

REPORT

JANUARY-MARCH
2026





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The first quarter of 2026 was defined by execution under systemic pressure.

During January-February 2026, Russian attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure caused prolonged blackouts and heating disruptions. KSE Foundation ensured continuity of the University's operations by mobilizing and engaging both financial and in-kind support from partners, while delivering targeted assistance at scale. This response relied on coordinated contributions from Ukrainian businesses, international partners, and members of the global KSE community, enabling a shift from reactive aid to sustained educational continuity.

Through the Winter Emergency response, we supported **524 students and staff**. At a time when universities across Kyiv shifted to breaks or fully online formats, KSE remained open. This ensured the continuity of in-person learning and preserved approximately 15,000 hours of lectures and academic activity that would otherwise have been lost. We estimate that our joint actions also prevented 35-70 missed deadlines and 12-32 cases of acute stress, burnout, or depression-like states among students and staff.

Scholarship support continued alongside operational interventions: 168 scholarships were secured, enabling students to remain in Ukraine and continue their studies.

Human capital investments progressed at scale:

- Three school shelters provided a safe learning environment for **1,037 children**
- STEM initiatives reached over **4,600 students** and **260 teachers**
- Targeted programmes supported **96** entrepreneurs, professionals, and emerging leaders across sectors
- Within the Create Ukraine programme, **25 professionals** returned from abroad and joined government teams, contributing directly to reform priorities, EU integration, and strengthening state capacity.

Defense support remained a key priority. The Foundation continued to provide essential equipment, devices, and protective gear to frontline and training units, focusing on interventions that preserve lives and maintain operational readiness.

Across all directions, the Foundation converted partnerships into structured and measurable outcomes under conditions requiring speed and coordination.

We are grateful to our donors and partners whose trust and support made this work possible. Their contribution is not only a response to immediate needs — it is an investment in continuity, institutional resilience, and Ukraine's future.

KSE Foundation continues to operate as a platform combining institutional continuity, human capital development, and targeted operational response, emphasizing execution and long-term impact.

KSE ECOSYSTEM SUPPORT

In January-March 2026, KSE Foundation focused on sustaining the core functioning of the KSE ecosystem under systemic disruption. Winter challenges resulted from Russian attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, causing prolonged blackouts, service interruptions, and absence of heating during temperatures as low as -25°C (-13°F). Maintaining continuity of education was prioritized.

ACTIONS AND OUTPUTS:

- Deployed the Winter Emergency campaign combining immediate operational support with strategic continuity.
- Provided temporary accommodation for **114 individuals** (average stay: 21 days).
- Supplied power and heating solutions to **157 recipients**.
- Enabled approximately **1,500 trips** to and from the university.
- Supported a total of **524 individuals**, preserving thousands of hours of educational activity.

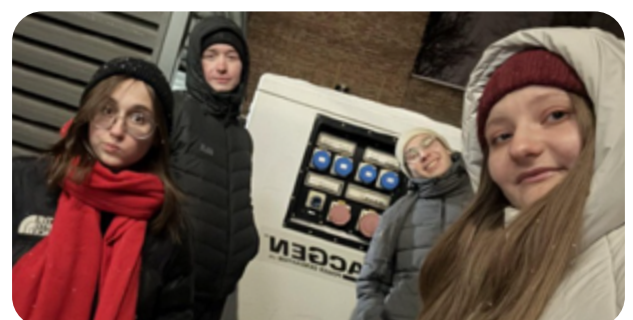
The response established a replicable operational model under continuous crisis conditions, demonstrating the capacity to mobilize resources, coordinate partners, and maintain university operations.

At the same time, the Christmas fundraising campaign, focused on scholarships, addressed the financial pressure that could have forced students to interrupt their studies or leave the country. The campaign brought together Ukrainian business, international partners, and the global KSE community, providing funding for 168 scholarships and thereby reducing the risk of losing human capital.



PRIORITIES FOR THE SECOND QUARTER

KSE Foundation will focus on formalizing the winter response into a structured readiness model and strengthening donor relationships through targeted follow-up, recognition, and clear communication of impact.



HUMAN CAPITAL INITIATIVES

KSE Foundation maintained access to education, supported talent development, and strengthened economic participation.



CREATE UKRAINE PROGRAMME

The Create Ukraine aims to strengthen Ukraine's public sector by returning Ukrainian professionals who have worked abroad back to their homeland and engaging them in the implementation of key national projects and EU-integration reforms within government institutions. Second, scaled-up phase launched in January 2026. 25 young specialists returned from countries around the world and joined nine central government institutions. Participants immediately started contributing to priority reforms across investment promotion, energy and climate policy, cultural heritage, education, and EU integration, embedding additional capacity directly into institutional workflows and supporting Ukraine's recovery and European integration trajectory.



TALENTS FOR UKRAINE

AMONG THE 2026 WINNERS:



Viktor Shelvinskyi

A veterinarian and ornithologist, founder and head of the Bird Rehabilitation Center. For over 20 years, he has rescued wild birds, developed treatment methods and nature-oriented enclosures, and prepared animals for release into the wild or life under care.



Tetiana Dumych

A researcher in the field of cell biology, PhD in Biological Sciences. Her work focuses on nanoparticles as innovative delivery systems for antitumor, photodynamic, and photothermal therapies.



Iryna Korynevskya

A student researcher and founder of Memory Board, an innovative neurocomplex for training children's memory, attention, and cognitive flexibility.

Initiative continued to support individual excellence across sectors. In the first quarter of 2026, 34 individuals were selected, representing fields such as science, culture, education, engineering, and ecology. Beyond financial support, the programme integrates participants into a broader network, increasing visibility and enabling collaboration. This approach positions talent not only as beneficiaries, but as contributors to a wider ecosystem of recovery and innovation.

Programme addressed economic resilience through support for women-led businesses. During the quarter, 62 entrepreneurs were selected to receive equipment grants aimed at strengthening production capacity and enabling growth. The initiative focuses on manufacturing and creative industries, contributing to both immediate business continuity and longer-term economic recovery.

CREATE! PROGRAMME



PROVISION OF SCHOOL SHELTERS AND RESTORING CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO IN-PERSON EDUCATION

The Foundation continued investing in physical infrastructure that enables safe learning in war-affected communities. During the quarter, the renovation and outfitting of **three additional school shelters** were completed — two in Mykolaiv region and one in Kyiv region. This allowed **1,037 children to return to their classrooms** and continue in-person learning despite the ongoing risks of wartime.

These shelters are part of a broader safety infrastructure that KSE Foundation has been developing since 2022. To date, 115 shelters have been renovated across 14 regions of Ukraine, serving more than **45,000 children**.

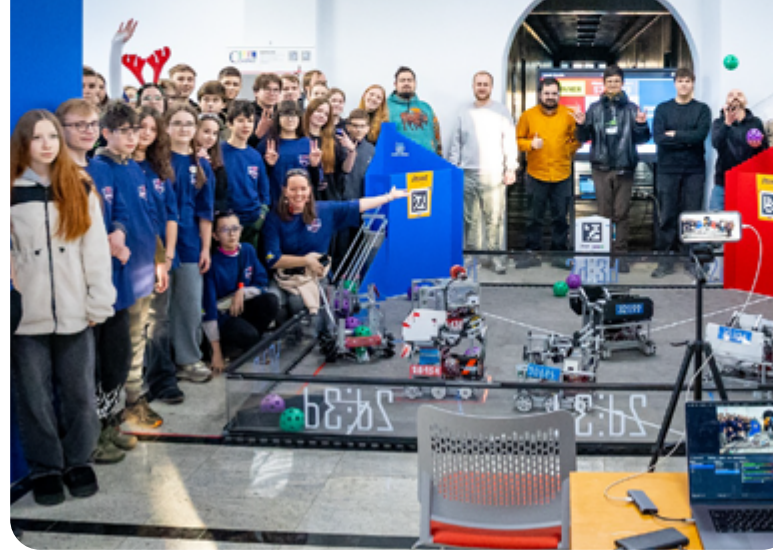


DA VINCI UKRAINE

Programme advanced its work in strengthening STEM education. The quarter included the implementation of grant-supported initiatives such as laboratories, training programmes, and Olympiad preparation activities across multiple regions.

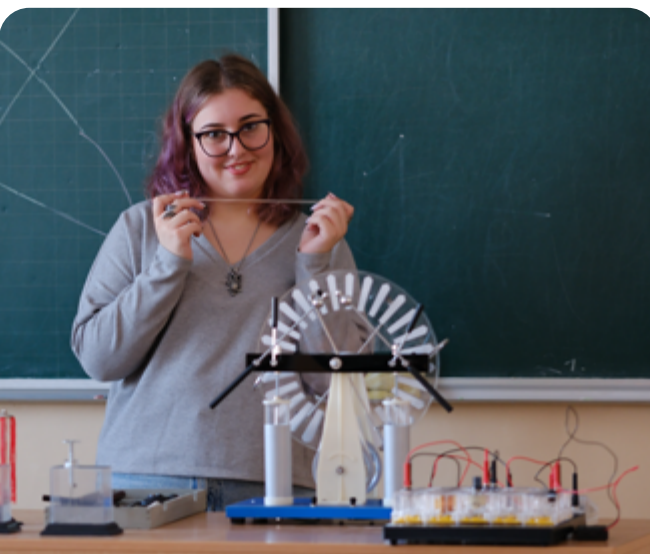
Reached over **4,600** students,
260 teachers

and supported **11** educational
organizations.



PRIORITIES FOR THE SECOND QUARTER

KSE Foundation will prioritize the further development and consolidation of KSE Foundation's human capital portfolio. This will include advancing programs that support women entrepreneurs, professionals returning to or contributing to Ukraine's public sector, safe access to education, and talent development in STEM and other strategic fields. The Foundation will also focus on strengthening partnerships, improving program delivery, and building stronger networks between beneficiaries, institutions, educators, and donors.



DEFENSE SUPPORT

KSE Foundation continued targeted support to Ukrainian defense units, focusing on equipment that enhances operational capacity and training quality.

DELIVERED EQUIPMENT:



11

UAVs



50

injury simulators
(2 sets)



17

units of auxiliary
equipment for
electronic
warfare devices
and computers



10

charging stations,
heating
equipment,
and auxiliary
devices

PRIORITIES FOR THE SECOND QUARTER

This will include supporting Ukrainian units with critical equipment while also exploring technology and innovation-driven projects with the potential for broader operational impact. Particular focus will be placed on pilot testing, assessing effectiveness, and scaling solutions that strengthen the resilience and operational capabilities of Ukraine's defense ecosystem.



GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AND FUNDRAISING

In the first quarter of 2026, KSE Foundation mobilized international and local partnerships to ensure continuity of education and uninterrupted operation of the KSE ecosystem under wartime disruption.

Supporting students' education in Ukraine

The Foundation secured funding for 168 scholarships for students at risk of interrupting their studies due to financial pressure. The campaign brought together a broad coalition of Ukrainian businesses, international partners, and more than 600 members of the global KSE community. Key contributors included ICU, FUIB, and OTP Bank, alongside individuals such as Mike Calvey and Fiona Hill, as well as a number of private philanthropists who chose to remain anonymous, whose support played an important role in the campaign's success.

Winter Emergency Campaign

During peak winter disruptions (-25°C / -13°F, blackouts, and heating outages caused by Russian attacks), the Winter Emergency response enabled KSE to remain fully operational. Support included temporary relocation, basic power and heating equipment, and logistics to maintain physical access to the University. A rapid-response system provided targeted support to 524 students and staff.

This effort was made possible through a joint response of international institutions, Ukrainian businesses, and thousands of KSE friends around the world. Key partners included Carnegie Corporation of New York, Founders Pledge, as well as companies such as Nova Post, WOG, Aurora Multimarket, FUIB, ICU, Zagoriy Foundation, OTP Leasing, FirePoint and OKKO.

Veterans Rehabilitation

In March 2026, KSE Foundation launched the Step Forward campaign. The initiative, implemented in partnership with After Service Veterans Fund, addresses one of Ukraine's most critical structural challenges: the reintegration of veterans into civilian and professional life.

By building a dedicated network of partners and supporters around this priority, the campaign positions KSE Foundation as a platform capable of not only sustaining education during the war, but also contributing to the country's long-term recovery through people.

Across these efforts, partnerships were translated into measurable outcomes: access to education was maintained at critical risk points, operational resilience was sustained under disruption, and a broad network of donors, alumni, and partners was consolidated into a scalable support system. Scholarship support continues beyond the reporting period, while the winter response has been completed for the peak phase.

PRIORITIES FOR THE SECOND QUARTER

The next focus is sustaining partner engagement, formalizing emergency response as an operational capability, and expanding the partnership base supporting KSE's role in Ukraine's recovery.

CROSS-CUTTING ACHIEVEMENTS

KSE Foundation strengthened its operational model, partnerships, and institutional positioning across multiple dimensions. Cross-project synergies created.

- **New partnerships were established with organizations, including:**



- **Stronger cross-project synergies emerged:** donors who had previously supported specific programmes also contributed to university continuity during the Winter Emergency response, indicating a shift toward a more integrated donor community supporting institutional priorities.

- **KSE Institute's policy research outputs contributed directly to institutional credibility,** reinforcing trust among partners and supporting both fundraising and partnership development. This created a reinforcing dynamic where analytical work strengthened positioning, which in turn enabled resource mobilization.

- **International visibility** increased through high-profile media coverage, including a [Washington Post article](#) by Nicholas A. Christakis, which highlighted KSE's role in maintaining education during the war and brought additional international attention to the institution.

- **Repeatable execution routines:** advanced standard workflows and lightweight automation (templates, dashboards, clearer ownership) to make delivery faster and more consistent across projects.

In the first quarter of 2026, KSE Foundation maintained structured, resilient operations under systemic pressure. By combining immediate crisis response with long-term human capital development and strategic partnerships, KSE ensured continuity of education and contributed to Ukraine's recovery trajectory.

PRIORITIES FOR THE SECOND QUARTER

KSE Foundation will focus on strengthening donor management through more structured onboarding, communication, and follow-up, while further standardizing execution through established workflows, clearer ownership, and lightweight automation to ensure faster and more consistent delivery across projects.

CURRENT FUNDRAISERS

ZAKHYSTOK: Safe Education

A project focused on equipping shelters in educational institutions across Ukraine. Our goal is to return as many Ukrainian children to offline lessons as possible



DONATE

Donate to Educate

The project aims to fund scholarships for 400 new students: youth who have lost their homes due to war, veterans, and children of fallen Defenders



DONATE

Support for Defenders

This project is dedicated to providing targeted support to Ukrainian Defenders with everything they need – from winter footwear to reconnaissance drones for units



DONATE

Khan Academy for Ukraine

Our mission is to make STEM education accessible in Ukraine, creating a sustainable economic future. Support us by making a donation to help translate Khan Academy into Ukrainian and make it available to every student, teacher, and parent across the country.



DONATE

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT**

