the Kyiv Metropolitan University and Taras Shevchenko National University, and one in the far west of the country, Uzhhorod State University.

The project application highlighted the disruption the war has caused both to the media and to universities. Physical disruption has forced much teaching to adopt remote modes, creating difficulties for practical skills development, while Russian disinformation is a constant threat. At the same time, the trend towards digital media has affected Ukrainian media as much as the rest of the world.