

OLEKSANDR KHYZHNIAK



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Unit	student- & onderwijszaken (international office)
Position	Project Manager International Cooperation Projects

KEY QUALIFICATIONS/ FIELD OF EXPERTISE

- Project management
- Grant proposal development
- Higher education management
- Lecturing, training and Facilitation
- Intercultural communication and international relations
- Diversity and inclusivity (focus on culture of dialogue, trust)
- Qualitative and quantitative methods in Sociology
- Collective actions and mass protests movements
- Digital society and AI relations

SUMMARY OF WORK EXPERIENCE

Dr. Oleksandr Khyzhniak has broad experience in international collaboration, management project education, and research. He prefers to use interdisciplinary approaches and is open to international relations that grounds on his two MA degrees in Sociology and International Economics at Karazin University (Ukraine). During his academic research career, he did his internships in 2009 at Warszawa University (Poland) for the PhD devoted to tolerance issues and at Ariel University (Israel) in 2016-2017 for the post-doc project devoted to collective actions and its determination.

During his work experience, he combined educational, research, and management activities. In 2010 he started lecturing at Applied Sociology and Social Communication Department and since 2017 at International Relations, International Information and Security Department till 2022. As an Associate professor (since 2015) he dealt with: syllabuses, lectures, practical classes and workshops development; giving lectures, and conducting practical classes and workshops. He taught a number of courses based on his research, capacity building, and management experience among which could be

mentioned “Quality of Empirical Research”, “Sociology: Basics of Theory”, “Sociology of International Relations”, “Digital Education: Sociological Perspective”, “PR-Technologies in International Relations”, “Sociology of Management” etc. As a researcher, he deals with theoretical and practically oriented projects, obtaining positions of Vice-Head of the Sociological Research Team at “Regional Policy Institution”(Kharkiv, 2008-2011), Director for Research and Development at “Ukrainian Expert League” (2018-2022) and academic activity as an Associate Professor at Karazin University. The focus of interest: social and economic analysis in the field of innovation; theory and history of sociology; tolerance and culture of dialogue; collective social action; migration; collective memory; media literacy; artificial intelligence. He also obtained practical experience in management and implementation of empirical sociological surveys (both quantitative and qualitative methods). Managers, leadership, and intercultural skills he could fully implement become the Head of the newly emerged and co-designed by him International Relations Office at Karazin University (2018-2022) that focused on providing international mobility, projects (grants) implementation, and establishing international relations.

In 2024 he graduated “University Teaching Qualification” (BKO) and was awarded by the certificate from VU Amsterdam.

He is a member of the European Sociological Association since 2009 (RN10 - Sociology of Education; RN35 - Sociology of Migration) and since 2023 - Nederlandse Sociologische Vereniging (NSV).

Working all over the world Oleksandr accomplished Basic Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT) Course by CSD - Centre for Safety and Development, Netherlands in 2024

As a project manager at CIS-VU, now he focuses on the implementation of international projects in Global South countries and developing new fields and opportunities in Central Asia and European Eastern Neighbourhood countries.

PROJECTS

Multinational and international projects

- **Aurora 2030. [AURORA University Alliance](#). Co-leader of Task 7.3 “Implementation of Capacity Development Programme in CEE” and Task 7.4 “Creation of Karazin University Peace Education HUB”**
2024-2027
- **[AI FORA \(artificial intelligence for assessment\). Member of Advisory Board and Case of Ukraine](#)** 2022-2024

ACP Region (Kenya, Ethiopia and South Africa)

- **[Creating Postgraduate Collaborations \(CPC\)](#)**
2020-2023
- **ODA 2.0. Oromia Dispute Alternatives: Enhancing & disseminating Customary Court principles and practices in Oromia and beyond (Ethiopia)**
2023-2024

Jordan

- **Qualitative Research Methodologies: Learning by Doing**
2023-2024

Central Asia

- Erasmus+KA171 mobility grant with Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (Kazakhstan)
2023-2026(27)

Ukraine

- Erasmus+KA171 mobility grant (12 HEIs)
2023-2026(27)
- [Multiplication Trainings for Higher Education Administrators in Ukraine project \(THEA Ukraine X Cohort 2 and Cohort 3\)](#) as tandem trainer.
2023, 2024

The Netherlands

- Coordinator of VU Amsterdam Programme for Academic Freedom/Scholars at Risk
2022-ongoing

TEACHING

Guest lecture on “**The Russian War against Ukraine: Cases of Annexations**” via *The Law and Politics of Fencing the Use of Force* by prof. dr. Wolfgang Wagner (VU Amsterdam)

Guest lecture on “**Ukrainian Society during Russia’s War on Ukraine: the Digital Dimension**” in *Honours in International Development course* by Dr. Henk van den Heuvel and Dr. Denyse Snelder (VU Amsterdam).

Guest lecture on “**Mass Mobilization in War Times: Challenges and Scenarios for Ukrainian Society**” via *Politics from Below: Protests and Social Movements course* by Dr. Teodora Gaidyte (Universiteit Leiden)

Guest professor at the course “**Analytics in Public Sphere**” lead by prof. Svitlana Bezchotnikova, Mariupol State University (displaced to Kyiv, Ukraine)

PUBLICATIONS

View Oleksandr Khyzhniak 's publications at [VU Research Portal](#).