Report
Conference “Planning the Future of Ukrainian Studies in Europe”

University of Warsaw | 26–27 May 2025



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UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW

CHARLES UNIVERSITY

TARAS SHEVCHENKO NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF KYIV



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1. Planning the Future of Ukrainian Studies in Europe

The conference was organised by the partner organisations of the Erasmus+ KA220 project "EUkraine Forum – Planning the Future of Ukrainian Studies in Europe" which involves four European universities – Inalco, Charles University, the University of Warsaw and the Taras Shevchenko University in Kyiv.

Activities of the project include an in-depth analysis of the current state of Ukrainian studies, which have seen a growing interest since the start of the full-scale invasion of Russia to Ukraine in 2022, and the organisation of a conference in Warsaw in 2025. Finally, the consortium will present **a development plan for Ukrainian Studies** to European universities and decision-makers to meet the new needs of this discipline. In addition to supporting the **preservation of Ukraine's linguistic and cultural heritage**, the EUkraine Forum project meets the **growing demand for area interpreters and specialists**, both in connection with the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the context of Ukraine's potential accession to the EU.

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DAY 1 - LOCATING UKRAINIAN STUDIES IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES: METHODOLOGIES



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2. Opening

The conference in Warsaw was opened by its main organiser, **prof. Jakub Zajączkowski**, who welcomed all guests, among them ambassadors, university representatives, scholars and experts dealing with Ukrainian matters. He provided historical context and reminded the University of Warsaw began its collaboration with Ukrainian universities in the 1990s.

The programme of the conference began with the keynote speech by **Prof. Andrzej Szeptycki**, Deputy Minister of Science and Higher Education of Poland, who emphasised the urgent need to **decolonise knowledge about Ukraine** and suggested its clear separation from Russian studies. He pointed out that in many European countries knowledge about Ukraine remains limited.



Keynote speech by Andrzej Szeptycki

He highlighted Poland's leading role in advancing Ukrainian Studies and strengthening Polish-Ukrainian scientific cooperation. Finally, he underlined the importance of the field for **a better understanding of Ukraine's history, culture, and its potential role within the European Union.** While prof. Szeptycki emphasised the need for support to Ukrainian specialists after the full Russian invasion broke out, he pointed out, at the same time, to the **danger of a brain drain from Ukraine.** Thus, the Polish government began to give priority to brain circulation, which is mutually more beneficial and balanced, and support partnerships between Polish, Ukrainian, and other European universities. This strategy is perceived as a way to preserve and strengthen Ukraine's intellectual capacity, which is vital for the country's post-war reconstruction and EU integration.

Following the keynote speech, participants were welcomed by representatives of Embassies, **Étienne de Poncins** (Ambassador of France to Poland), **Roman Shepelyak** (Ukrainian Minister-Counselor of the Embassy of Ukraine in Poland), **Karolína Ščerbej** (Second Secretary at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Poland), and the representatives of the consortium universities **Maciej Raś** (Vice-Rector of the University of Warsaw), **Katarzyna Kołodziejczyk** (Dean of the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies at the University of Warsaw), **Kseniia Smyrnova** (Vice-Rector for Education (International Affairs), Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv), **Eva Lehečková** (Dean, Faculty of Arts, Charles University), and **Il-Il Yatziv-Malibert** (Deputy Vice-President for European Affairs at Inalco University).

Introduction speech by Kseniia Smyrnova





Introduction speech by Il-Il Yatziv-Malibert

In all above-mentioned speeches resonated an idea of the **importance of Ukrainian studies,** which was not to be viewed only as an academic discipline, but as a **geopolitical, cultural, and intellectual project.** The support to this project must be collaborative, long-term, and pan-European and must include not only scholars, and universities, but also policymakers, experts, NGO etc. Efforts must shift from immediate crisis response to strategic development, including academic analysis, sharing of resources, and curriculum building. As Mr Étienne de Poncins stated,

"our agenda should not be decided by Russia, but by us, as Europeans. Our decision has been taken to integrate Ukraine into our European project, so we must start doing that".

The speakers highlighted the need to decolonise knowledge about Ukraine by separating it from Russian-focused narratives and to strengthen the academic infrastructure in Ukraine through partnerships, not brain drain. They also strongly emphasised to take into account the activities of the Global Coalition of Ukrainian studies launched under the patronage of Ukraine's First Lady, Olena Zelenska.

3. Mapping Ukrainian Studies: Comparative Approach between Poland, the Czech Republic, France, and Ukraine

This first panel offered a comparative overview of Ukrainian studies in Poland, France, the Czech Republic, and Ukraine. Speakers stressed the need to modernise curricula, allocate more resources, connect research with practical needs, and foster international and cross-sectoral cooperation. Across all contexts, Ukrainian Studies were seen as a key tool for understanding and supporting Ukraine's reconstruction and global presence.

Anna Kizińska, Jakub Zajączkowki, and **Tomasz Mering,** University of Warsaw

Olena Saint-Joanis, National Institute for Oriental Languages and Civilisations (Inalco)

Jean-Luc Schneider, Attaché for Scientific and Academic Cooperation at the French Institute in Warsaw

Tereza Chlaňová, Department of East European Studies, Faculty of Arts, Charles University

Radomyr Mokryk, senior lecturer at Ivan Franko Lviv State University**, Nazarii Deineka,** administrator of the EUkraine Forum for Prague**, Kateryna Mychka,** PhD Student at the Department of East European Studies, Faculty of Arts, Charles University

Kseniia Smyrnova, Vice-Rector for Education (International Affairs) at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (KNU)

Serhii Skrylnyk, head of the Department of Theory and Practice of Translation from English at the Institute of Philology, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

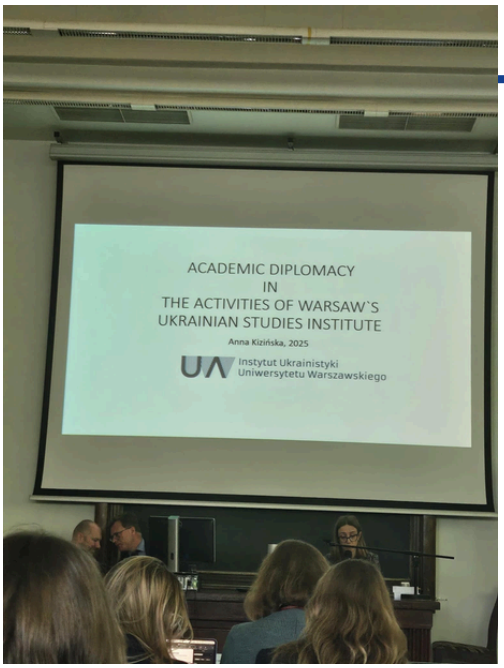
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3.1 Ukrainian Studies in Poland

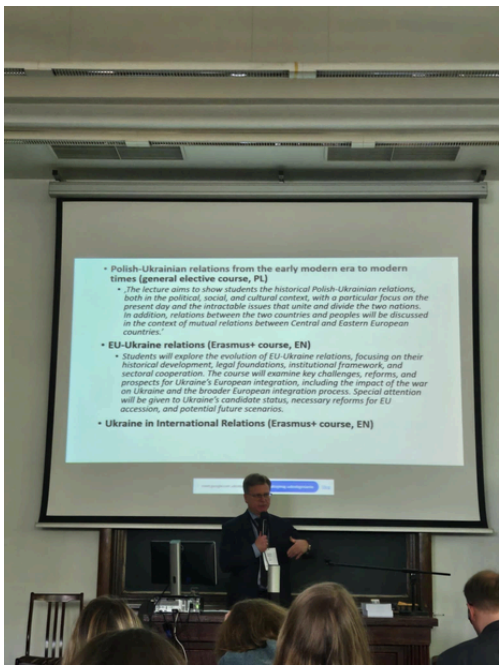


Presentation by Jakub Zajączkowski

The Polish perspective was represented by three scholars, **Anna Kizińska**, **Jakub Zajączkowki**, and **Tomasz Mering** who introduced approaches of three departments of the **University of Warsaw** dealing with Ukrainian studies: the Institute of Ukrainian Studies, the Department of Regional and Global Studies, and the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies. While the specialised study programmes of the **Institute of Ukrainian studies** offer a combination of philological, cultural and historic courses, the **Faculty of political science and international studies** incorporate the courses with Ukrainian themes into the structure of thematically based study programmes. All emphasized the growing interest in Ukrainian issues, although they admitted it was higher after 2022 than now.



Presentation by Anna Kizińska



Presentation by Tomasz Mering

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3.2 Ukrainian Studies in France

The French representatives, **Olena Saint-Joanis** and **Jean-Luc Schneider**, provided an overview of Ukrainian studies at the National Institute for Oriental Languages and Civilisations (Inalco) and the French Institute in Warsaw.

Saint-Joanis outlined the structure of the study programme at Inalco which combines language, culture, and thematic modules. Inalco provides full Bachelor's and Master's programmes in Ukrainian Language and Civilisations within the Department of European Studies. Interest in Ukrainian studies has grown significantly in the last ten years, with 43 students enrolled now in the Ukrainian programme at Inalco. To strengthen Ukrainian studies further, she proposed to **increase the intensity of Ukrainian language and civilisation courses, to develop online modules accessible across France, and to create joint programmes with other European universities.** In the final part of her presentation, Saint-Joanis surveyed Ukrainian studies across other French institutions, including the Sorbonne University, University Lumière Lyon 2, Bordeaux Montaigne University, and Sciences Po Paris.



Presentation by Olena Saint-Joanis

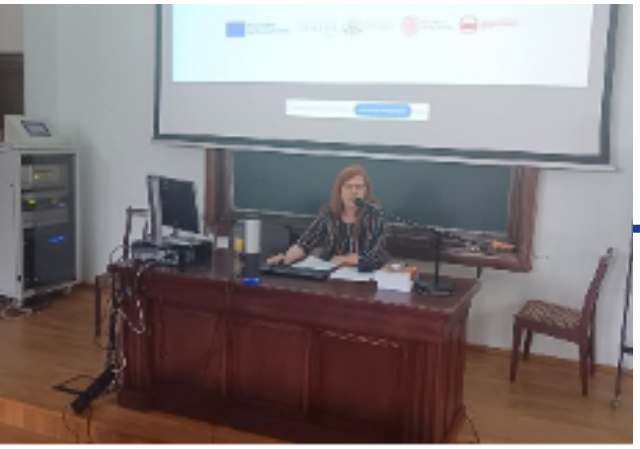


Presentation by Jean-Luc Schneider

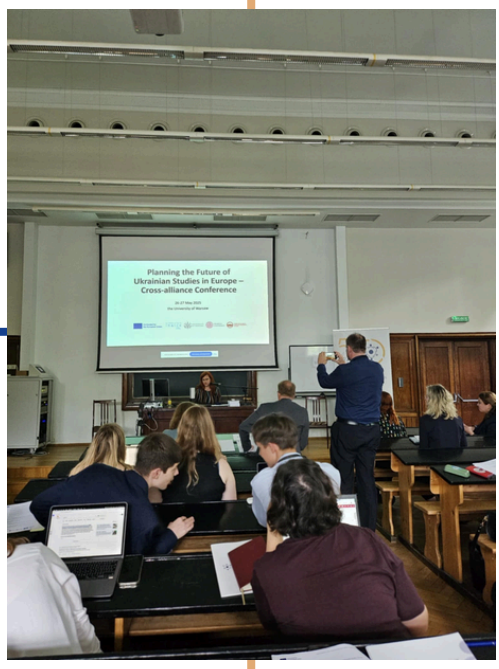
Jean-Luc Schneider, Scientific and Academic Cooperation Attaché of the French Institute in Warsaw, highlighted the **PAUSE programme** launched in 2017 and coordinated by the Collège de France, which supports researchers and artists in exile. He also described France's efforts in Poland which is represented by three institutions.

First, **French Civilisations and Francophone Studies Centre** (OKF) at the University of Warsaw, originally founded by Michel Foucault, includes a collaboration with Ukrainian scholars and hosting international conferences on European security and integration. Secondly, the **European Centre at Marie Curie-Skłodowska University** in Lublin, established in 2018 in partnership with the University of Lorraine in Nancy, played a key role in receiving refugees. Thirdly, Schneider announced the imminent launch of the **French Institute for Research on Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Northern Asia** (IRECA) in Warsaw as a new research hub.

3.3 Ukrainian Studies in the Czech Republic



Presentation by Tereza Chlaňová



Ukrainian studies in the Czech Republic were presented by **Tereza Chlaňová**, head of Ukrainian Studies at the Department of East European Studies, Faculty of Arts, Charles University. The main academic centres of Ukrainian studies operate at **Charles University in Prague, Masaryk University in Brno**, and **Palacký University in Olomouc.** Each institution offers distinct programmes and specialisations which combine language, literature, history, culture, etc. Number of applicants in Ukrainian studies has showed a modest growth in all three universities in recent years. Chlaňová stressed the need to prevent the negative trends, such as insufficient funding, chronic understaffing etc. by **developing better communication between universities and the general public** and **investing more strategically** in the growth of Ukrainian studies in the Czech Republic.



Czech delegation (from left): Stanislav Tumis, Nazarii Deineka, Radomyr Mokryk, Kateryna Mychka, Tereza Chlaňová and Eva Lehečková

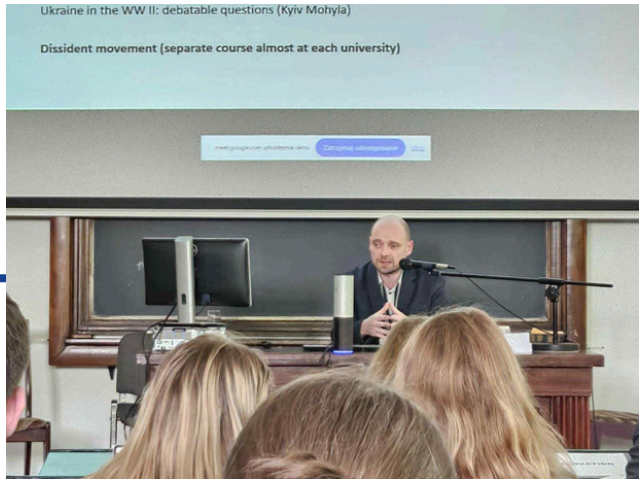
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3.4 Ukrainian Studies in Ukrainian Universities



Presentation by Radomyr Mokryk

Radomyr Mokryk, senior lecturer at Ivan Franko Lviv State University, together with **Nazarii Deineka**, administrator of the EUkraine Forum for Prague, and **Kateryna Mychka**, PhD Student at the Department of East European Studies, Faculty of Arts, Charles University presented their reflection on Ukrainian studies, based on their research of chosen top Ukrainian universities. History was identified as the most developed area within Ukrainian studies. The approach of Ukrainian departments is comprehensive and contextual, often **connecting Ukrainian history to global and European developments**. While some contemporary trends emerge in the curriculum, they remain underdeveloped and outdated. In conclusion they stressed both the potential and the limitations of Ukrainian academia. While the field of Ukrainian Studies clearly holds **rich resources and relevance**, the **system is often slow to adapt to political and societal changes**.

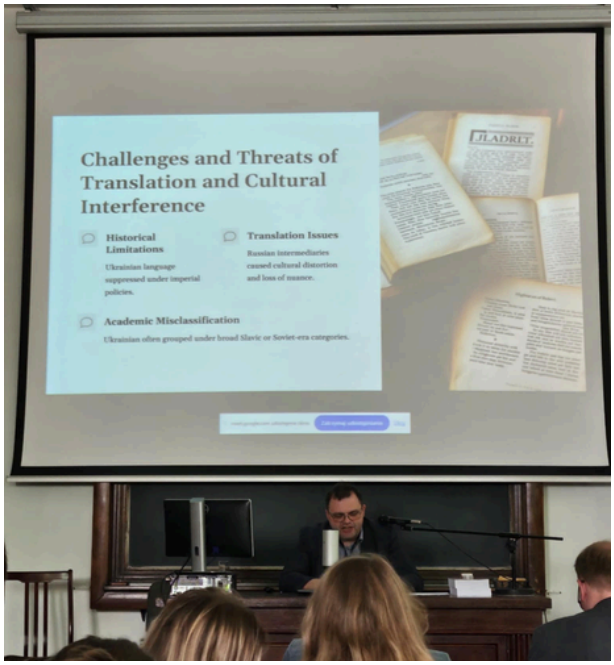


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Kseniia Smyrnova, Vice-Rector for Education (International Affairs) at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (KNU) suggested in her presentation the university's approach to promoting Ukrainian Studies in Europe through what she calls "**educational diplomacy**", a form of public diplomacy. KNU supported this mission through a series of international initiatives, such as specialised **Ukrainian language training for diplomats**, the "**Shedryk Rendezvous**" cultural project promoting international dialogue through music, and the **KNU "Ambassadors" Project**, in which students and faculty serve as informal representatives of Ukraine abroad, and many others.



Presentation by Kseniia Smyrnova



Presentation by Serhii Skrylnyk

Serhii Skrylnyk, head of the Department of Theory and Practice of Translation from English at the Institute of Philology, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, explored in his contribution how **translation is a foundational component of Ukrainian Studies** in Europe. The university's translation programmes cover all official EU languages. Skrylnyk emphasised **translation as a form of cultural resistance.** Skrylnyk called for **collaborative efforts to build up Ukrainian studies with cultural integrity and national awareness** at the core.

4. Mapping Ukrainian Studies: European and Global Perspectives

The second panel explored new directions and challenges in teaching and researching Ukrainian studies across Europe. Presentations highlighted persistent institutional and conceptual imbalances – from the Soviet-centric legacy in historical scholarship to the underrepresentation of Ukraine in German academia. Speakers called for decolonising approaches, stronger institutional support, and new interdisciplinary frameworks. Innovative grassroots projects illustrated how Ukrainian Studies can evolve through collaborative, flexible, and crisis-responsive practices.

Stanislav Tumis, senior lecturer at the Department of East European Studies, Faculty of Arts, Charles University

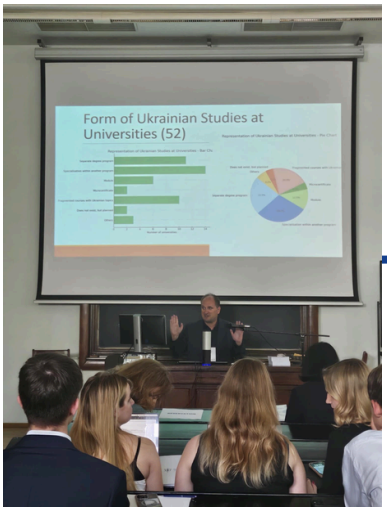
Susann Worschech, political sociologist and scientific coordinator at European University Viadrina

Eleonora Narvselius, anthropologist at Lund University

4.1 Teaching and Research of Ukrainian History of Soviet Times: Trends and Challenges at Educational and Research Institutions



Stanislav Tumis, senior lecturer at the Department of East European Studies, Faculty of Arts, Charles University, addressed in his presentation **importance of teaching history for understanding the current geopolitical situation.** He urged a **deeper, honest engagement with historical facts**, particularly concerning the 20th century and the Soviet legacy. He emphasised that some periods of Soviet history remain under-researched, particularly under Khrushchev, Brezhnev, and Gorbachev. In the second part of his presentation, Tumis acquainted the audience with some results of the questionnaire to which the representatives of over 50 universities replied. He particularly accentuated a general lack of focus on modern Ukrainian history and **persistence of the stereotypical Soviet-centric interpretation of history.** Tumis underscored the absence of a clear teaching strategy, concept, and methodology.



Presentation by Stanislav Tumis

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4.2 Decolonising Ukrainian Studies in Germany: New networks, new projects

Susann Worschech, political sociologist and scientific coordinator at European University Viadrina, examined in her presentation the social and institutional contexts that have shaped the development of Ukrainian studies, with a focus on Germany. In Germany, the field of Eastern European studies has long been dominated by Russian and Soviet studies. The **political disinterest was reflected in the academic landscape, where Ukraine received minimal attention.** Since 2022 new academic initiatives in Germany emerged.

One of the most active is Viadrina University which offer two major programmes and support collaboration in Ukrainian studies: first, a **mobility-based cooperation programme with Ukrainian institutions,** and secondly, a comprehensive, **interdisciplinary Ukrainian studies programme**, funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) with a €2.5 million grant for a period of four years. The Viadrina Ukrainian Studies project faces significant sustainability challenges as current funding is only secured until 2028.

4.3 The Summer Institute Witnessing the War Against Ukraine: Transdisciplinary Solidarities and the Epistemologies of Witnessing



Oksana Krayevska (Acting Vice Rector, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv) and Stanislav Tumis in the discussion following the presentation by Eleonora Narvselius

Eleonora Narvselius, anthropologist at Lund University, Sweden, presented her project, launched in March 2022, dealing with a direct response to the emotional and institutional paralysis caused by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The group of scholars created a **volunteer-based, non-institutional initiative focused on the immediate need to collect and process a rapidly growing body of experiences, testimonies, and reactions** both from Ukraine and globally. The initiative launched a **summer institute series** as the most important output. Narvselius argued that in times of deep crisis, **traditional systems may fail, and scholars must be subversive, flexible, and creative.** The researchers should collaborate directly, think outside bureaucratic structures, and focus on real-world, **people-centred knowledge production.**

5. Developing Teaching and Research in Ukrainian Studies

The roundtable focused on strategies for strengthening and sustaining Ukrainian studies in Europe. Participants agreed on the need to move beyond reactive or Russia-centred frameworks toward independent, interdisciplinary, and socially engaged approaches. They discussed challenges such as declining student interest, rigid institutional structures, and the slow pace of academic reform. Proposals included decolonising and decentralising Ukrainian studies in long-term institutional cooperation. The debate underscored that the field's future depends on both structural support and intellectual renewal.

Moderated by **Jakub Zajączkowki**

Yuliya Yurchuk, Senior Lecturer of History of Idea, Centre for Baltic and East European Studies, Södertörn University

Anton Saifullayeu, Assistant Professor in History, Centre for East European Studies, University of Warsaw

Michael Moser, Associate Professor, Department of Slavic Studies, University of Vienna and President of the International Association of Ukrainian Studies

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Roundtable (from left): Jakub Zajączkowski, Yuliya Yurchuk, Anton Saifullayeu and Michael Moser

The roundtable, moderated by **Jakub Zajączkowki**, with the participation of **Yuliya Yurchuk** (Senior Lecturer of History of Idea, Centre for Baltic and East European Studies, Södertörn University), **Anton Saifullayeu** (Assistant Professor in History, Centre for East European Studies, University of Warsaw), and **Michael Moser** (Associate Professor, Department of Slavic Studies, University of Vienna and President of the International Association of Ukrainian Studies) reflected on how to achieve the development of Ukrainian studies.

The discussants highlighted **increased academic interest in Ukraine following 2022.** Some countries and universities, for example in Sweden, face **the lack of formal study programmes** focused specifically on Ukrainian studies. It can be compensated by **public engagement of scholars specialising in Ukraine.** One of the most important topic emphasized in discussion was an interconnection between teaching, research, and societal impact. This include a **more nuanced, interdisciplinary, and locally grounded approach** to study of the region, emphasising **linguistic, cultural, and historical specificity.**

All participants in discussion stressed the urgent **need for institutional support, increased funding, and the expansion of PhD-level education** to build a new generation of scholars. On the other hand, the discussants stressed the **importance of scholars not isolating themselves within Ukrainian studies but also critically engaging with Russian narratives,** especially those concerning Ukraine.

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In the ongoing discussion the question of **sustainability of Ukrainian studies** was reflected. Some scholars mentioned concerns about declining student interest, others offered more optimistic picture. Some proposed rethinking the structure and the position of Ukrainian studies and **expansion of the field within a broader regional context**. It was argued that narrow, traditional philological programmes often fail to generate broad interest. As a possibility the **integration of Ukrainian studies into area studies and interdisciplinary perspectives** was suggested. Another approach accentuated two important steps: first, **decolonisation of Russian Studies by incorporation the perspectives of historically marginalised groups**; secondly, **provincialisation of Russian Studies: rather than completely separation of Ukrainian and Belarusian studies**.

This model aims to de-centre Russia and reframe the entire post-Soviet region from alternative perspective, for example, telling Soviet history from a Ukrainian or Belarusian standpoint. Others advocated the decentralisation and reorganisation of Russian studies **by integration of Ukraine within broader Eastern and Central European studies**. On the other hand, some scholars expressed their scepticism to an idea of integration of Ukrainian content into the broader context of studies and advocated the **need for Ukrainian studies programmes to be embedded in institutional structures**. They argued with their fear of possible marginalisation of Ukrainian and other area studies, such as Polish, or Czech. While interdisciplinary collaboration is necessary, it must be built on **strong disciplinary foundations and deep regional knowledge, not superficial generalisations**.

Most discussants accentuated the **critical role of academic engagement with the public and media.** They also stressed the **need for sustainability in current collaborations with Ukraine.** Some outlined the **inherent conservatism and slow bureaucratic pace of universities,** which hinders the timely development of academic programmes focused on Eastern Europe, including Ukraine and Belarus. The question how to attract the student interest was discussed as well. It was argued that students today want to engage with contemporary societies, learning about everyday life, culture, media, and how people think and behave – not just history and language.

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DAY 2 – LOCATING UKRAINIAN STUDIES IN TRAINING PROFESSIONALS



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6. Why the Development of Ukrainian Studies Matters for Ukraine's Accession to the European Union

The second day of the conference started with an introductory presentation by **Hugues Mingarelli**, former EU ambassador to Ukraine. After he argued the Russian Federation attempted to deny Ukraine the right to a distinct history and identity and deliberately destroyed Ukrainian cultural heritage in the occupied territories, Mingarelli claimed Europe's primary dependence on Russia was not energy-related but ideological.

For decades, many European societies were shaped by distorted perceptions of Ukraine, narratives largely influenced by Russian propaganda. According to him, one of the core missions of Ukrainian Studies in Western Europe is to **counter Russian disinformation and ideological influence**. Beyond legal and political procedures, **public opinion within EU member states** plays a decisive role in Ukraine's accession process. Ukrainian Studies can help shape a **positive perception of Ukraine** by spreading knowledge about its digital transformation, economic potential, institutional reforms, and anti-corruption efforts.

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7. Training Experts on Ukraine: Adapting Ukrainian Studies to Professional Market Needs

This panel examined how Ukrainian studies can evolve to be better aligned with professional market needs related to Ukraine's EU integration and post-war recovery. Speakers highlighted the need to link education, policy, and practice by incorporating modules on EU law, economic reconstruction, and security studies to study programmes. They underscored Ukrainian studies' growing role in training professionals for governance, diplomacy, and integration efforts, as well as countering disinformation.

Ivan Nagornyak, expert in EU accession negotiations and former Deputy Director General of the Ukrainian Government Office for European and Euro-Atlantic integration

Marta Ocknecht from Integration Centre Prague and Post Bellum (Help for Ukraine)

Kateryna Nikityuk, Head of the Polish-Ukraine Institute of Business Developmen

Patryk Kugiel, Senior Analyst of the Polish Institute of International Affairs

7.1 Ukrainian Studies in the Context of EU Negotiation Process across Education, Economy, Foreign Policy, and Other Areas

Ivan Nagornyak, expert in EU accession negotiations and former Deputy Director General of the Ukrainian Government Office for European and Euro-Atlantic integration, argued the war and EU candidacy became catalysts for a fundamental **re-evaluation of Ukrainian Studies from area studies to strategic discipline**, transforming the traditional humanities focus to the field, concentrating on policy, security, and economy.

He also views the decolonisation mandate essential for authentic understanding and countering disinformation. The core pillars for modernised Ukrainian studies are to **include EU Integration & Legal-Institutional Harmonisation** (knowledge of essentials of EU law, the accession process intricacies, rule of law reforms, and the socio-political impact of integration), **Economic reconstruction & sustainable development** (expertise in post-war economic models, investment attraction, sector-specific recovery /energy, agriculture, tech/, and transparent governance of reconstruction), and **Strategic security & defence analysis** (understanding of European security architecture, modern warfare /lessons from Ukraine/, defence industry integration and long-term regional stability).

Nagornyak suggested some strategies for universities to include holistic curriculum design (interdisciplinarity, blending humanities, social sciences, law; modular & flexible pathways with specialisation options and micro-credentials; problem-oriented learning and modules on real-world challenges). He also advocated an idea of **policy labs & simulation exercises**, and embedded internships. In conclusion, he emphasised an idea of Ukrainian Studies anticipating future needs and contributing to a resilient and integrated Ukraine and Europe.

7.2 Intercultural Worker in the Maelstrom of War: the Use of Ukrainian Studies in the Field of Integration

Marta Ocknecht from Integration Centre Prague and Post Bellum (Help for Ukraine) presented the Czech Republic as one of the leaders in hosting Ukrainian refugees after Russia's full-scale invasion, which placed significant pressure on integration structures and exposed **shortages of interpreters and a lack of professionals familiar with Ukrainian cultural and historical contexts**.

She presented activities of the **Integration Centre in Prague**, which include an introduction to the Czech public system (legal, educational, healthcare), facilitation of communication between Ukrainians and state institutions, organisation of intercultural events to foster mutual understanding, and development of effective communication tools to navigate a complex societal environment.

She also explained how the centre responds to disinformation campaigns and introduced the activities of *Post Bellum*, which provides Ukrainian defenders with essential supplies such as equipment and transportation. She supported the idea that Ukrainian studies' purpose is to **prepare specialists, essential for the current phase of assistance and the long-term postwar recovery.**

7.3 From Academic Discipline to Strategic Tool: Reimagining Ukrainian Studies for Ukraine's Future

Kateryna Nikityuk, Head of the Polish-Ukraine Institute of Business Development, accentuated the need of redefinition of Ukrainian studies which was not to be only a research discipline but a **tool for building the future of Ukraine**. She argued that one of the most important problems is the gap between academia and the job market. To bridge this gap, academic knowledge must be combined with real-world preparation for professional environments. She recommended particularly **tackling the global context within Ukrainian studies** (financial analysis, investment opportunities, familiarity with the European business etc.), systematic cooperation with **business sector**, cross-sectoral cooperation with **international organisations, civil society, and think tanks**, training future leaders of reconstruction (diplomats, lawyers, analysts etc.)

7.4 Building Expertise on Ukraine as a Strategic Need for Europe

Patryk Kugiel, Senior Analyst of the Polish Institute of International Affairs, similarly emphasised the need to rethink the role of Ukraine after 2022. He mentioned a **chronic lack of knowledge about Ukraine in Europe**, especially in political analysis. A deeper understanding of Ukraine requires experts who are familiar with Ukraine's domestic political context and the specific nature of Ukrainian institutions and their interaction with European structures. The lack of understanding of Ukraine requires mainly the **expertise of military experts, sociologists, cultural scholars and historians**. Ukrainian studies should focus on countering Russian influence and establishing themselves as an independent academic and analytical discipline.

8. Developing Ukrainian Studies as an Academic Field: Institutional and Disciplinary Perspectives

This final panel addressed institutional, educational, and methodological strategies for strengthening and adapting Ukrainian studies as an academic field in Europe. Speakers highlighted the importance of integrating Ukrainian studies into broader academic structures through flexible, interdisciplinary, and competence-based programmes. They emphasised the role of cultural institutes in promoting Ukraine's culture and language abroad and called for sustainable networks supporting research, teaching, and cultural diplomacy.

Iryna Dmytrychyn, president of Ukrainian Institute in Paris and head of the Ukrainian section, Department for Europe at Inalco

Katarzyna Jakubowska-Krawczyk, director of the Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Warsaw

Galyna Dranenko, professor in Ukrainian language and literature, Sorbonne Université

Eva Lehečková, dean of the Faculty of Arts, Charles University

8.1 The Role of the Ukrainian Institute in the Development of Ukrainian Studies

Iryna Dmytrychyn, president of Ukrainian Institute in Paris and head of the Ukrainian section, Department for Europe at Inalco, presented the Ukrainian Institute as a public institution for cultural diplomacy. The Institute was established in 2018 and overseen by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. Its main mission is to enhance global understanding of Ukraine, develop international cultural relations, and foster effective communication about Ukraine at the global level. Its activities focuses primarily on **promotion of Ukrainian language and knowledge about Ukraine abroad**, for example training translators, conferences with participation of prominent intellectuals and thinkers etc.



Presentation by Iryna Dmytrychyn

8.2 Ukrainian Studies at the Crossroads of Cultures and Post-Imperial Deconstruction: Educational Models and Institutional Challenges

Katarzyna Jakubowska-Krawczyk, director of the Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Warsaw, identified a three-tier model of Ukrainian Studies: first, specific Ukraine-related topics embedded in broader courses; secondly, standalone courses fully dedicated to Ukrainian themes; third, full-scale Ukrainian Studies programs (BA/MA degrees). She emphasised that all three forms are valuable and require methodological support. According to her, **courses with Ukrainian themes must be embedded in the strategic development plans of universities** aiming to expand regional studies, cultural diplomacy, and interdisciplinary analysis.

Full Ukrainian studies programmes were to be interdisciplinary, combining humanities, social sciences, language, culture, and politics and serve also to training of translators, journalists, analysts, and researchers. She also highlighted **importance of positive narratives about present Ukraine** and her scientific, cultural, and intellectual contributions to European and global history. Building of Ukrainian studies network is another key activity creating a platform for international research, conferences, summer schools, and workshops. The presentation stressed the **need to institutionalise and strategically develop Ukrainian studies at all levels** – academic, cultural, and societal.

8.3 Ways and Means of Integrating Ukrainian Studies into University Curricula and Research in France

Galyna Dranenko, professor in Ukrainian language and literature, Sorbonne Université, presented ways and means of integrating Ukrainian studies into university curricula and research in France which include integration of Ukrainian Studies into French higher education and support to teaching of Ukrainian language, literature and culture. She also mentioned concrete projects, such as the **SURE Project** (Sorbonne-Ukraine Research & Education) created to support the institutional integration of Ukrainian Studies, or Ukrainian Narratives in Eur'ORBEM Research Activities (UMR 8224).

8.4 Trends in Higher Education: Challenges for Language-Based Area Studies



Presentation by Eva Lehečková

Eva Lehečková, dean of the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, presented challenges to the development of language-based area studies at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University. Taking into account the trends in higher education, she called for diversification of educational goals, increased flexibility in the form of modular programmes and shorter learning formats, student-centred learning with emphasis on individualised educational paths, integration of artificial intelligence and reassessment of program content.

The language-based area studies demand, according to her, a **shift to competence-based and practical skills**, combining a humanities and social science approach. On the other hand, offering blended study programmes has proven to be an ineffective response. She introduced some of the projects of the Faculty of Arts, such as **ERA Chair** initiative (Horizon Europe, 2025) with aim to establish the Centre for Interdisciplinary Area Studies (CEMAS), and micro-degrees, short, flexible academic courses, officially recognised as formal education.

9. Photo Gallery



Audience of the conference with Louise Rigal (Inalco), the project manager of the project "EUkraine Forum – Planning the Future of Ukrainian Studies in Europe"



Kseniia Smyrnova holding the "Testament" by Taras Shevchenko – translated into over 30 languages



Katarzyna Jakubowska-Krawczyk



The delegation of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv



French delegation



Czech delegation



Presentation by Serhii Skrylnyk, Head of the Department of Theory and Practice of Translation from English, Institute of Philology, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv: "Establishment of Ukrainian Studies Identity Through Translation: Mitigating Negative Cultural Interference"



Presentation by Kseniia Smyrnova, Vice-Rector of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv: "The university's educational diplomacy through the dissemination of Ukrainian studies in Europe"



Vice-Rector of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv with the Counselor of the Embassy of Ukraine in Poland

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Presentation by Jakub Zajączkowski



Presentation by Olena Saint-Joanis



Presentation by Jean-Luc Schneider



Presentation by Tereza Chlaňová



Presentation by Radomyr Mokryk



Presentation by Stanislav Tumis

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