



Prof. Dr. Iryna Shvetsova  
photo: private

**TOPIC:** **Language, War, and Maritime Safety: Communication, Risk, and Navigation in the Black Sea Region of Ukraine**

**SPEAKER:** **Prof. Dr. Iryna Shvetsova**, Kherson State Maritime Academy, Independent Researcher

**MODERATOR:** **Dr. Antonina Bulyna**, Associate Professor at the Department of Applied Linguistics, Faculty of International Economic Relations, Deputy Head of the International Relations Department, Uzhhorod National University

**DATE:** 28 January 2026, Wednesday

**TIME:** 18:00–19:30 (CET/ Berlin Time)

**This lecture will be held in English.**

*Registration is open until January 27, 2026 at: [berlin@ukrainet.eu](mailto:berlin@ukrainet.eu)*

*The event will be held on the Zoom platform. During the discussion, you can also use the chat option, or formulate your questions in advance and send them to the following email address: [berlin@ukrainet.eu](mailto:berlin@ukrainet.eu). Please note that the presentation will be video-recorded, so we recommend keeping your microphones and cameras turned off during the lecture.*

**Dear ladies and gentlemen! Dear colleagues! Dear friends!**

The German-Ukrainian Academic Society and the Embassy of Ukraine in the Federal Republic of Germany invite you to attend the lecture series “Science First Hand” on “**Language, War, and Maritime Safety: Communication, Risk, and Navigation in the Black Sea Region of Ukraine**” by **Prof. Dr. Iryna Shvetsova**, Kherson State Maritime Academy, Independent Researcher.

**Report summary:**

This lecture examines how war reshapes civilian maritime navigation by foregrounding language as a safety-critical element of risk management in the Black Sea region of Ukraine since 2022. Based on linguistic analysis of navigation warnings and maritime safety messages, it highlights the role of Maritime English in interpreting uncertainty, coordinating international maritime actors, and supporting operational decision-making under heightened risk. The lecture argues for a reassessment of standardized communication models developed for peacetime navigation and conceptualizes language as a key instrument of maritime safety, accountability, and international cooperation in times of crisis.

**SPEAKER:**

**Prof. Dr. Iryna Shvetsova** is a researcher in educational sciences and a university lecturer specializing in professional communication, Maritime English, and Business English in maritime contexts. Her research

This lecture series is organized by the regional group of the German-Ukrainian Academic Society / UKRAINET with the support of the Embassy of Ukraine in the Federal Republic of Germany. Contact: Dr. Olesia Lazarenko (berlin@ukrainet.eu)

[www.ukrainet.eu](http://www.ukrainet.eu); <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8473594>



focuses on language as an operational component of risk management and safety at sea. Academic work includes extensive experience in the development and evaluation of maritime language training aligned with International Maritime Organization (IMO) and STCW standards. Research integrates perspectives from applied linguistics, vocational and higher education, and maritime studies, with a focus on internationalisation, lifelong education, practice-oriented research, and competence development in digital and international learning environments.

Prof. Dr. Shvetsova was awarded an individual research grant (NF-IAMU GMP) by the International Executive Board of the NF-IAMU GMP Faculty for the project *“A System for Developing Foreign Language Communicative Competence of Specialists in Navigation and Ship Handling at Sea within a Lifelong Learning Framework.”* Since 2023, she has been a co-organizer of the *“Ukrainischer Akademischer Tag”*, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

Prof. Dr. Shvetsova is a member and reviewer of the International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU) and an active member of the German-Ukrainian Academic Society and the SKILLMAN Network. Currently based in Germany, she focuses on international cooperation and resilient models of maritime education and professional communication in times of crisis, adopting a practice-oriented approach.

**The organizers of the event:**

- German-Ukrainian Academic Society
- Embassy of Ukraine in the Federal Republic of Germany

**Information about the event:**

**Topic: “Language, War, and Maritime Safety: Communication, Risk, and Navigation in the Black Sea Region of Ukraine”**

**When:** January 28, 2026, 18:00–19:30 (CET/ Berlin Time)

**Registration is open until January 27, 2026:** [berlin@ukrainet.eu](mailto:berlin@ukrainet.eu)