



The Ukrainian Politics Network

General Overview

The UPN stems from a partnership between the University of Edinburgh (UoE) and Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (KNU) under the UK-Ukraine Twinning Initiative. This collaboration began in early 2023 when the UoE School of Social and Political Science and KNU's Institute of International Relations jointly launched the Geopolitics Research Lab. In August 2023, the Lab hosted an exploratory workshop titled 'The Consequences of Russia's War on Ukraine'. The workshop gathered leading experts to examine the war's environmental, political, and security implications and fostered a discussion on future research and teaching cooperation. Building on this success, the UPN aims to extend its reach to other groups and organisations.

Project team:

- Dr. Katarzyna Kaczmarek, Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Relations
- Dr. Mykola Kapitonenko, Associate Professor, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv
- Urania Chan, PhD Researcher, University of Edinburgh
- Daniil Malitsky, University of Edinburgh
- Yuliia Antonenko, University of Edinburgh
- Sofiia Kudriashova, Kyiv National University
- Benjamin Pyatski, University of Edinburgh
- Ulrich Poehlmann, University of Edinburgh

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Members

30

Academics

6

Organisations

Events Organised and Projects Supported

- Dīaspora – a student-led journal on Ukraine and Ukrainian Studies
- EIUC – Edinburgh Interdisciplinary Ukraine Conference
- OSINT Workshop – a workshop on open-source intelligence, delivered by Andro Mathewson
- Understanding Ukraine – a series of posts on significant events in Ukrainian history
- Kyiv-Edinburgh Student Forum – presentations on deterring hybrid threats in Europe, delivered by students from KNU and UoE
- Hybrid Workshops
- Essay Competition
- Resource List for Ukrainian Studies

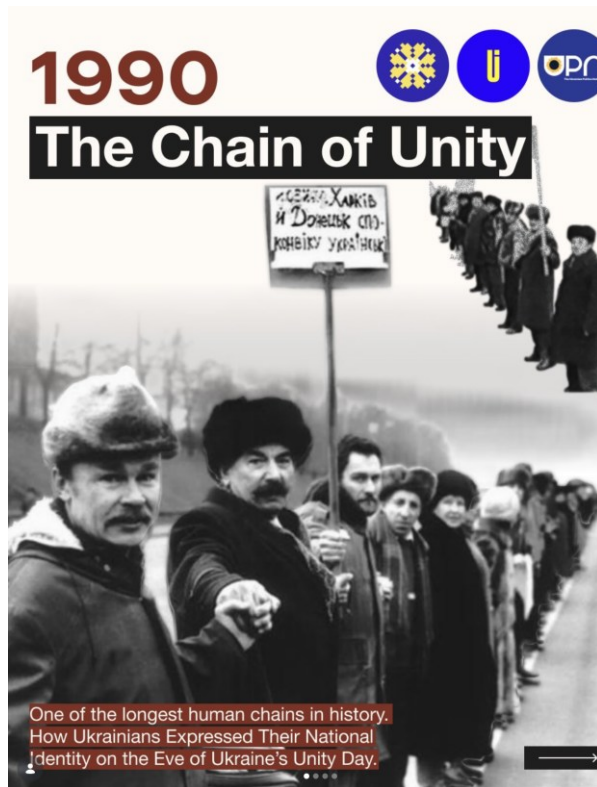


UPN's Approach

Students as Partners



Posts, Essay Competitions, and Student Forum



The Conference

EIUC



Edinburgh Interdisciplinary Ukraine Conference:
Hybrid Warfare and Ukraine's Resilience



Location:
G1 Lecture Theatre
Paterson's Land, The University of Edinburgh,
Holyrood Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8AQ

Date and time:
12 March 2026
11:00-15:30



Diaspora Journal



DIASPORA a roundtable discussion:
the student journal Diaspora and the Ukrainian studies in the UK

26 NOV
3-4:30 pm

Speakers:

- the editorial team of the student journal Diaspora
- Dr Katherine Younger

Moderator:

- Dr Marcin Kaczmarek

Boyd Orr Building,
room 709B
(University of Glasgow)

The seminar is supported by the MacFie Bequest

Behind the Scenes

- Student research – Civil Society in Ukraine, Impact of the War in Ukraine on the Grain Supply in the Middle East, Demolition of Monuments in Ukrainian Cities
- Grant writing experience – 5 collaborative grant applications with students
- Inclusion of students in course development

Civil society in Ukraine – the present landscape with special reference to democracy-building and democratic innovation

Research paper by Maksym Safronov, a student volunteer
with the Ukrainian Politics Network

19 January 2026

Introduction

Civil society in Ukraine can, in broad terms, be described as voluntary, self-organised citizen action that serves as a mediator between public authorities and citizens (EUR-Lex, n.d.). The organisation of civil society in Ukraine was strongly influenced by the events unfolding as of late 2013 (Euromaidan – a wave of demonstrations beginning in November 2013, the war in eastern Ukraine, decentralisation) and 2022 (the Russian full-scale invasion). Civil society has assumed state roles, such as supplying recruits, supporting refugees, and restoring buildings and infrastructure (Lux, 2025). Civil society organisations continue to strengthen democracy in the country through citizen participation, helping change Ukraine for the better even during the war.

This paper outlines the landscape of civil society in Ukraine, highlighting major umbrella organisations and examining how they promote democracy through gender equality, participatory practices, and democratic innovation.

The image shows two overlapping web pages. The top page is the Ukrainian Institute website, featuring a navigation bar with links: 'ukrainian institute', 'About us', 'Programmes and projects', 'Institutes worldwide', and 'News'. It also includes social media icons for Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter. The main heading is 'Lysiak-Rudnytsky Ukrainian Studies Programme', with a sub-heading '2nd Call Submission' and a 'Deadline: July 22, 2026 (inclusive)'. Below this is a large blue banner with the text 'UKRAINIAN STUDIES LYSIAK-СТУДІЇ УКРАЇНСЬКІ RUDNYTSKY PROGRAMME UKRAINIAN STUDIES УКРАЇНСЬКІ СТУДІЇ' in white and blue. The bottom page is from The University of Edinburgh, showing the university's logo and name. It has a search bar and a navigation menu with links: 'Schools & departments', 'MyEd', 'Search', 'About the grants', 'Applying and guidelines', 'Success stories', 'Social media and promotion', 'Information for grant recipients', and 'Alternative funding'. The main heading on this page is 'STUDENT EXPERIENCE GRANTS'. Below the heading is a navigation bar with 'Home > Student Experience Grants'. The bottom of the page features two large, colorful illustrations: one of a lightbulb with gears inside, and another of a target with an arrow hitting the bullseye.



Is it only relevant to Ukraine?

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