

**Supporting Material for Discussion of Response to Ukraine Conflict  
at the System Dynamics Society Policy Council March 30, 2022 Meeting**

1. Email from March 12, 2022 to office@systemdynamics.org with [letter](#) signed by 300 Ukrainian scientists:

Dear organizers of the 2022 INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM DYNAMICS CONFERENCE,

We, Ukrainian scientists, teachers, students, and researchers, appeal to you today to support Ukraine in its fight against the aggression of the Russian Federation.

The whole world is watching the course of the war in Ukraine now. However, it is not enough to just watch! In just ten days of a full-scale invasion, 1.3 million Ukrainians were forced to leave their homeland. The death toll is calculated in thousands for civilians and in hundreds for children. Russian troops are bombarding our cities, hospitals, universities, schools and kindergartens. The invaders leave dozens of people without water, electricity and food.

The shelling of Babyn Yar, a Holocaust memorial in Ukraine, has proven that the Russian authorities have no historical memory. Attempts of strafing Mariupol during the evacuation of civilians have proven that the Russian authorities have no sympathy. And the recent attack on the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant has once again proven that the Russian authorities have no principles.

Today, the international community stands together with Ukraine because they understand that this war is a fight between freedom and slavery, a challenge for all of the European values. The contribution of every country and every organization in the fight against Russian terror is significant. And you can help us, too!

While Russian scientists are taking part in international conferences around the world, Russian soldiers are committing terrorist acts in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Mariupol, Kherson, Mykolaiv, and other Ukrainian cities, small towns and villages! Due to this fact, we ask you to stop the participation of Russian scientists in your projects and conferences. Any cooperation with the Russian Federation today is tantamount to the tolerance of crimes against humanity and international law, as in just the past two weeks Russia has grossly violated the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, the Paris Charter, the Budapest Memorandum, the International Bill of Human Rights and the Geneva Conventions.

You can help us, Ukrainians, in our struggle. You can bring the victory of the entire civilized world closer. You can remind that every nation is responsible for the actions of its authorities. Making this step, you can save thousands of lives because the academic community and the intellectual elite — the "conscience of the nation" — can be heard in modern authoritarian Russia! We ask you to do this in order to make Russian scientists speak out clearly and unanimously against the war as soon as possible.

Every day of confusion costs human lives. Stop any cooperation with the Russians now! Help the world regain peace!

Yours faithfully,

Ukrainian scientists.

(To see the number of collected signatures, follow the link [online](#))

2. SDS Russian chapter website <http://simulation.su/en.html> (part of National Society for Simulation Modeling) features latest news (March 13, 2022) about an upcoming conference on military simulation:

The second All-Russian scientific and practical conference "Simulation of military systems, actions of troops and processes for their support" (IMSVN-2022) will be held in St. Petersburg on October 20, 2022.

Organizers and founders of the conference:

- Military Academy of Logistics named after General of the Army A.V. Khruleva, St. Petersburg;
- Non-commercial partnership "National Society for Simulation Modeling" (NP "NOIM"), St. Petersburg;
- JSC "Center for Technology of Shipbuilding and Ship Repair" (JSC "TSTSS"), St. Petersburg;
- St. Petersburg Institute of Informatics and Automation of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

The scientific program of the conference includes the following thematic areas:

- the use of simulation and complex modeling for decision-making on command and control of troops and weapons, including in conjunction with artificial intelligence technologies;
- the use of simulation and integrated modeling at various stages of the life cycle of weapons systems, military and special equipment;
- theoretical foundations and methodology for simulation and complex modeling of troop actions and processes for their comprehensive support;
- tools for automation of simulation and complex modeling of objects and processes in the military sphere;
- the use of simulation and complex modeling in the training of military specialists.

3. Letter from David Wheat to progchair@systemdynamics.org, March 11, 2022:

Dear Program Committee:

As you will recall, shortly before the opening of the 2014 SD Conference in Delft, a commercial airliner flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur was destroyed by a Russian-built missile fired by putin-backed separatists in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine. During the opening plenary session, we observed some minutes of silence out of respect for the 300 lives lost, but a cloud of sorrow hung over the rest of that conference. This year we will meet at a time of devastating and horrifying putin-waged war on the entire nation of Ukraine. I hope this time we can do more than stand in respectful silence.

Perhaps you are already discussing how to show support for the Ukrainian people during the first plenary session. I have a suggestion: give some Ukrainians a chance to speak. And, specifically, I'm talking about those who — ten years ago — began collaborating with the System Dynamics Group at the University of Bergen for the purpose of developing dynamic modeling capacity at two national universities in Kyiv and Lviv. Since 2012, more than

125 students and young professors have spent a semester in Bergen learning SD and hundreds more studied SD at their home universities. And five new SD courses have been developed and are now self-sustaining. Even today, eight Ukrainian students are studying in Bergen and, until the war closed the Ukrainian universities two weeks ago, more than 60 Ukrainian students were beginning their SD education in Kyiv and Lviv. The Norwegian Foreign Ministry has funded our project, which is summarized in the attached document used for a briefing of Norway's Ambassador to Ukraine this past September.

Beginning with the 2013 conference in Cambridge, there has been yearly attendance and participation by our Ukrainian colleagues. The attached photo taken at the last pre-pandemic conference (Albuquerque 2019) provides a glimpse of the Ukrainian involvement. And almost all of them presented papers at the conferences they attended. And two helped me conduct modeling workshops at the past three conferences. But they are more than colleagues — they are dear friends with a deep dedication to their homeland and hopeful dreams for the Ukraine of tomorrow.

We don't know what the situation will be in July, in Ukraine or even in Frankfurt. If our Ukrainian colleagues are unable to attend in person this year, we should arrange for a live zoom session with a few of them during the opening plenary session. I would be pleased to introduce them.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Slava Ukraini,  
David

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[Praktika LLC: Useful Models](#)

4. Letter from Andreas Lindqvist to SDS Office, March 6, 2022:

Dear Rebecca and Fernando,

As you are well aware, we are right now experiencing the largest geopolitical and humanitarian crisis in Europe since WW2.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine, planned and ordered by president Putin, has caused the death of thousands of both civilians and armed forces. At the time of writing, the UN estimates that 1.5 million refugees have fled the war in Ukraine and the figure is growing day by day. Most of the refugees have fled via Poland and then on to other destinations. In southern Sweden where I am located, the first refugees arrived a couple of days ago.

I am not sure how many members the society has in Ukraine, how they are doing, and if they are among them who have had to leave the country.

If you know about Ukrainian society members searching refuge in Sweden please inform them that they are free to contact me if they need help or support. In light of the tragedy they are experiencing whatever I can do to help is not much, but hopefully it is worth something. I urge all other members of the society to do the same thing.

All the best,

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#### 5. Information about the Ukraine conflict

- <https://ukraine-helpers.com/>
- <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/appeal-for-ukraine/>
- <https://www.google.org/ukraine-relief/>
- <https://www.wpi.edu/news/announcements/our-ukranian-connections>