



Recovery After Total War

Thinking aloud about Ukraine's internal problems

27–28 May 2026

Odesa, Ukraine

Programme • 27 May • State, Law and the Military

- 09:00–09:30 Registration and morning coffee
- 09:30–10:00 Welcome
Speakers: Anastasia Piliavsky (Cosmopolis), Brendan Simms (CCG), Gennady Druzenko (CCD)
- 10:00–11:30 **Discussion 1: The Army After Total War**
How can a state prepare for the return of an exhausted, traumatised, and disaffected army?
Speakers: Maxim Sheptitsky, Saïd Isaiev, Oleksandr Kovalenko
- 11:30–11:45 Coffee break
- 11:45–13:15 **Discussion 2: Coercive Mobilisation**
How does a state rebuild legitimacy after forcing citizens into war?
Speakers: Anastasia Piliavsky, Volodymyr Minenko, Olena Smolyak
- 13:15–14:15 Lunch
- 14:15–15:45 **Discussion 3: Constitutional Life Under Emergency Rule**
What happens to constitutional life when political emergency becomes routine?
Speakers: Gennady Druzenko, Ganna Yudkivska, Anne van Aaken
- 15:45–16:00 Coffee break
- 16:00–17:30 **Discussion 4: (Re)building the State Why do reforms fail?**
And how can Ukraine build a state that could earn trust – and taxes – post-war?
Speakers: Piotr Kulpa, Gert Antsu, Sergei Sakhanenko
- 17:30 - 18:00 Drinks

Programme • 28 May • Holding the Country In One Piece

- 09:00–09:30 Coffee break
- 09:30–11:00 **Discussion 5: Veterans, Demobilisation, and Reintegration**
What does a country owe those who fought for it? And what happens when it does not deliver?
Speakers: Kateryna Shalyapina, Vyacheslav Vasyliev
- 11:00–11:15 Coffee break
- 11:15–12:45 **Discussion 6: Nation, Alienation and Russia’s Hybrid War**
Can Ukraine Survive Its Culture Wars?
Speakers: Michael Wasiura, Ansar Garkho, Ayub Isakov, Ugo Poletti, Anastasia Piliavsky
- 12:45–13:45 Lunch
- 13:45–15:15 **Discussion 7: How Not to Lose the Country**
What makes people stay, return — or stop feeling they belong?
Speakers: Ella Libanova, Elena Knyazeva, Marina Gribanova, Uday Chandra
- 15:15–15:30 Coffee break
- 15:30–17:00 **Discussion 8: Post-War Constitutional Future**
What kind of a constitutional order can hold Ukraine together post-war?
Speakers: Gennady Druzenko, David Williams, Ganna Yudkivska
- 17:30–19:30 **Closing Roundtable:**
What Ukrainians Do Not Say In Public — and Europeans Do Not Hear
A concluding roundtable on the hardest choices of the next phase.
Speakers: Piotr Kulpa, Yuriy Romanenko, Gert Antsu, Brendan Simms, Gennady Druzenko
- 19:30–20:00 Drinks