

# KSE: BUILDING UKRAINE TOMORROW, TODAY





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## **Tymofiy Mylovanov**

President, Kyiv School of Economics

When Russia launched its full-scale invasion, our resources were scarce, and many doubted the Kyiv School of Economics (KSE) would endure.

We did more than survive – we built, we expanded, and we led.

This report is not just about milestones. It is about resilience – yours and ours. It highlights why students chose to stay home or, in some cases, return to Ukraine to learn and lead. It is about how we deliver a world-class education despite blackouts and air raids.

Since the beginning of the year, we have launched transformative initiatives, expanded access to communities across Ukraine, and opened programs that will shape a new generation of economists, engineers, and public leaders. Every challenge was urgent. And our response is always to innovate, with agility.

None of this would be possible without your support. You are helping us change lives. You are helping students realize their dreams, even in war.

With deep gratitude.



# UKRAINE TOMORROW MEANS

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## 1. PRODUCING IMPACTFUL LEADERS

KSE has been called upon to educate more students in the fields that will be vital to the country's reconstruction. To increase enrollment significantly, KSE must be able to compete for the best faculty, increase the number of classrooms, grow scholarship funding, and add vital administrative support.

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## 2. ENHANCING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

To be competitive on the global stage and give our students the best chance at success, KSE has invested in partnerships with top Western universities like MIT and Stanford, among others. Moving forward, KSE needs to prioritize hiring international faculty, student exchange programs, and operational staff to support these partnerships.

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## 3. INTERDISCIPLINARY EDUCATION

To address the demand from students, KSE will establish new Engineering courses to help our new graduates thrive at the intersection of Engineering and Economics. As urgent infrastructure projects proliferate during reconstruction, this will uniquely position KSE graduates to respond to the country's growing needs.

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## 4. EXPANDING OUR CAMPUS

KSE is poised to expand its footprint in downtown Kyiv by acquiring new land and property for an extended campus. As we continue to grow, it is crucial to have adequate space and facilities to achieve our ambitious goals.

An expansion will include creating essential student housing, classrooms and learning spaces, state of the art engineering labs, and faculty and staff offices.







# Six Months. One Mission. A Thousand Steps Forward.

Since January 2025 KSE ...

... **acquired a full-sized campus** for 3,643 students, faculty, and team members.

... launched our **first vocational training program**. In 3 months we stood up the program and have already graduated 20 students now in the workforce.

... **hosted 3 Nobel laureates** for public events open to audiences in Kyiv and Kharkiv

... awarded **48 grants** to humanitarian and educational initiatives.

... allowed **1,108 children** to return to in-person schooling by **renovating school bomb shelters**.

... **advised and supported 250 veterans** through our partnership with the Office for Veterans.

... **supported over 1,000 service members** with direct aid to defense units and individual veterans.

... **recruited 5 international mathematics professors** from Oxford, Trieste, and Warsaw, with input from Fields Medalist Maryna Viazovska.

... **launched a new master's program in mathematics** and are developing a theoretical physics track.

... agreed to **launch a new Joint Lab with Nicholas Christakis** (Yale) this fall.

... started a **new master's program in bioinformatics** to address urgent demand in Ukraine's STEM ecosystem.

... began recruiting Ukrainian students who fled to Germany in 2022 through our "**Come back home**" scholarship program.

# A Generation That Believes. A System That Does Not Deliver.

Sixteen-year-old Dasha knows she wants to stay in Ukraine and help rebuild. She is confident and driven – like most of her friends. But when asked what she wants to be, she is unsure. She has never done an internship. Her school offers no career guidance. Her textbooks are outdated. And she is not alone.

A recent study by the KSE Institute and the Olena Zelenska Foundation found that 82% of Ukrainian teens feel hopeful about their future, yet only a third know what career to pursue. They are motivated, but unprepared. The education system gives them little direction – and even fewer opportunities to grow.

Across Ukraine, young people are finishing school with high hopes and low visibility into the future. They are not being challenged, connected, or guided. The system they rely on is dangerously underfunded.

## To put things into perspective:

The London School of Economics invests  
**USD 41,000 per student**

KSE invests  
**USD 5,000**

Top Ukrainian public universities spend  
under **USD 2,000**

This means outdated programs, overworked teachers, and no access to modern skills. In frontline regions, extracurriculars have all but disappeared.

KSE exists to change that.

Through our **Ukraine Tomorrow** strategy, launched last year, we are showing that even in crisis, education can be excellent, relevant, and future-facing. We are increasing enrollment in vital fields, launching new interdisciplinary programs, attracting top faculty, and connecting learning directly to Ukraine's reconstruction. We are investing in students at a level no other Ukrainian institution can match.

And it is working. Today.



# Keeping Ukraine's Brightest at Home

Ukraine is facing a growing challenge: its top high school graduates are steadily leaving to study abroad – often enrolling in institutions that do not match their potential or ambitions.

- **2.1 million** Ukrainian school-aged children are currently abroad
- **48%** are more likely to pursue education outside

Our approach is clear: offer world-class education at home and make it accessible to top students through competitive scholarships.

Today, over half of KSE undergraduates receive full or partial tuition support. For STEM olympiad winners and exceptional applicants, we provide monthly stipends of \$500-700 – matching or exceeding offers from foreign institution.

We are targeting Ukraine's brightest young minds and giving them a reason to stay.



## Beyond the numbers, it's people who tell the story.

### Sofiia Danilova

a first-year Business Economics student at KSE, grew up just 18 km from the Russian border in Sumy.

Despite years of remote learning under constant threat, she won over 60 academic and creative competitions.

She considered studying in Germany – and her family encouraged her to leave. But after earning 3rd place in a national research competition and receiving a full KSE scholarship, – Sofiia chose to stay.



*This has been the most exciting, fulfilling year of my life, – I've learned so much, joined startups, traveled through university programs, and found a community that feels like home.*



Today, Sofiia is working on regional development projects. Her goal is clear: to stay in Ukraine and help rebuild it through smart economic policy.

Stories like Sofiia's show what's possible when talent meets opportunity. That's why KSE invests not only in university students, but also in the next generation in school. Our Da Vinci Ukraine program supports olympiad preparation for students across the country – helping young talents thrive early.

**At KSE, we believe opportunity shouldn't require leaving home. Ukraine already is a place of opportunity.**





## **Big changes begin with small moments – a choice to stay, to try, to lead.**

In the next pages, meet the people and projects turning Ukraine Tomorrow into today's reality.

## The Campus Ukraine Needed

*Some say we bought a golf club. What we really bought is time – time to prepare Ukraine's future engineers, economists, and leaders before the next crisis arrives.*

In early 2025, KSE purchased a former golf club on the banks of the Dnipro River – to build the university campus Ukraine needs. Backed by USD 40 million in private donor support, the site will become the most advanced educational space in the country. It will triple KSE's student capacity and prepare the next generation of leaders in economics, math, policy, technology, and beyond.

*This campus is a promise: if we give Ukrainian students the space, they will shape the next century.*



## New Campus at a Glance

### Location

Obolonska Naberezhna, Kyiv (5 hectares along the Dnipro River)

### Size

14,500 m<sup>2</sup> indoors

### Capacity

2,500+ students

### Total Investment

USD 40 million: the largest private educational investment since February 2022

### Funding

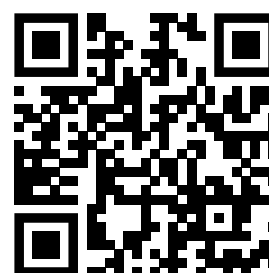
100% donor-funded  
No state or municipal budget funds are used

### Timeline

- **2025:** Reconstruction begins
- **Spring 2026:** academic space opens
- **Summer 2026:** Public events begin

### New!

- Maker-spaces
- R&D labs for STEM, AI, and behavioral science
- Public green space, an open park, and outdoor cinema
- Shared spaces for all students



Take a walk through the new campus

# A Library That Builds More Than Knowledge

Among the many spaces that will shape the new KSE campus, one stands out as a symbol of everything we believe in: the library.

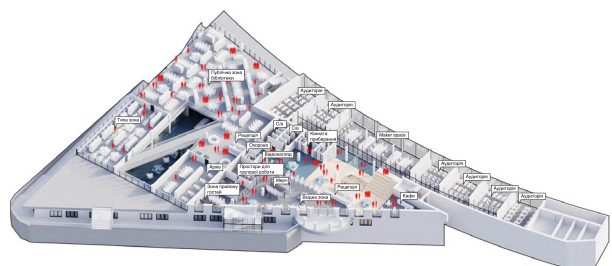


For decades, university libraries in Ukraine have been neglected – underfunded, outdated, and disconnected from global knowledge systems. We are building something different.

The future KSE Library will be open, modern, and multilingual. It will serve not only our students and faculty but also journalists, researchers, policymakers, and the wider public. A place to think. To explore. To imagine.

More than a physical space, this library represents our commitment to truth, openness, and opportunity. It reflects the values at the heart of KSE – and the kind of country we are helping to rebuild.

**We are now raising \$10 million to bring this vision to life.** Every donor will know: this is the library they helped build. One that not just holds knowledge – it shapes the future.







## Why Vocational Training Can Rebuild Ukraine Faster



*In January, we had an idea. By April, we had a classroom.  
And by July, our students were already on the job.*

*– Serhii Savytskyi, Head of Vocational Education at KSE*



Ukraine cannot rebuild without skilled hands. That's not a metaphor – it is a national crisis.

Years of underinvestment in vocational education have left the country without enough welders, operators, or technicians to meet urgent needs in construction, defense, and manufacturing. Old systems that take 8+ months to prepare specialists are too slow for a country under pressure.

In just three months, KSE built and launched a new vocational program.

**Designed a full curriculum for CNC machine operators**

**Opened two training facilities**

**Partnered with 10 employers across defense, energy, and industry**

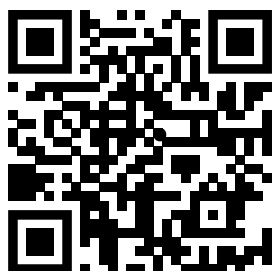
**Enrolled 20 adult learners – 30% women**



**Alyona, CNC machine operator training Student**



*I already had two degrees. But I knew I needed a new skill  
– one that could help my country win.*



**Watch how the  
training works**

Alyona, from Zaporizhzhia, had studied metallurgy and economics. She worked in retail, then manufacturing. But after the full-scale invasion, everything changed.

She joined a defense team assembling drones – reconnecting with her first passion: machines. But to go further, she needed new skills. So in spring 2025, she joined KSE's CNC machine operator course.

Now, she's working with real equipment at a facility near Kyiv. Her next goal: return to defense and use her skills to help it outbuild and outsmart the enemy.



## Faculty of KSE University

4

Rectorate

8

Economic Science

22

Engineering School

36

Computer Science

11

Mathematics

89

Social Sciences

1

Center for Human Rights and War Memorialization

- The faculty members listed below are selected examples that illustrate the caliber and diversity of KSE's teaching and research community.

### ● Notable Experts and Academic Leaders

**Tymofii Brik** – the youngest university rector in Ukraine, PhD in Sociology from Carlos III University of Madrid. Completed academic programs at Stanford University, New York University (NYU), and the University of Michigan

**Alexandra Vacroux** – Vice President for Strategic Engagement, PhD in Government from Harvard University

**Yuliia Svyrydenko** – First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy of Ukraine; Distinguished Professor of Practice, MA in Antitrust Management

**Thomas Barrett** – Lecturer in Economics, MA in East European Studies (Political Science), Free University of Berlin

**Scott Gehlbach** – Professor of Political Science; Elise and Jack Lipsey Professor, University of Chicago; PhD in Political Science and Economics, University of California, Berkeley

**Nathan Greenfield** – Professor of History, PhD from McGill University (Canada); military historian and award-nominated author

**Charles Kotuby** – Law Professor; Professor of Practice and Executive Director of the Center for International Legal Education at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law; former Partner at Jones Day (Washington DC) with two decades of experience in international arbitration and

**Sergii Marchenko** – Distinguished Professor of Practice; Minister of Finance of Ukraine; PhD in Economics, Scientific and Research Financial Institute of the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine, Former Chair of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank and the IMF

**Oleg Nivievskyi** – International expert in land reform, agricultural economics and food policy; Advisor to government agencies and international organizations (e.g. World Bank and FAO), PhD in Agricultural Economics from the University of Göttingen (Germany)

**Sergiy Nikolaychuk** – Deputy Governor of the National Bank of Ukraine; Distinguished Professor of Practice, PhD and MA in Economics

**Oleksii Sobolev** – Deputy Minister of Economy of Ukraine for Digital Development, Digital Transformation and Digitalization; Distinguished Professor of Practice, MA in Finance, CFA Charterholder (USA)





## Faculty of KSE University

**Inna Sovsun** – Lecturer of Public Policy and Governance, MA in European Policy from Lund University (Sweden); Member of the Parliament of Ukraine

**Jason Stanley** – Distinguished Professor; Jacob Urowsky Professor of Philosophy at Yale University, PhD in Linguistics and Philosophy from MIT litigation

**Oksana Syroyid** – Associate Professor of Public Policy and Governance, MA in Law from the University of Ottawa (Canada); former Deputy Speaker of the Ukrainian parliament and expert in national and global security

**Viktor Pynzenyk** – Professor of Public Policy and Governance, PhD in Economics; former Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine and former Minister of Finance and Economy of Ukraine



### Economic Science

**Olena Besedina** – PhD in International Economics and Public Economics, Bocconi University; MA in Public Administration and International Development, Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, received a Joint Japan-World Bank Scholarship

**Olga Kupets** – PhD in Economics, Institute of Demography and Social Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine; MA in Economics from the EERC

**Maksym Obrizan** – PhD in Economics, University of Iowa; MA in Economics, Economics Education and Research Consortium (EERC)

**Pavlo Prokopovych** – PhD and MA in Economics, University of Michigan; Economic Theory Fellow of the Society for the Advancement of Economic Theory; editorial board of Economic Theory and Economic Theory Bulletin (Springer)

**Olesia Verchenko** – PhD in Economics, University of Virginia (USA), MA in Banking and Finance, University of Lausanne (Switzerland)



### Engineering school

**Serhii Ivanets** – Chair of the Engineering School; Former Head of educational-scientific institute of electronic and information technologies

**Yevhen Korotkyi** – PhD in Technical Sciences; MA in Electronic Devices

### Computer Science

**Yurii Chopiuk** – Deputy Chair for Teaching, PhD in Mathematics, former expert in accreditation of educational programs at the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance

**Yuliia Faidyuk** – Academic Director of Bioinformatics & Biomedical Data Analysis Program, PhD in Biology, Postdoctoral Scientist at Hudson Institute of Medical Research

**Serhii Kozarenko** – Deputy Chair for Research, PhD in Mathematics, Head of Graph Theory and Network Analysis Lab

**Roman Kyslyi** – Head of NLP AI Lab, PhD in Computer Science, AI/Data Architect with more than 13 years of industrial experience, ex-Head of AI in Deloitte Ukraine

**Georgiy Shevchenko** – Chair of the Faculty of Computer Science, PhD in Physical and Mathematical Sciences, winner of the President of Ukraine Prize for Young Scientists; editorial boards *Modern Stochastics: Theory and Applications* and *Theory of Probability and Mathematical Statistics*



## Faculty of KSE University

### Mathematics

**Yevheniia Kochubinska** – PhD in Mathematics; editorial board in the World of Mathematics

**Maryna Nesterenko** – PhD in Mathematical Physics, honoured with President of Ukraine's Prize for Young Scientists and the L'Oréal-UNESCO Prize for Women in Science

**Andrii Semenov** – Habilitation degree in Natural Sciences from the University of Rostock

**Maria Vlasenko** – PhD in Mathematics; Managing Director of the International Centre for Mathematics in Ukraine (ICMU)

### Social Science

**Stepan Berko** – MA in Law and Public Policy; Chair of the Board at the DEJURE Foundation

**Ihor Chava** – PhD in History; Director of Ukraine Touristic (2024–2025); expert in city branding and promotion

**Oksana Dovhopolova** – PhD in Philosophy; curator of the memory culture platform Past / Future / Art

**Serhii Holovaty** – PhD in Law; member of the Bureau of the Venice Commission

**Ivan Homza** – PhD in Political Science; recipient of DAAD, Fulbright, and Georgetown University fellowships

**Iryna Hubeladze** – PhD in Psychology; Ambassador of Social Psychology at the European Association of Social Psychology

**Nathan Hatson** – PhD in Urban Planning (USC); member of Ro3kvit – Urban Coalition for Ukraine

**Volodymyr Kulyk** – PhD in Political Science; expert on language policy and identity; visiting lecturer at Yale and Stanford

**Oleksandra Koydel** – PhD in Political Science (Freie Universität Berlin); researcher in the BRIDGE and ICLD projects

**Anton Liagusha** – PhD in History; lecturer at George Mason University

**Haliyna Makhova** – PhD in Economics; participant in the WIPO Technology and Innovation Support Center program

**Natalia Malynovska** – PhD in Political Science; fellow at the Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (Berlin, Germany)

**Dariia Sachko** – PhD in History; participant in the international project "Learn to Discern: Media Literacy"

**Valeriia Palii** – PhD in Psychology; Presidential Award from the American Psychological Association

**Svitlana Shlypchenko** – PhD in Philosophy; Director of the Center for Urban Studies; Fulbright alumna

**Iryna Sklokina** – PhD in History; researcher at the Center for Urban History (Lviv)

**Viktor Solovyov** – PhD in Public Administration; Senior Consultant on Anti-Corruption at GoodCorporation (London)

**Vira Usyk** – PhD in Economics; recipient of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Scholarship for Young Scientists (2024)

**Olena Veldbrecht** – PhD in Psychology; co-founder of the Ukrainian Psychometric Society

**Tetiana Vodotyka** – PhD in History; founder of the peer-reviewed journal City: History, Culture, Society

**Dmytro Yarovyi** – PhD in Psychology; government relations consultant at Hillmont Partners

**Alina Zubkovych** – PhD in Sociology; Chair of the Nordic Ukraine Forum







## Kevin Ryan

A visiting professor at KSE specializing in national security studies

### A Soldier's Second Mission

Kevin Ryan arrived in Kyiv in January 2025. A retired U.S. Army Brigadier General, he had spent decades studying Russia's military. This trip was different. His goal was simple: to contribute to KSE's ability to teach about national security, and in so doing, prove that Ukraine still had allies who stood with it – in flesh, not just funding.

Kevin build a course on National Security and developed a simulation where students played out a crisis as representatives from defense, foreign affairs, and intelligence agencies They worked in teams, briefed real MPs, and helped shaped what will become Ukraine's first civilian national security curriculum.

*KSE is building the minds Ukraine needs to survive. I am just here to serve.*

His lectures often ended in air raid shelters. His nights were pierced by shrieking missile alerts. But what moved him most – was the ambition of his students, the ingenuity of the military leaders he met, and the hunger for reform he saw even at the frontlines.





## From NYU Abu-Dhabi to KSE: Betting on Ideas That Matter

*There is no lab for behavioral economics in Ukraine. Yet. That is why I am coming.*

Monika, an Italian behavioral economist working at NYU Abu Dhabi, is joining KSE, driven by the belief that her work can have more impact in Ukraine than anywhere else.

She is coming to start something new: a behavioral economics lab focused on decision-making under pressure. From evacuation planning to mental health interventions in wartime, her mission is to bring evidence-based analysis to Ukraine's biggest challenges, and to train a new generation of Ukrainian scholars in the process.

Her dream? To build tools and knowledge that help Ukraine not just survive – but lead.

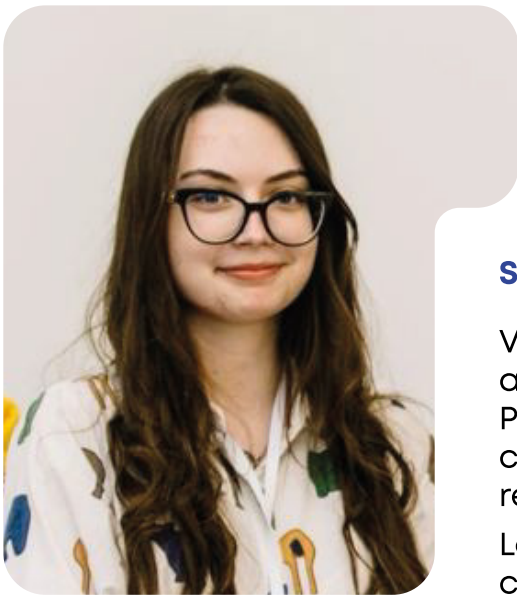


### Monika Pompeo

PhD in Behavioural Economics,  
Assistant Professor at KSE and  
Director of the Kyiv Experimental  
Economics Laboratory

*Ukraine should become a place where others come to learn. That is what I want to help build.*





## Viktoriia Portnaia

KSE Student, Applied Mathematics

### Showing the Next Generation What Math Can Do

Viktoriia is studying Applied Mathematics at KSE and interning at the NLP (Natural Language Processing) lab. She also co-organizes competitions that connect school students with real-world problems using math and data.

Last year, she helped launch a national championship for 200+ students, including those from occupied regions, focused on Ukraine's recovery. Five finalists from that competition are now KSE students.

Now, Viktoriia co-leads the Youth Recovery Competition, a policy hackathon where students use open data to solve social challenges. Over 90 students have already applied.

*You have to show young people where their talent matters. For me, that path is math.*

Viktoriia wants others to see math not just as a tool for tech – but for rebuilding and reforming society.

*There are so many math Olympiads – but nothing that shows students how to use data for real change. That is what we are trying to do.*





## The Reformer Who Refused to Stay Silent

*The battlefield was hard. But harder was realizing that women were invisible – even when they were saving lives.*

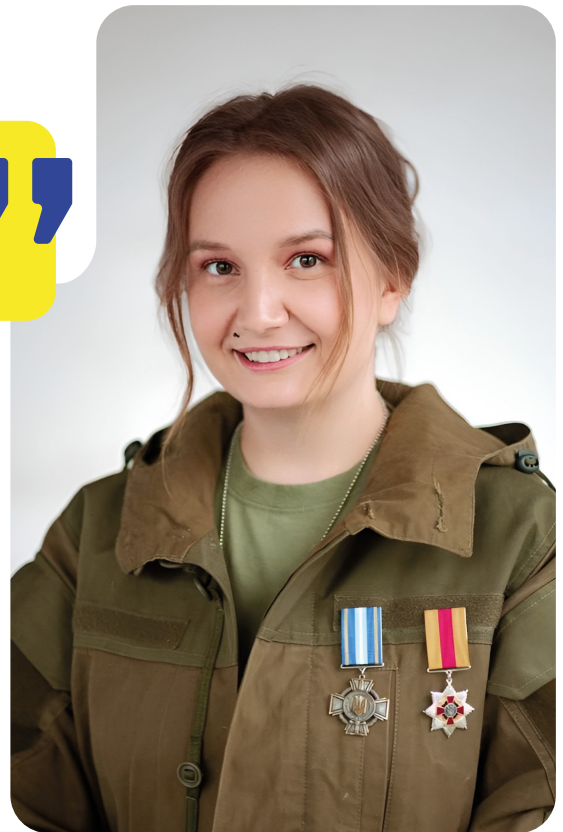


Kateryna graduated from KSE in 2021 with a master's in Public Policy and Governance. A former combat medic, she served under fire, carried the wounded, and did the same jobs as men – but without recognition, protection, or proper gear.

In 2018, she helped open 63 positions in the army to women that had been formally off-limits. Though many women were already doing the work unofficially, the system had never acknowledged them – until Kateryna helped change that.

Her work did not stop there.

In 2025, she launched a petition to combat sexual harassment in the army. It passed the 25,000-signature threshold in just days – and sparked a national conversation.



### Katerina Prymak

KSE Alumna, Public Policy and Governance





# Leadership. Learning. Leverage.

*We fight smarter when we learn faster.*



On June 5, 2025, the Kyiv School of Economics and Khartiia, one of Ukraine's most respected National Guard units, signed a strategic partnership. Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, we have provided over USD 5,7 million in support to the Khartiia unit. Now, this has grown into a collaboration that marries academic expertise with battlefield experience to train leaders, build technologies, and prepare for Ukraine's long-term recovery.

KSE will develop short, intensive professional development programs for Khartiia's personnel; the focus will be on wartime economics, logistics, resource planning, and crisis leadership. The content will be shaped by combat experience and delivered by KSE's faculty and analysts. The military is investing in people who can think, adapt, and lead.

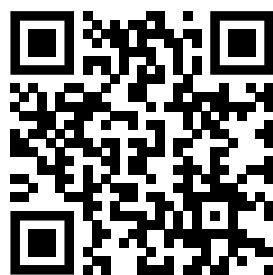
From secure communications to AI and risk forecasting, joint teams will be shaping defense technologies grounded in frontline realities. Research becomes real when it starts with a need defined under fire – and ends with a tool built to scale. At the same time, project-based learning creates an important opportunity for students to learn from real cases and gain hands-on experience.

This collaboration also offers pathways for veterans and their families to re-enter civilian life by providing business training, reskilling, and long-term support. We are working with Khartiia to build not only strength on the battlefield, but capability beyond it.



*The new Ukrainian army is an army that thinks." said Col. Ihor Obolenskyi, commander of Khartiia.*

*That's why our partnership with KSE is a step toward institutional advantage – one that will help us win through quality and save lives."*



**Watch Khartiia  
in action**

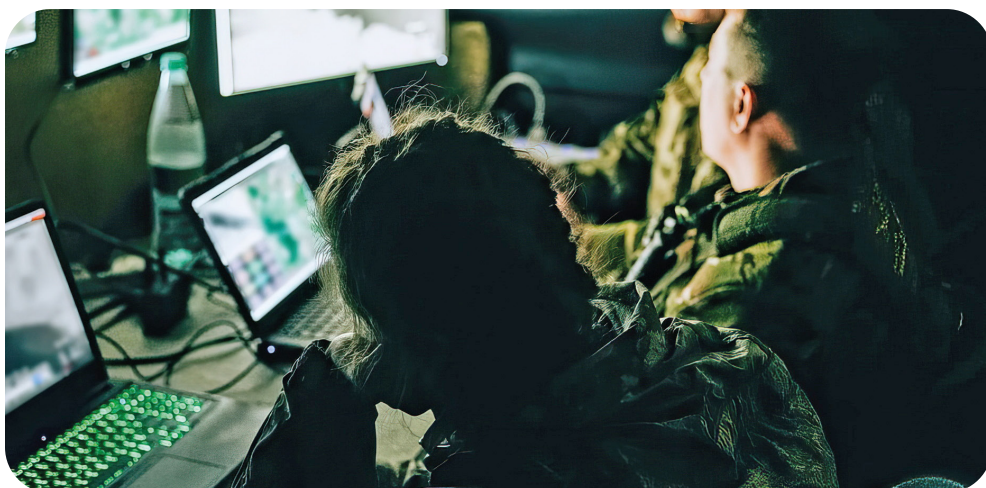
This is what security looks like in Ukraine Tomorrow. It is not just about weapons, but about knowledge. Not just about bravery, but about building new training systems that empower and endure.

# From Response to Readiness: Building Military Leadership at Every Level

While the strategic partnership with Khartiia is being built, KSE is already delivering practical education to meet frontline needs.

In early 2024, the 14th Brigade approached KSE not for supplies, but for training. Their commanders, many with civilian leadership backgrounds, sought better tools to lead in war.

Led by Oksana Syroyid, KSE professor and Staff Officer of “Khartiia”, KSE developed a flexible, modular program after on-site interviews with the brigade. Courses cover decision-making, organizational psychology, leadership under pressure, and information warfare — all delivered directly on base.



The need is clear: outdated Soviet models leave many officers without a shared framework for strategy and leadership. “We want to give smart orders, not just orders,” one deputy commander said.



Over 80 academic hours have been completed. Early skepticism gave way to strong engagement as commanders saw immediate relevance to their daily challenges. By August, the curriculum will be finalized and ready to scale across other forward-looking units.

This is education designed for frontline realities — built with and for those who lead.

# Building Ukraine's EU Future

In 2025, the Kyiv School of Economics and the Government of Sweden launched a new academic initiative – the Swedish Center for European Future at KSE. The Center will support Ukraine's European integration through teaching, research, and public engagement.

Ukrainian and international professors will develop courses focused on EU law, governance, economics, and accession processes. Leading international experts will join as fellows to produce research on key EU chapters – energy, trade, justice, digital policy – and engage with both policymakers and the public.



The goal is to prepare a new generation of experts who will lead Ukraine's path toward EU membership with knowledge, skills, and practical tools.

On April 24, 2025, during a visit to the Kyiv School of Economics, Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade, Benjamin Dousa, announced that the Government of Sweden will fund the creation of the Center – marking the next chapter in a partnership that began over 30 years ago.

*The classroom is where integration begins. If we want a European Ukraine, we need a generation that can lead it.*







**With gratitude  
and respect**

**KSE**

Kyiv  
School of  
Economics

June 2025