



Eastern Europe 2025

Protecting the region from blended threats

High-Level Conference

Organised by the **NATO Defense College Foundation**

*In cooperation with
the **Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo**, **MBDA**, **International Council on Environmental Economics and Development (ICEED)** and the **NATO Defense College***

Rome, **7th April 2025**

Venue: Hotel The Hive - Adalberto Libera Hall ([Via Torino, 6 - Roma](#))

In an ever-evolving global landscape, the European Union and NATO face crucial decisions in addressing strategic challenges of both civilian and military nature. The issue of inclusion and reconstruction goes beyond mere recovery: it is essential to strike the right balance between security and development, strengthening cooperation between the EU, NATO, Ukraine, and regional partners.

The region's economy offers growth opportunities but is also marked by uncertain budgets and unstable markets. For this reason, public-private partnerships play a key role in the revitalisation of Ukraine. However, the real challenge is not only rebuilding but also protecting what is being built. The region is exposed to increasingly sophisticated hybrid threats: shadow economies, illicit trafficking, counterfeiting, organised crime, cyber-attacks, corruption, and indirect subversion strategies. Countering these threats is essential to ensure a solid and lasting recovery.

Italy, in line with European recovery strategies, is committed to fostering economic growth through public-private partnerships, while also addressing the hybrid threats that jeopardise regional stability. The sharing of best practices, coordination between international, national, and private actors, and tackling informal economies therefore become priorities in reducing destabilising influences.

The High-Level Conference will bring together **20 international experts** at [The Hive Hotel](#). The conference will explore the link between **economic reconstruction, regional security, and international cooperation** in Eastern Europe. The goal is to strengthen stability, protect economic recovery from hybrid threats, and foster effective integration between the EU, NATO, and local partners. Special focus will be given to ensuring a sustainable and resilient reconstruction in Ukraine and neighboring countries.

The event will be opened by *Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo* (President, NATO Defense College Foundation), *Oleksandr Prokhorovych* (Co-Chair of the Customs and Trade Facilitation Committee at the American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine), and *Suzanne Nielsen* (Dean, NATO Defense College).

The first session, moderated by *Jamie Shea* (former NATO spokesperson), will focus on the options for inclusion processes and reconstruction, considering both civilian and security dimensions, and on how to develop effective cooperation between the EU, NATO, Ukraine, and regional partners. The speakers are *Oksana Osadcha* (Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration), *Giuseppe Cossiga* (President, Aerospace and Defence Industries Association), and *Alina Inayeb* (Regional Expert, German Marshall Fund).

The second session, chaired by *Frediano Finucci* (Head of Business and Foreign Desk, La7), will focus on strategies to foster growth in a context of limited budgets and unstable markets, examining the best public-private partnerships to support Ukraine's economic recovery and protect the reconstruction process. Those who will take the floor are *Enrico Petrocelli* (Head of International Institutional Relations, Cassa Depositi e Prestiti), *Halyna Yanchenko* (Member of Parliament, Secretary of the National Investment Council of Ukraine), and *Amedeo Teti* (Head of Department, Market and Consumers Protection Department, Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy).

The third session, moderated by *Alessandro Cassieri* (Journalist, RAI), will focus on the impact of shadow economies, illicit trafficking, counterfeiting, organised crime, and cyber threats in the region. The speakers will include *Vito Giordano* (Head, General Command of the Guardia di Finanza), *Oksana Shvets* (Director General of Policy, AmCham), *Oleksii Ustenko* (Ukrainian politician, economist, Member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine), and *Tomasz Ochrymowicz* (Future of Ukraine Global Leader, Deloitte Central Europe).

Throughout the event, several notable speakers will take the stage, including *Teresa Czerwińska* (Vice-President, European Investment Bank), *Francesco Boccia* (Senator of the Italian Republic), and *Davide La Cecilia* (Special Envoy for the Reconstruction of Ukraine, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation).

Giulio Terzj di Sant'Agata (Chairman of the Senate Committee on European Union Policies), with his concluding speech, will mark the end of the High-Level Conference.

The event will be held exclusively in **English** and will be **live streamed** ([YouTube link](#)). Further details can be found in the **attached programme**.

PARTICIPATION: please email [**ndcf.pressmediarelations@gmail.com**](mailto:ndcf.pressmediarelations@gmail.com) specifying whether you wish to attend *in person or virtually*.

INTERVIEWS: Along with your registration for the event, please indicate any interest in interviewing one or more speakers by **Thursday, April 3rd**. We will inform the interested speakers and arrange the interviews accordingly.

Media partner:



#EasternEurope2025 #reconstruction #NATOFoundation

