Dr Ieva Bērziņa, National Defence Academy of Latvia, Russo-Ukrainian war and willingness to defend a country among Latvian youth.

The will to defend the country relates to military aspects and a broad spectrum of relations between the state and society. Russia's full-scale attack on Ukraine destabilized the security situation in the region and increased the military threat to Latvia's security as well. Considering that Russia's goal in Ukraine is de facto the destruction of its statehood and national identity, this also affected state and society relations in Latvia, which is Russia's neighboring country potentially under threat. The paper answers two research questions based on 80 in-depth interviews with Latvian youth and civic education teachers from November 2023 to June 2024. First, how has the Russo-Ukrainian war affected Latvian youth's views on the citizen's duty to defend the country? As 38% of Latvia's population's native language is Russian, the research also formulates a second question - what is common and different in the will or lack thereof of young people to defend the country depending on the language used in the family? To answer the research questions, the article analyses the wider socio-political context that influences the views of young people concerning individual responsibility of national security - national identity, attachment to the state in the form of patriotism and/or nationalism, commitment to democratic values, civic education, influence of family and peers, views about compulsory military service and others.