



DSPU's 85th commemoration.
Message to the Rector, Staff, Students and Alumni
and to Leaders of the Drohobych Community.

Writing a message for a university's 85th anniversary is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on its rich history and draw inspiration for the future. 85 years ago, a vision took root, a foundation was laid, and a journey of learning began in Drohobych. On Thursday, October 30, 2025, we would have liked to stand together, a testament to that enduring legacy, to celebrate 85 remarkable years of the Drohobych State Pedagogical University of Ivan Franko, to acknowledge its impact, to honor and express gratitude to the founders, past and present teachers and staff who contributed and to inspire continued excellence.

The role of Higher Education Institutions is to provide students with the education that enables them to think for themselves, not to tell them what to think. Drohobych State Pedagogical University always viewed education as a gateway to adulthood and a life filled with ideas and debates crucial to students' role as citizens in a prosperous, just, democratic and free society. Ivan Franko's excellence has always been its success in doing exactly this. Over the past 85 years, staff and teachers have shared this mission with the students they served and those students have made it their own through their drive and desire for truth, envisioning a world not as it is today, but as it one day might be.

Upholding the legacy of the Drohobych State Pedagogical University will depend on preserving and adhering to the principles of academic freedom and the liberty of opinion and expression, while celebrating individuality and the diversity of thinking, the lifeblood of Higher Education. In this polarized world, we need more people who help others live with the biggest, most profound questions that humanity must continually ask itself, if we are to meet the challenges we face and if life is to be more than seizing opportunities. Everyone must now work even harder to find spaces to explore the widest possible range of viewpoints, insights and lived experiences that can only happen in a free world and in joint consultation about fairness, objectivity, polarization racism and sexism. Ivan Franko is and must robustly be one of those spaces.

As we look back with immense pride and gratitude, let us also look forward with unwavering hope and determination. May the spirit of the Drohobych State Pedagogical University of Ivan Franko continue to shine brightly for another 85 years and beyond.
Happy birthday!

On behalf of NGO Oradea,
Dr. med. Patrick Bellinck, president,
Doctor Honoris Causa of Drohobych State Pedagogical University of Ivan Franko.

Lier, Belgium, October 30, 2025.