

## Statement of the EXCOM: Cancellation of the EBEN Annual Conference in St. Petersburg, Russia

Due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Executive committee of EBEN (EXCOM) has decided to cancel the EBEN Annual Conference 2022, which was going to take place in St. Petersburg, Russia. As European and International association of business ethics with chapters in most European countries, we cannot have an international conference in Russia on ethics, responsibility, and sustainability when the country has started an illegal invasion and a bloody war. Our thoughts are with our colleagues from the Ukrainian chapter and their families, who pay a heavy toll that nobody should bear. We offer our unconditional support to them.

We have made this decision in consultation with many Russian academic colleagues who agree with us in this assessment. We also support our many Russian colleagues, who, as ethical and responsible researchers and businesspeople, are against the invasion and are committed to peace, ethics and social responsibility in Europe. We will continue to work with them on ethical issues in close contact.

EBEN works for fair business and public administration with trust and recognition based on respect for autonomy, dignity, and integrity with responsibility and solidarity for vulnerable human beings. We hope that this statement will help Russian ethics researchers and teachers to develop their independent scientific position. They can put pressure on the Russian government to stop this attack war against international law and totally the opposite of European ethical principles.

The Russian use of military force and the occupation of a sovereign European country are contrary to a fundamental respect for fundamental European values of democracy, human rights and freedom. It reminds us of the dark European history of fascism, Nazism and dictatorship. As researchers and business employees with a focus on business ethics, it is the fundamental responsibility of all European business ethicists to work for peace, justice and mutual respect between nations. We support peaceful conflict mediation and reconciliation as essential for the future of Europe. Therefore, the cancellation of the conference is an expression of our fundamental ethical responsibility to denounce the Russian invasion and war.

Yours sincerely

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