

Press Release

Warsaw, May 7, 2026

## **Culture as a Pillar of Security: Second 'Ukraine Culture Security Forum' Opens in Warsaw**

The second annual **Ukraine Culture Security Forum** convened today at the German Embassy in Warsaw. Bringing together approximately 180 government officials and museum experts from Ukraine, Poland, Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, France, and Sweden, the two-day summit addresses the critical interdependency between cultural preservation and national security.

The forum was opened by **Ambassador Miguel Berger**, who reaffirmed Germany's unwavering support for Ukraine alongside its European partners. **Małgorzata Ławrowska-von Thadden**, Chairwoman of the organizing **OBMIN Foundation**, highlighted that culture is not a secondary concern but an integral component of security and the bedrock upon which a nation builds its future.

**Artur Harazim**, Undersecretary of State at Poland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, welcomed the deepening international cooperation to support Ukrainian cultural sector.

In a powerful opening address, **Mykyta Poturaiev**, Chair of the Committee on Humanitarian and Information Policy in the Ukrainian Parliament, emphasized that the stakes extend far beyond physical territory. "Genocide encompasses not only the physical extermination of a people but the systematic destruction of their cultural, social, and spiritual foundations," Poturaiev stated. "Russia is attempting to kill the very essence of what makes us human."

Keynote speaker **Magnus Hjort**, Director General of Sweden's Psychological Defence Agency (MPF), detailed how modern warfare utilizes disinformation to "reinvent reality." He specifically pointed to Russia's deployment of false narratives designed to erase Ukrainian cultural identity.

Therefore, the forum's first panel, titled "*Fake Past, Stolen Future? Disinformation, Weaponized Culture and the Fight for Truth*," featured **Olexandr Mishchenko** (Ukraine's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs), **Etienne de Poncins** (French Ambassador to Poland), and leading museum experts. The discussion focused on practical strategies to counter disinformation warfare and protect the integrity of historical truth.

The Ukraine Culture Security Forum continues through tomorrow, fostering a unified European front against the weaponization of history.

These efforts also serve as a vital precursor to the upcoming **Ukraine Recovery Conference**, scheduled for this June in Gdańsk.

For more details and live updates, please visit: [www.obmin.eu](http://www.obmin.eu)

**Press contact: Anna Nagadowska; email: [a.nagadowska@obmin.eu](mailto:a.nagadowska@obmin.eu); mobile: +48.660.675.598.**

# OBMIN

CULTURE SECURITY  
UKRAINE FORUM 2.0

## UKRAINIAN CULTURE SECURITY FORUM 2.0

**Dates:** 7–8 May 2026

**Location:** Warsaw, Poland

**Main Venue:** Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Warsaw

**Languages:** English, Ukrainian, Polish

## THURSDAY, 7 MAY 2026

**Venue:** Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Warsaw

**08:15 – 08:55 | Registration & Security Check**

**09:00 – 09:45 | Official Opening of the Forum**

### Welcome:

- H.E. Miguel Berger, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of Poland
- Małgorzata Ławrowska-von Thadden, Chairwoman of the Board, OBMIN Foundation, Poland

### Official Opening:

- Artur Harazim, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland
- Mykyta Poturaiev, Member of Parliament of Ukraine, Chair of the Committee on Humanitarian and Information Policy (video message)



STRATEGIC PARTNER



# ОБМІН

CULTURE SECURITY  
UKRAINE FORUM 2.0

## 09:45 – 10:15 | Keynote Speech

- Dr. Magnus Hjort, Director General, Psychological Defence Agency (MPF), Sweden
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*Moderation:* Helene Rånlund, Chair of Blue Shield Sweden

## 10:15 – 11:45 | Panel 1: Fake Past, Stolen Future? Disinformation, Weaponized Culture and the Fight for Truth

**Statement:** H.E. Vasyl Bodnar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the Republic of Poland

- Jasminko Halilovic, War Childhood Museum, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Dr. Magnus Hjort, Psychological Defence Agency, Sweden
- Olexandr Mishchenko, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine
- Dr. Marcin Napiórkowski, Polish History Museum in Warsaw
- H.E. Etienne de Poncins, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to Poland
- Olena Zemliana, National Museum of the History of Ukraine in Kyiv

*Moderation:* Helene Rånlund, Chair of Blue Shield Sweden

## 11:45 – 12:15 | Coffee Break & Group Photo



## 12:15 – 13:45 | Panel 2: The Power of Culture: Security, Sovereignty and the New Diplomacy

**Intervention:** Marta Pastukh, German Platform for the Reconstruction of Ukraine:  
*A National Platform Connecting Cross-Sector Stakeholders*

- Dr. Marianna Otmianowska, Royal Łazienki Museum in Warsaw, Poland
- Dr. Maxym Ostapenko, National Preserve "Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra", Ukraine
- Natalia Pryhornytska, Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future (EVZ), Germany
- Prof. Dr. Stefan Simon, ICOM IC Security / ICOM Germany

*Moderation:* Dr. Łukasz Galusek, Silesian Museum in Katowice, Poland

## 13:45 – 14:30 | Lunch

## 14:30 – 16:00 | Panel 3: Guardians of Identity: How Museums Shape Resistance and Resilience

*Intervention:* *The invisible frontline: Reputation as a Strategic Deterrent*, Karoline Gil, ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen), Germany

- Laura Kipper, Estonian National Museum in Tartu
- Dr. Bartosz Odorowicz, Museum of the Second World War, Poland
- Daryna Pidhorna, Raphael Lemkin Society in Kyiv, Ukraine
- Dr. Matthias Thaden, Museum Europäischer Kulturen in Berlin, Germany

**Statement:** Ivan Verbytskyi, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Culture of Ukraine

*Moderation:* Paweł Reszka, Journalist and Reporter, *Polityka* Weekly (Poland)



# OBMIN

CULTURE SECURITY  
UKRAINE FORUM 2.0

16:45 - 19:00 | Study Visit & Guided Tour: Ujazdowski Castle Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA)

- Address: Jazdów 2, 00-467 Warsaw

**FRIDAY, 8 MAY 2026**

**Venue: National Institute of Museums – PANOPTIKUM Branch,**  
Address: Końcowa 4, 05-506 Lesznowola

**09:00 – 13:00 | PANOPTIKUM – a competence center for museums**

**09:00 – 09:15 | Opening Session & Welcome Remarks**

- Vasyi Pasternak, Board Member, OBMIN Foundation
- Dr. Paulina Florjanowicz, National Institute of Museums: Member of the Executive Board, NEMO

**09:15 – 10:00 | Site visit and introduction to storage technologies.**

**10:00 – 10:20 | PANOPTIKUM Presentation – a competence center for museums**

- Dr. Paulina Florjanowicz, National Institute of Museums; Member of the Executive Board, NEMO



# ОБМІН

## CULTURE SECURITY UKRAINE FORUM 2.0

**10:20 – 10:40 | Presentation:** PANOPTIKUM – a competence center for museums in practice – daily activities

- Anna Seweryn, National Institute of Museums
- Dr. Andrzej Stachowiak, National Institute of Museums

**10:40 – 12:45 | Panel Discussion: Safeguarding Heritage: Technical Standards, Storage Logistics and Emergency Response:**

- Dr. Paulina Florjanowicz, National Institute of Museums; Member of the Executive Board, NEMO
- Anu Viltrop, Estonian Museum Association
- Liudmyla Strokova, National Museum of Decorative Arts of Ukraine in Kyiv
- Svitlana Poberezhnyk, Ukrainian Red Cross
- Monika Garnavault, POLONIKA National Institute of Polish Cultural Heritage Abroad
- Aleksander Meresaar, Art Museum of Estonia (Kumu) in Tallinn

**Intervention:** Nelia Kukovalska, National Conservation Area "St. Sophia of Kyiv

*Moderation:* Mariia Shubchyk, Goethe-Institut Ukraine

**12:45 – 13:45 | Lunch**

**13:45- 14:30 | Transfer to Warsaw**

**14:30 – 16:00 | Study Visit: Warsaw Gasworks Museum (Muzeum Gazowni Warszawskiej)**

