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Ukrainian Values in a Global World

Українські цінності у глобальному світі

Conference Stories and Resolutions

Історії та резолюції конференції

First International Conference · February 7 to 9, 2025

Hosted by Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, Canada, and online

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DROKACADEMY · Kamloops, British Columbia · 2026

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United by Knowledge, Strengthened by Solidarity: A Reflection on Three Days of Learning, Sharing, and Standing with Ukraine in our Hearts

Introduction: A Conference That Became a Movement

Over three extraordinary days, scholars, activists, and professionals from across the world came together for the Educating for Tomorrow: Ukrainian Values in a Global World conference. This was not just an academic gathering, it was a testament to resilience, a celebration of knowledge, and an affirmation of solidarity in the face of war and uncertainty.

From the opening ceremony's heartfelt prayers to the final moments of shared reflection, the conference was a journey, one that traversed disciplines, time zones, and personal experiences. More than 100 participants registered on Zoom, each bringing their expertise, curiosity, and commitment to standing with Ukraine. As we listened to 16 hours of profound discussions, we found ourselves not just absorbing knowledge but actively shaping history.

This conference became a powerful space where voices from Ukraine, some speaking while missiles flew outside their windows, some reconnecting after momentary internet blackouts, reminded us of the stark realities of war. Despite these challenges, their determination to share research, collaborate on solutions, and envision a better future was unwavering. The resilience of Ukrainian scholars, educators, and professionals turned every presentation into more than just research, it became an act of defiance, hope, and commitment to rebuilding.

Through the lenses of education, technology, civil society, culture, and governance, we tackled some of the most pressing challenges of our time: How can education serve as a tool for national resilience? How do we navigate the ethical and practical challenges of artificial intelligence? How do we ensure the integration of displaced Ukrainians while preserving identity? And most importantly, how do we sustain global solidarity in an ever-changing world?

As the conference drew to a close, two words resonated deeply with everyone: war and caring. We acknowledged the stark contrast between the destruction unfolding in Ukraine and the incredible compassion that has united people across continents to fight for justice, democracy, and knowledge.

The closing ceremony, marked by a minute of silence for the heroes of Ukraine, was not an end but a beginning. A beginning of new collaborations, research partnerships, and continued global advocacy with Ukraine in our hearts. As Dr. Oleksandr Kondrashov's special presentation on Canada's research collaboration opportunities highlighted, the momentum built during these three days will continue, through Mitacs, SSHRC grants, academic partnerships, and countless future initiatives.

As we look forward to the next conference, one thing is certain: this was more than a conference, it was a movement. A movement of people who listen, worry, celebrate, and act together. The knowledge shared over these three days will soon be published, ensuring that our collective efforts reach even wider audiences. Certificates of participation will be issued, but the greatest takeaway will remain the connections we forged, the stories we heard, and the commitment we reaffirmed.

To each speaker, participant, organizer, and supporter, thank you. Дякуємо (Diakuiemo, thank you). Merci.

This is just the beginning. Together, we will keep standing with Ukraine in our hearts

Day 1 Opening Ceremony: A Profound Beginning of Educating for Tomorrow

As we reflect on the remarkable opening of the "Educating for Tomorrow: Ukrainian Values in a Global World" conference, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for the dedication, commitment, and extraordinary efforts that transformed this event into an unforgettable experience. From the very first moment of the opening ceremony, every individual played a significant role in ensuring that our collective mission, preserving and promoting Ukrainian values within a global context, was carried forward with strength and unity.

Our conference began in a deeply meaningful way, with a territorial acknowledgment that reminded us of the importance of land, heritage, and respect. We extend our deepest gratitude to Elder Gwendy Campbell-McArthur, whose heartfelt opening prayer set the tone for our gathering, grounding us in a spirit of goodwill, respect, and connection. Her words resonated with all of us, reminding us of the power of tradition and the responsibility we hold in fostering a space of learning, inclusivity, and reconciliation.

We were honored to receive a warm welcome from Member of Parliament Frank Caputo, who delivered an in-person message on behalf of the Government of Canada. MP Caputo’s steadfast support for Ukraine, both in words and actions, has been an inspiring force, highlighting Canada’s unwavering commitment to standing with Ukraine in these pivotal times. His dedication to keeping Ukraine at

the forefront of Canadian policy and advocacy speaks volumes about the strength of international solidarity. We are beyond grateful for his presence and his continuous work in ensuring that Ukraine remains a global priority.

A special moment was shared when Father Andrzej Wasylinko led a spiritual prayer for Ukraine, allowing us to connect not only with our own faith and values but also with each other. His prayer brought forth a moment of unity and reflection, reinforcing the importance of spiritual resilience in the face of global challenges. His words filled us with hope and a deep sense of purpose as we embarked on this journey together.

The heart of the conference lay in the powerful words shared by our organizing committee members, each representing different universities and institutions from across the globe. Their welcome addresses highlighted the unique perspectives and collective commitment that brought this event to life. Not everyone could attend the opening ceremony in person and share welcome words, but everyone contributed to the conference's success. Here is the complete list of organizing committee members:

- Inna Belova, PhD in Economics, Associate Professor, Head of the Department of Social Welfare at Cherkasy State Technological University.
- Juliana West, PhD, Associate Professor, Social Work Department, Thompson Rivers University.
- Kateryna Kasyanets, student of the Faculty of Ukrainian and Foreign Philology and Journalism at Kherson State University.
- Larysa Nozdrina, PhD in Economics, Associate Professor of the Department of Information Systems in Management, Faculty of Economics, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv.

- Natalia Bykovets, PhD, Associate Professor, Head of the Department of Transport Sector Management, Danube Institute of National University “Odesa Maritime Academy”.
- Nataliia Dobroyer, PhD in Art History, Associate Professor of the Department of Cultural Studies and Philosophy of Culture, Odessa Polytechnic National University.
- Oleksandr Kondrashov, PhD, Associate Professor, Social Work Department, Thompson Rivers University.
- Pavlo Teslenko, PhD, Head of the Department of Artificial Intelligence and Data Analysis, Odessa Polytechnic National University.
- Svitlana Arkhipova, Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences, Professor at the Department of Social Security, Cherkasy State Technological University.
- Tania Hryhorska, Responsible for educational projects at the Coordination Center of the Congress of Ukrainians in Italy.
- Tetyana Pomazan, Teacher at Calgary Board of Education.
- Vira Baryshnikova, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Economics and Finance, Odesa National Maritime University.
- Zoryana Galadzhun, Associate Professor, Head of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Lviv Polytechnic National University.

Their personal stories and institutional commitment contributed to the beautiful tapestry of knowledge, collaboration, and ambition. The personal stories shared were not just formal greetings; they were testaments to the resilience of the Ukrainian academic community, the dedication to education, and the belief in a future where knowledge transcends borders.

Another vital pillar of our success was the Abstract Review Committee, consisting of distinguished scholars:

- Juliana West, PhD, Associate Professor, Social Work Department, Thompson Rivers University.

- Natalia Bykovets, PhD, Associate Professor, Head of the Department of Transport Sector Management, Danube Institute of National University “Odessa Maritime Academy”.
- Oleksandr Kondrashov, PhD, Associate Professor, Social Work Department, Thompson Rivers University.
- Vira Baryshnikova, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Economics and Finance, Odesa National Maritime University.

Their tireless work in reviewing, refining, and curating the abstracts submitted by researchers from around the world ensured that this conference truly embodied academic excellence and innovation. The sheer dedication in meticulously going through each submission speaks to the integrity and passion that drive this conference forward. To every researcher who submitted their work, your contributions are invaluable, and we are grateful for your role in shaping the future of education.

One of the most moving moments of the day was when we had the chance to embark on a global journey, listening to voices from Georgia and Lithuania. Their stories not only broadened our understanding of global challenges but also reinforced the deep interconnectedness of our struggles, hopes, and aspirations. Nino Shatberashvili from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and Ihor Lameko, a student at Vilnius University, shared their perspectives on the evolving landscape of global education, Ukrainian diaspora efforts, and cross-border collaborations. Their stories emphasized the shared challenges and opportunities that arise in fostering international academic unity and cultural exchange.

As we move forward into the next days of this conference, we encourage each of you to continue sharing your stories. Each experience, insight, and perspective contributes to a collective dialogue that strengthens our mission and fortifies the bonds between our communities.

To everyone who made this first day such an extraordinary success, organizers, speakers, presenters, attendees, and supporters, thank you. Your contributions, both seen and unseen, are what make this event possible. This is just the beginning, and with such an inspiring start, we look forward to the transformative discussions and connections that await in the coming days.

Day 1 Session 1: Honoring the Past, Building Bridges, and Standing with Ukraine

As we gathered on Friday, February 7th, following the powerful opening ceremony that set the tone for this important event, the first four presentations reminded us of the profound responsibility we carry. In an era of war, displacement, and global challenges, we must stand together, remember our history, and work toward a future grounded in Ukrainian values of resilience, solidarity, and justice.

Remembering and Supporting Our Veterans

The first presentation, “Partnership Interaction of Social Institutions in Support of Veterans and Their Family Members in the Conditions of War in Ukraine” by Professor Valentyna Kostina and Yur’yeva I.S., called upon us to never forget those who have sacrificed for Ukraine’s sovereignty. As war continues, the challenges faced by veterans and their families grow, and the need for a strong support network, bridging state and non-state organizations, becomes ever more urgent. This presentation underscored the importance of treating our defenders not only as heroes but as people who need comprehensive, dignified care to rebuild their lives. Educating for Tomorrow means ensuring future generations carry forward this commitment to veteran welfare and national resilience.

British Columbia's Solidarity with Ukraine

From Ukraine, we turned our attention to the global response, specifically, how British Columbia has mobilized to stand with Ukraine. Oleksandr Kondrashov and Juliana West's presentation, "BC Stands with Ukraine: A Community-Driven Model of Global Solidarity", brought forth deeply moving stories of how individuals and communities in Canada have united in action. From organizing fundraisers to cultural celebrations and refugee support programs, their initiative has shown that distance does not weaken solidarity, rather, it strengthens it when guided by shared values of justice and humanity.

One of the most inspiring elements of this presentation was the discussion of their ongoing book project, which preserves the narratives of global Ukrainians and allies who refuse to be bystanders in history. Their work is a living testament to the power of community-driven advocacy, embodying the very essence of Educating for Tomorrow, creating a global network of support that ensures Ukrainian identity and values remain strong in a globalized world.

Reconciliation: A Path Forward for Ukrainian-Polish Relations

As we explored global solidarity, we also turned inward to reflect on historical reconciliation and the delicate, yet essential, process of healing historical wounds. Oleksandr Dobroier's presentation, "Activities of the 'Reconciliation in Europe' Group in the Context of Polish-Ukrainian Relations", reminded us that war is not only fought with weapons, it is fought through dialogue, education, and the courage to confront the past.

The 'Reconciliation in Europe' Group is a beacon of hope in fostering Polish-Ukrainian relations, engaging religious institutions, social organizations, and educators to build trust and mutual understanding. The parallels between past

and present conflicts were striking: reconciliation is not an abstract ideal, it is an urgent necessity in strengthening a peaceful, united, and resilient Ukraine. This work is crucial for future generations, ensuring that Ukrainian values of truth, dialogue, and cooperation remain at the heart of our shared history.

Kamloops: 154 Saturdays of Unwavering Support

We ended the first day with a deeply emotional presentation that brought us back to the power of community activism. Juliana West and Oleksandr Kondrashov's second presentation, "Kamloops Stands with Ukraine: 154 Saturdays of Standing in Solidarity", was a story of dedication, perseverance, and unwavering support.

Dr. West shared a powerful speech about the Kamloops stands with Ukraine. What began as a single act of solidarity, standing in front of Kamloops City Hall, became a movement. For 154 Saturdays, a committed group of individuals, Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian alike, have gathered to keep Ukraine in the public consciousness, remind the world of the sacrifices made, and call for action. In a time where people feel powerless in the face of war, this movement proves that every action, no matter how small, contributes to a greater cause.

This is the essence of Educating for Tomorrow, teaching the next generation that change does not come from waiting. It comes from standing up, showing up, and never giving up.

A Call to Action for Every Conference Participant

The first day of the conference has set a powerful precedent:

- We must support our veterans and their families with real, sustainable efforts.
- We must engage globally, ensuring that the Ukrainian cause remains visible and that solidarity transcends borders.

- We must learn from history, using education and dialogue to prevent past conflicts from defining the future.
- We must show up, stand together, and refuse to be silent, for as long as Ukraine needs us.

The work shared today is not just research, activism, or policy, it is a call to action. Every participant in this conference carries the responsibility to continue the conversation, implement these lessons, and inspire the next generation to defend and uphold Ukrainian values in our interconnected world.

The fight for Ukraine is the fight for justice, democracy, and humanity. Today, we were reminded that the work is far from over, but together, we are stronger.

Let us move forward with courage, unity, and purpose.

Day 2 Session 1: Navigating the Future: AI, Inclusion, and Educational Innovation

The morning session of February 8th focused on key challenges and opportunities in shaping the future through technology, culture, and education. With insightful presentations from leading Ukrainian scholars, the discussion ranged from artificial intelligence's role in education to the revival of cultural traditions in inclusive settings and the vision for University 4.0.

AI in Education: A Transformational Tool

The session opened with Ігор Бубнов (Ihor Bubnov) from Odesa I.I. Mechnikov National University, who delivered a compelling presentation titled: "РОЛЬ ТЕХНОЛОГІЙ ШТУЧНОГО ІНТЕЛЕКТУ У ФОРМУВАННІ КОМУНІКАЦІЙНИХ КОМПЕТЕНТНОСТЕЙ В ОСВІТНЬОМУ ПРОЦЕСІ" (The Role of AI Technologies in the Formation of Communication Competencies in the Educational Process). Bubnov explored how AI-powered tools can enhance

communication skills among students and educators. He highlighted the five key applications of AI in education, including personalized learning environments, automated assessments, and AI-driven support systems for educators. However, he also cautioned against over-reliance on AI, emphasizing the need to balance technology with human-centered learning to preserve emotional intelligence and critical thinking.

Cultural Heritage Meets Inclusion

Originally scheduled for later in the day, Тетяна Подкупко (Tetyana Podkupko) from Odesa National Medical University stepped in as the second speaker, presenting her work: "УКРАЇНСЬКІ ВЕЧОРНИЦІ: ВІДРОДЖЕННЯ ТРАДИЦІЙ У ФОРМАТІ ІНКЛЮЗІЇ" (Ukrainian Vecherntsi: Reviving Traditions Through Inclusion). Her study focused on how Ukrainian cultural traditions, particularly vechornytsi (traditional evening gatherings), have been reimagined as inclusive events for young people with disabilities. She detailed how students and youth with special needs engaged in these gatherings both in-person and virtually, fostering social integration and cultural preservation. Through storytelling, music, and interactive activities, the event demonstrated how inclusive practices strengthen empathy and community ties. Importantly, she underscored the role of modern technology in bridging geographical and social divides, making culture accessible to all.

Rethinking Higher Education for the Future

The final presentation was delivered by Наталія Внукова (Nataliya Vnukova), a distinguished professor from Kharkiv National University of Economics, who captivated the audience with her visionary discussion on University 4.0 and its implications for education and national recovery. Her talk, based on her research

"ОСОБЛИВОСТІ ІНТЕГРАЦІЇ СВІТОВИХ ОСВІТНІХ ЕКОСИСТЕМ 4.0 У ЕКОНОМІКО-ПРАВОВИЙ ПРОСТІР ІНДУСТРІЇ 4.0" (The Integration of Global Educational Ecosystems 4.0 into the Economic-Legal Space of Industry 4.0), provided a comparative analysis of how Ukraine can integrate the principles of digital transformation seen in Germany's Industry 4.0. She emphasized that Ukraine must move beyond traditional university models to a more dynamic, technology-driven system that aligns academia with industry needs. The discussion raised crucial questions about digitalization, AI in research, and the necessity of interdisciplinary collaboration to rebuild Ukraine's economy post-war.

A Special Thank You: Reflections on Ukraine's Educational Strategy

A special mention was given to Мокій Анатолій (Anatoliy Mokiy), who contributed to the discussion on Ukraine's national educational strategy and its alignment with Ukrainian values. His thought-provoking questions challenged participants to reflect on the intersection of education, identity, and national resilience, urging them to capture and preserve local culture for future generations. His words resonated deeply, reinforcing the importance of education as a pillar of Ukraine's future.

Key Takeaways

1. Artificial Intelligence as a Catalyst for Learning, AI is revolutionizing education, but ethical and pedagogical considerations must guide its use.

2. Inclusion Through Culture, Ukrainian traditions can be a powerful tool for social integration, creating meaningful connections for people of all abilities.

3. University 4.0 and the Future of Education, Higher education must adapt to the demands of a digital world, ensuring Ukraine's position as an innovator on the global stage.

This session left participants inspired and challenged to think critically about how technology, culture, and education will shape the future of Ukraine and the world. The morning's discussions set a strong foundation for further exploration of innovation, resilience, and identity in the face of contemporary challenges.

Day 2 Session 2: Preparing for the Future: Education, Innovation, and Governance

As the second session of the morning unfolded, we explored the challenges and opportunities shaping Ukraine's future across education, governance, environmental sustainability, and global academic collaboration. Each presentation highlighted a critical issue, offering insights into how innovation, research, and international cooperation can help rebuild and strengthen Ukraine in the face of war and economic uncertainty.

Bridging Technology and Education: Robotics for the Next Generation

The session opened with a discussion on the power of robotics in shaping the future of education. In their presentation, Serhii Batarchuk (LDML First Nation, Canada) and Viktoriia Batarchuk (Lakehead University, Canada) introduced "Ukrainian-Canadian Partnership in Developing Dynamic Skills in Student Robotics."

Their initiative, URobotiX, is designed to equip students with hands-on experience in robotics, fostering problem-solving, analytical thinking, and teamwork. More than a technical program, URobotiX serves as a bridge between school students, university mentors, and experienced educators, offering a model

for international collaboration in STEM education. In addition to engaging youth in innovation, the program provides a valuable platform for immigrant educators to apply their skills in Canada, addressing barriers related to accreditation and certification. Their work underscores the importance of hands-on, collaborative learning environments in preparing students for the rapidly evolving technological landscape.

Academic Solidarity with Ukraine: A Global Network of Scholars

As we face an era of global instability, academic solidarity plays a crucial role in supporting democratic values and rebuilding societies. In their joint presentation, Juliana West (Thompson Rivers University, Canada) and Sofiia Shmyhovska (Thompson Rivers University, Canada) outlined their work in "Academics Standing with Ukraine: Mapping Critical Cross-Border Collaborations Supporting Democratic Solidarity."

This project seeks to establish a global StandwithUkraine academic network, connecting scholars, researchers, and activists who are committed to supporting Ukraine's democratic sovereignty. By tracking international academic collaborations, the initiative aims to build a research-driven strategy for post-war recovery, focusing on geopolitical, social, and economic challenges. Their work highlights the power of knowledge-sharing and research-based advocacy in shaping policies that strengthen Ukraine's position in the global academic and political landscape.

Economic Realities: The Pension Crisis Amid War and Demographic Decline

Ukraine's ongoing war has accelerated economic instability, and one of the hardest-hit sectors is the pension system. In her presentation, Nelia Nagaichuk (Cherkasy State Technological University, Ukraine) explored "Pension Welfare of

Ukrainians Against the Background of the Demographic Crisis and Military Realities."

She painted a stark picture of Ukraine's pension system, which is struggling under the weight of an aging population, shrinking workforce, and a state debt that has reached 90% of GDP. High unemployment and the widespread practice of under-the-table salary payments have further destabilized pension funding. She stressed the need for non-state pension solutions and financial literacy programs to encourage citizens to take responsibility for their financial security. The presentation reinforced the urgency of reforming Ukraine's pension model to ensure economic stability and protect the most vulnerable citizens.

Environmental Education and Sustainability for a Post-War Ukraine

As Ukraine looks toward post-war reconstruction, the country faces another existential challenge, environmental devastation. Natalia Bykovets and Ulyana Gylka (Danube Institute of National University "Odesa Maritime Academy", Ukraine) addressed these issues in their presentation, "Competency-Based Approach to the Formation of Effective Environmental Education."

The war has severely damaged Ukraine's natural ecosystems, accelerating deforestation, pollution, and destruction of biodiversity. Their research emphasized the need for environmental education to be integrated into professional training, particularly in the maritime and transportation sectors. Future specialists must be equipped with the skills to assess environmental risks, implement sustainable practices, and align with international climate policies. Their presentation made clear that Ukraine's economic recovery cannot happen without a strong environmental strategy, and that education will play a key role in ensuring sustainable progress.

Fighting Corruption Through Education

No discussion on the future of Ukraine would be complete without addressing corruption, a long-standing challenge that weakens public trust and democratic institutions. In her presentation, Yuliya Yurchenko (National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine, Ukraine) introduced “Implementation of Anti-Corruption Training Modules into the Ukrainian Educational Space”.

Her research focused on integrating UNODC-developed anti-corruption training modules into higher education curricula, ensuring that students understand not only the mechanics of corruption but also the ethical foundations of governance. The modules are structured into three levels:

- Introductory Level, Understanding corruption’s causes and consequences.
- Analytical Level, Assessing corruption’s impact on governance and the economy.
- Legal Level, Exploring anti-corruption laws, enforcement mechanisms, and international strategies.

She stressed that education is one of the most powerful tools in the fight against corruption, helping to instill a culture of integrity and accountability in Ukraine’s next generation of leaders.

Higher Education in a Globalized World

In an era of international mobility and digital transformation, the nature of higher education is changing rapidly. Vira Baryshnikova (Odesa National Maritime University, Ukraine) explored these shifts in her presentation, “Higher Education in the Global World”.

She highlighted key trends, including the expansion of online learning, the rise of international degree programs, and the increasing need for global recognition of

qualifications. While globalization has created opportunities for collaboration and access to international knowledge, it has also raised concerns about the commercialization of education, brain drain, and the erosion of national academic traditions. Baryshnikova called for a balanced approach to higher education policy, ensuring that Ukrainian universities can integrate into the global system without losing their academic identity and national character.

Training the Next Generation of Mariners

Closing the session, Olha Demchenko (Danube Institute of the Odesa Maritime Academy, Ukraine) discussed “Formation of Future Mariners' Soft Skills in the Process of Teaching Maritime English via Intensive Methods.”

With Ukraine’s maritime industry playing a critical role in global trade and security, the need for well-trained professionals is more urgent than ever. Her research emphasized the integration of soft skills training, such as leadership, teamwork, and communication, into maritime education. Special attention was given to intensive English-language training, ensuring that mariners are equipped with the communication skills necessary to navigate international waters and work effectively in multinational crews. The presentation underscored the importance of holistic education, combining technical expertise with interpersonal skills to prepare future professionals for success in a highly demanding field.

Key Lessons from the Session

- Technology and Innovation, Robotics and STEM programs like URobotiX offer a pathway for students to develop critical skills, strengthening both Ukraine’s education system and global competitiveness.

- International Academic Networks, Collaboration with global scholars and institutions is key to Ukraine's post-war reconstruction and strengthening democratic values.
- Economic Reform, The pension crisis must be addressed through non-state solutions and financial education, ensuring long-term stability.
- Environmental Recovery, Sustainability must be embedded in education and policy, particularly in industries like maritime transport that directly impact ecological health.
- Anti-Corruption Education, A structured, multi-level approach to integrity training can help combat corruption at its roots, reinforcing a culture of accountability.
- Higher Education Strategy, Globalization presents both opportunities and risks; Ukrainian universities must find ways to integrate without losing national identity.
- Maritime Workforce Development, Training future mariners requires a combination of technical, linguistic, and interpersonal skills, ensuring they can compete on the global stage.

This session reinforced the importance of education in shaping Ukraine's future, highlighting strategic areas for investment and collaboration. As the conference continues, these discussions will serve as a foundation for future research, policy development, and global partnerships.

Day 2 Session 3: Ukrainian Identity and Civil Society: Challenges and Transformations

The third session of the day focused on two critical themes: Ukrainian Identity in the Context of Globalization and Civil Society Development. The presentations explored the resilience of Ukrainian education, culture, and civic institutions amidst war and migration, highlighting both challenges and opportunities in preserving identity and fostering collaboration.

Medical Education During Martial Law: Trends and Challenges

The session began with Oleksandr Pyvovarov (Kharkiv National Medical University, Ukraine), who presented "Зацікавленість медичною освітою під час воєнного стану" (Interest in Medical Education During Martial Law).

Pyvovarov analyzed the rising demand for medical education in Ukraine, using Google Trends data to track search activity over the past five years. The findings revealed a significant surge in interest at the onset of martial law, particularly in 2022, when demand peaked during university admissions. While interest has since declined slightly, it remains substantially higher than pre-war levels.

A regional analysis showed that western Ukraine demonstrated the highest levels of interest, reflecting shifting migration patterns and the need for healthcare professionals. Pyvovarov emphasized the role of digital transformation in medical education, as online learning platforms have become essential in training future doctors during wartime. His presentation underscored the need for sustained investment in medical training to address Ukraine's growing healthcare challenges.

Cross-Sectoral Collaboration in Creative Industries

The next presentation shifted the focus to culture and the arts as a means of fostering cooperation. Tetiana Ovcharenko (Odesa Polytechnic National University, Ukraine) delivered "Моделі кроссекторальної та міждисциплінарної співпраці у сфері культури та креативних індустрій" (Models of Cross-Sectoral and Interdisciplinary Cooperation in Culture and Creative Industries).

Ovcharenko examined how collaboration between the arts, education, and civil society organizations can generate new cultural initiatives. Using the example of

the "Art Tourism" project by the Union of Marine Artists of Odesa, she illustrated how partnerships between museums, libraries, NGOs, and artists have led to innovative exhibitions, community workshops, and international art exchanges.

Her research highlighted the importance of cross-sectoral engagement in sustaining cultural initiatives during periods of crisis. She stressed that interdisciplinary partnerships can serve as models for rebuilding Ukraine's cultural landscape, ensuring that creative industries remain a key driver of national identity and economic development.

Ukrainian Studies in Germany: Growth and Globalization

As migration continues to reshape Europe, the role of Ukrainian studies abroad has gained unprecedented significance. Nataliia Kondratenko (Odesa I.I. Mechnikov National University, Ukraine) presented her research "Українознавчі студії в Німеччині: історія і тенденції розвитку" (Ukrainian Studies in Germany: History and Development Trends).

She traced the evolution of Ukrainian studies in Germany, from early Slavic philology programs to the establishment of dedicated Ukrainian language and cultural centers. Historically, Ukrainian linguistic and cultural studies were marginalized within broader Slavic studies, often overshadowed by Russian-language programs. However, the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 prompted a surge in interest in Ukrainian culture and language, leading to:

- The expansion of Ukrainian language programs at universities such as Freie Universität Berlin, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, and Viadrina University.
- The launch of interdisciplinary research initiatives, focusing on Ukrainian history, literature, and post-colonial studies.

- A shift in academic partnerships, with German institutions increasingly collaborating directly with Ukrainian scholars, rather than through Russianspeaking intermediaries.

Kondratenko's research revealed how war has accelerated the decolonization of Ukrainian studies in Europe, ensuring that Ukraine's academic presence is no longer viewed through a Russian lens. Her findings highlighted the urgent need for continued investment in Ukrainian linguistic and cultural scholarship, both domestically and internationally.

Ukrainian Cultural Centers in Poland: Identity and Integration

The session concluded with a discussion on how Ukrainian cultural institutions abroad play a vital role in maintaining national identity. Nataliia Dobroier (Odesa Polytechnic National University, Ukraine) presented "Українські культурні осередки у Польщі: чи стають вони центрами підтримки ідентичності?" (Ukrainian Cultural Centers in Poland: Are They Becoming Identity Support Hubs?).

Her research focused on the growing network of Ukrainian cultural organizations in Poland, which have expanded dramatically since 2014 and further accelerated after 2022. These centers provide:

- Ukrainian-language schools and courses, ensuring that displaced children retain their linguistic heritage.
- Cultural events and festivals, creating spaces for Ukrainians to engage with their traditions while integrating into Polish society.
- Social support services, offering assistance with employment, legal aid, and mental health support.

Dobroier emphasized that while these cultural hubs are crucial for preserving identity, they also serve as bridges between Ukrainian migrants and Polish

society, fostering intercultural dialogue. She noted that long-term sustainability remains a challenge, as many of these initiatives rely on temporary funding and volunteer networks. Her presentation called for increased institutional support from both Ukrainian and Polish governments, as well as international organizations, to ensure that these cultural centers continue to thrive.

Key Lessons from the Session

- Medical Education and Crisis Response, Interest in medical training has surged during wartime, reflecting both an urgent need for healthcare professionals and the role of digital education in crisis settings.
- Cultural Collaboration and Creative Industries, Cross-sectoral partnerships are reshaping Ukraine's cultural landscape, ensuring that arts and heritage remain central to national identity.
- The Globalization of Ukrainian Studies, Ukrainian studies programs in Germany and beyond have seen unprecedented growth, signaling a major shift in how Ukraine is perceived in academic circles.
- Diaspora and Identity Preservation, Ukrainian cultural centers in Poland are key to maintaining language, tradition, and community connections, but require longterm structural support.

This session reinforced how education, culture, and civil society are at the heart of Ukraine's resilience. From medical professionals and artists to scholars and community leaders, these discussions highlighted the essential role of institutions in safeguarding identity and fostering international collaboration. As Ukraine continues its fight for sovereignty, these efforts will remain critical in ensuring a strong, engaged, and culturally vibrant future.

Day 3 Session 1: Navigating Future Challenges: Psychological Resilience, AI, and Digital Transformation

The first session on Sunday, February 9th, continued the conference's exploration of future challenges, with a strong emphasis on mental health, artificial intelligence, and digital innovation. The presentations illuminated how technology, education, and psychology intersect in times of war, economic uncertainty, and rapid technological advancement.

Psychological Resilience in Wartime: Strategies for Coping and Adaptation

The session began with Alina Chernyakova and Lesia Siver (Sumy State University, Ukraine), who presented "Психологічна стійкість особистості в умовах війни" (Psychological Resilience in Wartime Conditions).

Their research examined the concept of resilience, the ability of individuals to withstand stress and recover from adversity. They identified four key types of resilience that have become crucial during the war:

- Physical resilience, coping with extreme conditions, exhaustion, and trauma.
- Psychological resilience, maintaining mental well-being despite stress.
- Emotional resilience, the ability to regulate emotions and avoid burnout.
- Social resilience, how communities and support networks help individuals recover.

Chernyakova and Siver emphasized that resilience is not an innate trait but a skill that can be developed through training, education, and community support. They urged educators and policymakers to integrate resilience-building strategies into public health initiatives and educational programs, ensuring that Ukrainian citizens, especially displaced persons and soldiers, receive the psychological support they need.

Artificial Intelligence: Is Society Ready for the Challenges Ahead?

As AI transforms industries, Ihor Lameko (Vilnius University, Lithuania) presented "Штучний інтелект, чи готове суспільство до нових викликів?" (Artificial Intelligence, Is Society Ready for New Challenges?).

Lameko's sociological analysis examined how AI is reshaping the labor market, education, and cybersecurity. Key takeaways included:

- AI is already replacing low-skill jobs but is also creating new high-skill positions, making digital literacy a necessity.
- Educational systems must adapt by integrating AI-driven learning tools while ensuring that critical thinking and ethical considerations are not lost.
- Cybersecurity threats, including AI-driven misinformation, pose significant risks to democratic institutions, requiring international regulations and digital resilience strategies.

Lameko highlighted digital inequality as a growing concern, as those without access to AI-related education may struggle to remain competitive in the workforce. His recommendations included government investment in digital inclusion programs and AI ethics education to bridge the knowledge gap.

Scientific and Educational Support for Ukraine's Defense Capacity

With Ukraine's ongoing defense challenges, Serhii Bytkin (Zaporizhzhia National University, Ukraine) presented "Науково-технічна та освітня підтримка обороноздатності України" (Scientific and Educational Support for Ukraine's Defense Capacity).

Bytkin argued that Ukraine must develop its own high-tech military technology rather than rely solely on Western aid. His research focused on:

- Strengthening STEM education to train a new generation of defense engineers.

- Investing in domestic arms production to reduce dependence on imports.
- Encouraging military-civilian collaboration in research and development, particularly in cybersecurity and artificial intelligence.

The presentation underscored that Ukraine's long-term security depends on innovation and self-sufficiency, making technological education a national priority.

Mental Health and Language Education

Continuing the focus on well-being, Hanna Shvets (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine) presented "Тема психічного здоров'я в курсі української мови як іноземної" (Mental Health as a Topic in Ukrainian as a Foreign Language Courses).

Shvets explored how mental health awareness can be integrated into Ukrainian language education for foreign students. Her study proposed:

- Developing language-learning materials focused on mental health topics.
- Using Ukrainian cultural narratives to help foreign students understand the war's psychological impact on Ukrainian society.
- Encouraging dialogue and discussion about stress, trauma, and resilience in language learning environments.

Her findings suggested that incorporating mental health themes in language courses can foster empathy and deeper cultural understanding while providing students with tools to discuss their own well-being in Ukrainian.

AI in Economic Analysis and IT Management

The session featured two significant presentations on artificial intelligence in business and technology:

- Oksana Tereshchuk and Larysa Nozdrina (Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Ukraine) examined how AI enhances economic analysis and manufacturing processes. Their study explored the use of machine learning algorithms like neural networks and predictive analytics to optimize production efficiency.
- Nozdrina and Roman Nikolenko followed with their research on AI's role in IT project management, showing how AI-powered tools like NotebookLM can automate sprint planning and resource allocation.

Both presentations emphasized that AI-driven automation will be essential for Ukraine's economic recovery, but workers and businesses must invest in digital upskilling to remain competitive.

Digitalization and Mental Health in Maritime Professions

A unique perspective on mental health in specialized industries was presented by Olena Soroka (Danube Institute of National University "Odesa Maritime Academy", Ukraine), who discussed "Діджиталізація у підтримці ментального здоров'я моряків" (Digitalization in Supporting the Mental Health of Mariners).

Soroka's research highlighted the psychological toll of working at sea, including isolation, depression, and chronic stress, and how digital tools can help mariners maintain their well-being. She explored:

- Mobile apps for guided meditation and stress management.
- Telehealth services for remote psychological counseling.
- Online communities to combat social isolation.

Her study emphasized that mental health must become a priority in maritime education and policy, particularly as Ukraine's shipping industry navigates wartime disruptions.

Automation in Maritime Transport and Education

The session concluded with two forward-looking presentations on automation in maritime industries:

- Natalia Tiron-Vorobyova and Alina Nikula (Danube Institute of National University “Odesa Maritime Academy”, Ukraine) explored the potential for robotic systems to transform maritime logistics, questioning whether full automation is feasible or if human oversight will always be necessary.
- Olga Demchenko and Ivan Kotovsky (Danube Institute of National University “Odesa Maritime Academy”, Ukraine) examined how adaptive learning methods can improve maritime education, ensuring that students receive personalized training to meet their unique linguistic and technical needs.

Key Takeaways from the Session

This session reinforced the critical intersection of technology, education, and psychology in shaping Ukraine’s future:

- Psychological resilience is a trainable skill that must be integrated into education and public health policies.
- AI is reshaping the economy, making digital literacy essential for both workers and students.
- Ukraine’s defense industry must become more self-reliant, leveraging STEM education to drive military innovation.
- Digital mental health solutions can support vulnerable populations, including mariners, students, and displaced individuals.
- Automation in maritime and industrial sectors presents opportunities but requires careful human oversight.

This discussion set the stage for continued conversations on how Ukraine can harness digital transformation and psychological resilience to navigate the challenges of war, economic recovery, and global integration.

Day 3 Session 2: Ukrainian Identity and Diaspora Cooperation: Strengthening Cultural and Community Bonds

The second session of Sunday, February 9th, focused on Ukrainian identity in the context of globalization and Ukraine-diaspora cooperation. Through compelling discussions on community building, music, refugee services, and language preservation, the presentations underscored the resilience and adaptability of Ukrainian identity across borders.

Building Community Across Continents

The session opened with a panel discussion led by Angeline Kowalishen-Hesje, featuring Naden Hewko (Macklin, Saskatchewan) and Alexandra (Sasha) Chernyavskaya (North Battleford, formerly Odesa, Ukraine) in "Connecting and Building Community."

The panelists shared how Ukrainian Canadians have maintained strong cultural ties both within Canada and with Ukraine, facilitated by initiatives such as Dr. Oleksandr Sasha Kondrashov's online diaspora classes.

Key themes included:

- Intergenerational storytelling, ensuring that younger generations remain connected to their heritage.
- The role of Ukrainian churches, dance ensembles, and language schools in sustaining community bonds.
- The power of individual influence, how a single person's actions can create lasting impact.

A key takeaway was the need for ongoing cross-border engagement, where diaspora communities not only preserve traditions but also actively support Ukraine through cultural initiatives, education, and advocacy.

The Soundtrack of Ukrainian-Canadian Identity: Vinyl Ukees and Cultural Protest

Stanislav and Iryna Nastenko (Independent Researchers, Canada) followed with a vibrant presentation: "Vinyl Ukees: Phenomenon of Ukrainian Canadian Prairies Music of the 1960s, From Music of Survival to Music of Comfort and Cultural Protest."

Their research traced how Ukrainian folk music fused with North American influences in the 1960s, creating a unique cultural soundscape. They highlighted how Ukrainian Canadian artists like:

- Jim Gregorash, Mickey and Bunny, The Trail Riders, Peter Hnatiuk, Anton Chomlak, and Nester Shydlowsky brought folk motifs into contemporary rock and country rhythms.
- The Who's debut recording in a Ukrainianowned Winnipeg studio, which reflected the Ukrainian diaspora's deep influence on Canada's music industry.

This blending of traditions was more than entertainment, it became a form of cultural resistance, offering comfort and solidarity while subtly protesting harsh labor conditions faced by Ukrainian immigrants. The presentation emphasized that music remains a powerful vehicle for cultural identity and continuity, reminding us that Ukrainian resilience has long been expressed through the arts.

Refugee Integration and Social Services in Georgia and Belgium

As millions of Ukrainians seek refuge worldwide, Nino Shatberashvili (Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia) provided critical insights in "Services Ensuring Refugee Integration."

Her study compared Georgia's and Belgium's approaches to integrating Ukrainian refugees, highlighting:

- Georgia’s establishment of Ukrainian education sectors in public schools, allowing Ukrainian children to learn in their native language.
- Belgium’s intensive preparatory programs, which quickly transition Ukrainian refugees into the general education system.
- The role of social workers and psychologists in addressing the trauma of displaced families.

The discussion underscored the disparities in service accessibility, particularly in Georgia, where Ukrainian refugee children receive fewer resources than local children. Shatberashvili called for greater international cooperation in expanding refugee support networks, ensuring timely psychological and educational assistance to displaced Ukrainians.

Christmas Carols as a Bridge Between Cultures

Oleksandr Kondrashov (Thompson Rivers University, Canada) brought the audience into the world of bilingual carols in "Ukrainian-Canadian Christmas Carols: A Harmonious Journey of Tradition and Solidarity."

The research examined how:

- English carols translated into Ukrainian and vice versa created a shared festive experience across generations.
- Carols played an integral role in preserving identity, reinforcing Ukrainian solidarity during the war.
- Music serves as a tool for resilience, helping communities process trauma and celebrate cultural heritage.

By weaving Western Christmas traditions with Ukrainian customs, these carols not only kept Ukrainian identity alive but also strengthened diasporic ties, ensuring that language, faith, and traditions remained central to community life.

Ukrainian Diaspora Language Classes: A Model for Cultural Sustainability

In a second presentation, Kondrashov highlighted the Ukrainian Diaspora Language Classes, held every Saturday at 1:00 p.m. at the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Kamloops, Canada.

This initiative focuses on cultural preservation through interactive language lessons, incorporating:

- Ukrainian folk songs, humor, and traditional food discussions as part of language acquisition.
- Sensory experiences (e.g., learning about dill, parsley, and mint in Ukrainian cuisine) to spark conversations about familial traditions.
- Role-playing and real-life scenarios, making language learning both practical and deeply connected to heritage.

The success of these classes demonstrates that language is not just about communication, it is about sustaining identity and fostering community resilience. By bridging tradition with innovation, these programs serve as a powerful model for diaspora education worldwide.

Key Takeaways from the Session

This session reinforced how Ukrainian communities, both in Canada and worldwide, are preserving and evolving their cultural identity through music, education, and social engagement:

- Community connections are vital, diaspora initiatives like online courses and storytelling panels help sustain Ukrainian heritage across generations.
- Music remains a powerful cultural force, providing both comfort and a form of protest in times of crisis.
- Refugee integration strategies must be expanded, ensuring that displaced Ukrainians receive adequate educational and psychological support.

- Bilingual carols and diaspora language classes serve as models for cultural preservation and community engagement, reinforcing Ukrainian identity in an increasingly globalized world.

This session highlighted the power of culture, language, and community to maintain Ukrainian resilience, even in the face of displacement and global challenges. As these discussions continue, they serve as a reminder that Ukrainian identity is not only preserved through history but actively shaped by those who carry it forward today.

Day 3 Closing Ceremony: Reflection, Gratitude, and a Vision for the Future

As the three-day conference came to a close, we gathered one last time to reflect on the knowledge shared, the connections forged, and the collective vision for the future. Over 16 hours of learning and collaboration, participants from around the world contributed their expertise, passion, and commitment to advancing Ukrainian values, global solidarity, and academic excellence.

Dr. Oleksandr Kondrashov delivered a special presentation on Canada's future collaboration opportunities, emphasizing how researchers and scholars can expand their partnerships through Mitacs, SSHRC grants, and multiple research funding initiatives. His presentation inspired many, highlighting the importance of cross-border academic cooperation in supporting Ukraine's resilience and global integration.

Following this, Dr. Vira Baryshnikova presented a draft resolution outlining the key takeaways from the conference. The document summarized the strategic directions discussed, from enhancing national identity and expanding digital education to strengthening Ukraine's presence in global academia. As

participants shared their final thoughts, two words emerged as the defining themes of the conference: war and caring.

War, a reminder of the immense challenges Ukraine continues to face.

Caring, a testament to the dedication of scholars, activists, and communities who work tirelessly to support Ukraine, even from thousands of miles away.

We took a minute of silence to honor the heroes of Ukraine, remembering those who continue to defend freedom and sovereignty. The moment was a profound expression of gratitude to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, who make it possible for us to continue learning, researching, and connecting across borders.

As we looked ahead, the message was clear: this is just the beginning. The next conference will be even more dynamic, more inclusive, and more impactful. Soon, the conference proceedings will be published, ensuring that the knowledge shared over these three days reaches an even wider audience. Additionally, certificates of participation will be issued, recognizing the invaluable contributions of every individual who took part.

To all the presenters, organizers, and participants, thank you. Your dedication has made this conference not just an academic event, but a powerful movement of knowledge, solidarity, and hope. As we move forward, let us continue standing together, supporting Ukraine, and shaping the future through education, research, and unwavering resilience.

Conference Summary from the Session Moderator, Dr. Oleksandr (Sasha) Kondrashov

It has been an immense honor to moderate this conference, to lead every session, and to listen to the incredible presentations delivered by scholars,

educators, activists, and professionals from around the world. Over the course of these three days, we witnessed groundbreaking research, inspiring stories, and the unshakable commitment to Ukrainian values in a globalized world.

With more than 100 participants registered on Zoom, we came together from different time zones, cultures, and backgrounds, but with one shared purpose: to learn, support, and strengthen Ukraine through knowledge and collaboration.

I extend my deepest gratitude to each speaker who presented, every participant who attended, and those who contributed with thoughtful, caring, and thought-provoking questions. Your insights sparked dialogue, built new bridges, and laid the groundwork for future collaborations.

Throughout the conference, we were deeply moved by the bravery of our Ukrainian colleagues, who shared their research as missiles flew over their homes, as their internet connection faltered, and as war raged outside their windows. In moments of uncertainty, when connections were lost, we waited. And when they reconnected, we celebrated. Because we were not just listening to lectures, we were living through history together.

We worried when we heard sirens in the background. We felt the weight of the war in every discussion about resilience, education, culture, and democracy. But through it all, we stood together, listening, sharing, learning, and living in solidarity.

Each of you who participated in this conference has become part of my journey, and I hope that we will continue this conversation beyond today. I look forward to hearing about your future research, your successes, your stories, because this conference was not just about three days of learning, it was about building a global network of support, advocacy, and action.

We will continue to share knowledge, stand with Ukraine, and support the people of Ukraine.

Thank you. Дякую (Diakuiu, thank you). Merci.

Dr. Oleksandr (Sasha) Kondrashov Conference Moderator

Conference Resolution: Educating for Tomorrow: A Call to Action for the Government of Ukraine

Adopted at the Conference "Educating for Tomorrow: Ukrainian Values in a Global World" February 7-9, 2025

Preamble

Recognizing the urgent need for transformative educational reforms in Ukraine to align with global advancements, national resilience, and digital innovation, and acknowledging the critical role of education in nation-building, economic recovery, and democratic strengthening, we, the participants of the "Educating for Tomorrow" Conference, call upon the Government of Ukraine to take immediate, bold, and strategic actions to ensure that Ukraine's education system meets the demands of the 21st century.

Strategic Areas for Immediate Action

1. Preserving and Strengthening National Identity in a Globalized World

- Establish Ukrainian Studies Programs in national and international universities to ensure global recognition of Ukrainian language, history, and culture.
- Expand Ukrainian diaspora cooperation programs to facilitate cross-border educational and cultural exchanges.
- Strengthen Ukrainian language policies in education, ensuring digital resources and curriculum materials reinforce linguistic resilience.

2. Developing the University of the Future (University 5.0)

- Establish University 5.0, integrating AIdriven education, digital infrastructure, and interdisciplinary research to position Ukraine as an education and innovation hub.

- Introduce adaptive learning platforms utilizing AI, blockchain, and virtual reality tools to customize education based on individual student needs.
- Strengthen public-private partnerships (PPPs) to fund cutting-edge research, technology-driven education, and innovation ecosystems.

3. Aligning Ukrainian Education with Global Standards

- Ensure Ukraine joins the UNESCO Global Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications, facilitating international student mobility and academic partnerships.
- Develop dual-degree programs with top global universities, creating pathways for Ukrainian students and faculty to gain international experience while contributing to Ukraine's development.
- Recognize online education and microcredentials for workforce upskilling, integrating them into national education frameworks.

4. Strengthening Digital Competence and Technological Innovation

- Implement nationwide digital literacy programs, ensuring all students, teachers, and professionals have access to AI, coding, and cybersecurity training.
- Develop a national AI strategy for education, leveraging AI to personalize learning, enhance digital security, and improve teacher effectiveness.
- Establish innovation hubs within universities that connect students with tech startups, government initiatives, and private enterprises.

5. Reforming Governance and Funding Models for Education

- Adopt a legal framework that supports stateprivate sector collaboration in education, driving innovation, research, and skills development.
- Implement anti-corruption measures in educational funding, ensuring transparency in scholarship allocation, institutional financing, and grant distribution.

- Introduce performance-based funding models, rewarding universities based on research output, employability rates, and global partnerships.

6. Addressing Psychological Resilience and Mental Health in Education

- Mandate psychological resilience training in all educational institutions to equip students and teachers with trauma-informed coping strategies.
- Integrate mental health education into the national curriculum, ensuring accessible counseling services for students and educators.
- Develop AI-powered mental health support systems, offering 24/7 digital assistance for students facing war-related and academic stress.

Call to Action

In light of the above recommendations, we call upon the Government of Ukraine, in partnership with educators, researchers, policymakers, the private sector, and international organizations, to:

1. Adopt and implement these recommendations within the next 12 months.

2. Establish an independent National Task Force on Educational Reform, tasked with: o Developing a 5-year roadmap for integrating AI, digital education, and innovation in Ukraine. o Ensuring policy alignment with EU and global educational standards. o Strengthening anti-corruption oversight in education.

3. Commit at least 5% of Ukraine's GDP to education and research funding to ensure sustainable and high-impact reforms.

Conclusion

This resolution represents a unified voice from scholars, educators, policymakers, and civil society leaders advocating for a radical transformation of Ukraine's education system. The future of Ukraine depends on an innovative, resilient, and

globally connected education system, one that prepares its citizens to lead, compete, and thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Adopted on February 9, 2025

Conference Resolution: Strengthening Canada-Ukraine Educational Partnerships for the Future

Adopted at the Conference "Educating for Tomorrow: Ukrainian Values in a Global World" February 7-9, 2025

Preamble

Acknowledging Canada's historic role as a global leader in education, human rights, and international solidarity, and recognizing the urgent need for Canada to support Ukraine in its educational transformation and national recovery, we, the participants of the "Educating for Tomorrow" Conference, call upon the Government of Canada to strengthen and expand its efforts in advancing Ukraine's education, digital transformation, and institutional capacity-building.

As Ukraine continues to defend its sovereignty and rebuild its institutions, Canada has a unique opportunity to leverage its expertise, resources, and global influence to support Ukraine's educational resilience and innovation.

Strategic Priorities for Canada's Support

1. Expanding Canada-Ukraine Academic Collaboration and Student Mobility

- Establish a Canada-Ukraine Higher Education Scholarship Fund to support Ukrainian students, researchers, and faculty affected by war, ensuring full scholarships, academic placements, and research opportunities.
- Develop dual-degree programs between Canadian and Ukrainian universities to facilitate knowledge exchange and international accreditation of Ukrainian qualifications.
- Expand student and faculty exchange programs under Mitacs, SSHRC, and NSERC to enhance collaboration in research, digital transformation, and educational technology.

- Strengthen Ukrainian Studies programs in Canada's universities, increasing funding for Ukrainian language, history, and diaspora studies to preserve and promote Ukraine's identity globally.

2. Supporting Digital and AI-Driven Education in Ukraine

- Establish a Canada-Ukraine Digital Learning Initiative, creating online learning platforms that provide Ukrainian students with AIdriven education, coding, and STEM training.
- Provide Canadian EdTech support to Ukrainian universities and schools to implement digital classrooms, remote learning solutions, and cybersecurity infrastructure.
- Facilitate joint research projects between Canadian AI institutes and Ukrainian universities, focusing on AI ethics, data security, and adaptive learning technologies.

3. Investing in Educational Infrastructure and Innovation Hubs

- Support the development of Ukraine's University 5.0 model, integrating Canada's best practices in innovation-driven education, research commercialization, and interdisciplinary learning.
- Establish Canada-Ukraine Centers of Excellence in major Ukrainian universities, focused on digital transformation, environmental sustainability, and post-war economic recovery.
- Increase funding for post-war education infrastructure rebuilding, ensuring Ukrainian schools and universities have the facilities, digital tools, and teacher training resources necessary for modern education.

4. Strengthening Mental Health and Psychological Resilience in Education

- Develop joint Canada-Ukraine mental health programs to support students, educators, and war-affected families, integrating Canada's expertise in trauma-informed education.

- Expand funding for mental health telecounseling services for displaced Ukrainian students, teachers, and university staff.
- Incorporate psychological resilience training in Canadian-funded Ukrainian educational projects to ensure long-term well-being and social stability.

5. Enhancing Canada's Role in Combatting Disinformation and Strengthening Media Literacy

- Support Ukrainian-led media literacy programs that teach students and educators how to identify and counter disinformation, particularly in digital spaces.
- Fund collaborative research initiatives between Canadian universities and Ukrainian institutions to analyze disinformation threats and cyber-attacks on educational institutions.
- Facilitate exchange programs for Ukrainian and Canadian journalism students, fostering collaboration in truth-based reporting, digital ethics, and civic journalism.

Call to Action

In light of the above recommendations, we call upon the Government of Canada, in partnership with Canadian universities, research institutions, technology companies, and civil society organizations, to:

1. Launch the Canada-Ukraine Education Resilience Fund with a commitment of at least $200 million over the next five years to support education, research, and digital innovation in Ukraine.

2. Expand Canada's visa and scholarship programs for Ukrainian students, ensuring that displaced students receive full tuition support, academic placements, and expedited processing.

3. Establish an intergovernmental task force to oversee Canada-Ukraine education and research partnerships, ensuring sustainable collaboration beyond humanitarian aid.

4. Promote Canadian investment in Ukraine's education sector, particularly in EdTech, cybersecurity, and AI-driven learning tools, ensuring Ukraine's education system remains globally competitive.

Conclusion

This resolution represents a clear roadmap for Canada's enhanced support for Ukraine's education, digital innovation, and national resilience. The future of Ukraine's recovery and global positioning depends on strategic international partnerships, and Canada must take a leading role in ensuring Ukraine's educational institutions are empowered to shape the leaders of tomorrow.

Adopted on February 9, 2025

Ukrainian Values in a Global World

The story of the conference, told by the people who were in the room: what was shared, what moved us, and what we carry forward together. Free and open to all.

Inside this story

- Three days of learning, sharing and standing with Ukraine
- Stories from the opening, every session and the closing ceremony
- The two conference resolutions adopted on February 9, 2025

Read the full proceedings

The program and every abstract from this conference are in the first conference's Final Program and Proceedings, free to read at https://doi.org/10.66989/eft.uv1.2025.

Read it your way

Large clear type, bookmarks and headings that screen readers can follow. For large print, plain text or another format, write to educatingfortomorrowconference@gmail.com.

About the Author



Dr. Oleksandr Kondrashov is Associate Professor of Social Work (tenured) at Thompson Rivers University and founder of DROKACADEMY, a healing and writing space. Born in Lviv, Ukraine, he has taught over 7,000 students across five Canadian universities. Accessibility is the through-line of his scholarship.

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Published by
DROKACADEMY Press
Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada
drokacademy.ca