

**Kyiv-Edinburgh Student Forum 2026**  
**Lessons from Ukraine to Deter Hybrid Threats in Europe**  
**Agenda and Summary**

Agenda:

Date: 4 February 2026, 11:30-12:30 UK time (13:30-14:40 Kyiv time), Format: online

11:30 – Opening remarks

11:40 - Keynote addresses:

- Olga Tokariuk, Academy Associate at Chatham House
- Oleksandr Kraiev, Analyst at Ukrainian Prism and Senior Lecturer at National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

11:50- Student presentations:

- hybrid aerial threats and drone warfare
- AI driven disinformation as a tool of hybrid conflict
- the weaponisation of energy infrastructure
- the role of civil society, media, and public trust in countering hybrid threats

### **Summary**

On 4 February 2026, the Ukrainian Politics Network hosted the second **Kyiv-Edinburgh Student Forum**. The 2026 edition was entitled “Lessons from Ukraine to Deter Hybrid Threats in Europe”. The aim was to bring together students from the University of Edinburgh and Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv for a joint academic discussion. Yuliia Antonenko and Sofiia Kudriashova, both Research and Events Assistants at the Ukrainian Politics Network, organised and chaired the event.

Across five student presentations, the Forum explored key dimensions of hybrid threats - from drone warfare and hybrid aerial risks to AI-driven disinformation, the weaponisation of energy infrastructure, and the role of civil society, media, and public trust.

### **Student presentations included:**

- “The Sky as a New Front: Challenges of Drone Warfare for European Security (FPV)”, which examined how FPV drones are reshaping tactics and lowering barriers to aerial attack, creating new vulnerabilities for civilian safety and critical infrastructure across Europe.

- “From Reactive to Proactive: Applying Ukraine’s Lessons to NATO’s Hybrid Aerial Deterrence Challenge”, which argued for shifting from reactive responses to proactive deterrence, drawing on Ukraine’s experience in early warning, integrated air defence, and allied coordination against hybrid aerial threats.

- “Countering AI-Driven Disinformation and Hybrid Threats”, which discussed how AI-enabled disinformation accelerates and scales influence operations, and outlined practical countermeasures such as media literacy, rapid fact-checking ecosystems, and platform accountability—to protect and enhance public trust.

- “Energy Infrastructure as a New Hybrid Warfare: Lessons from Ukraine for European Energy Security”, which analysed the weaponisation of energy infrastructure and the cascading effects of attacks on grids and supply chains, highlighting resilience measures and diversification lessons relevant to Europe.

-“Beyond the Battlefield: Ukrainian Civil Society as a Defence Against Russian Hybrid Threats” which showed how civil society networks, independent media, and community resilience help blunt hybrid pressure, sustain trust, and strengthen democratic cohesion during prolonged crisis.

We were also honoured to hear keynote remarks by **Olga Tokariuk** (Academy Associate at Chatham House) and **Oleksandr Kraiev** (senior lecturer at the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and a researcher at the Ukrainian Prism), which helped connect student research to the broader security and policy debate.

The UK Defence Journal covered the Forum in their article available [here](#).