Dr Ringailė Kuokštytė, General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania, Defence Under Pressure: Balancing Strategic Support for Ukraine with National Resilience in the Baltic States.

The paper examines the Baltic states' national defence strategies, including their implementation, as a "stress test" in the context of Russia's war against Ukraine. Specifically, it highlights the dual challenge they face, which is, on the one hand, providing hefty strategic support to Ukraine to strengthen its military capabilities while, on the other hand, simultaneously reinforcing their own national defence capabilities and deterrence, including total defence measures focused on civil (whole-of-society) resilience-building. The paper analyzes whether the Baltic states' extensive military assistance to Ukraine, along with their conventional reinforcement measures, has left unattended civil defence and resilience. While the Baltic states' high level of military assistance to Ukraine reinforces their role as active security contributors rather than free riders, it also raises potential dilemmas regarding resource allocation and policy prioritization, in particular in the field o whole-of-society resilience, which tends to point to the Baltic states, albeit to varying degrees, as free riders based on NATO Article 3. The paper attempts to identify existing trade-offs, focusing on three analytically distinct dimensions of total defence: inter-institutional cooperation, private-sector engagement, and individual-level resilience.