

THIRD REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON

COUNTERING DISINFORMATION

IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

1 JUNE 2022, SARAJEVO

Agenda

09:00 – *Welcome and introductory remarks*
09:20

Moderator of the Conference: Ms. Petra Balazic, Political Advisor, RCC

- Mr. Amer Kapetanovic, Head of Political Department, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)
- Mr. Andrea Cascone, Adriatic and Western Balkans Director, Directorate-General for the European Union, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- Mr. Ferdinand Koenig, Head of Communications/Spokesperson at EU Special Representation/Delegation, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Ms. Veera Kaarela, Analyst, The European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats

09:20 – *Panel 1- “Disinformation: Why Should We Care? Trends and Security Implications of Disinformation”*
10:20

(Session: 60 min: 45 min discussion + 15 min Q/A)

Moderator: Ms. Luisa Chiodi, Director, Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso Transeuropa (OBCT)

- Panelist 1: Mr. Jakub Kalensky, Senior Analyst, The European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats (CoE Helsinki)
- Panelist 2: Mr. Salvatore Custureri, Ph.D. Project Manager - LUISS DataLab - Italian Digital Media Observatory (IDMO)
- Panelist 3: Mr. Dante Brandi, Head of Communication and Coordination Unit, Directorate for Culture and Public Diplomacy, Italian MFA

- ❑ Panelist 4: Mr. Jorge Gomes, VOST1, Portugal
- ❑ Panelist 5: Mr. Emir Vajzović, PhD, Associate Professor / Head of Research Institute at Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Sarajevo

INFO: In this panel, researchers, experts and practitioners in the field of countering disinformation share their insights regarding the current state of play in disinformation proliferation and potentially associated security threats. Panel participants will be encouraged to share concrete examples and data gathered from their work or research to highlight adverse effects of disinformation on social or national safety. Moreover, the panel will be the opportunity to discuss some of the good practices from EU Member States and Western Balkans in resisting this phenomenon.

10:20 - Coffee Break
10:40

10:40 - ***Panel 2: Debate - “Youth and Disinformation: How to strengthen responsibility and reduce vulnerability”***
11:40
(Session 60 min: 45 min discussion + 15 min Q/A)

Moderator: Ms. Petra Balažič, Political Advisor, RCC

- ❑ Ms. Irina Filipović Supervisory Board President, National Youth Council of Serbia
- ❑ Mr. Dren Gerguri, Department of Journalism, University of Pristina
- ❑ Mr. Daniel Vasilev, Journalist, North Macedonia
- ❑ Ms. Andrea Mićanović. Member of Governing Board of RYCO
- ❑ Mr. Fuad Avdagić, Youth Initiative for Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina

INFO: Young people are the most frequent users of social networks. They are also the most common content-creators and content-sharers. This makes them both vulnerable and ‘dangerous’ - vulnerable because they are exposed to expansive content, among which are disinformation, and responsible because once they share something they become spreaders of disinformation.

This session asks the youth organizations whether and how they tackle this - what are the needs, gaps, good practices and how young people can enhance social resilience to the negative impact of disinformation. Participants: Representatives of youth organizations from the Western Balkans.

11:40 - Lunch Break
13:00

13:00 - **Workshop - Part 1: “Disinformation in Europe and Four Lines of Defense”**
14:00

(Session 60 min)

Educator/Trainer: Mr. Jakub Kalensky, Senior Analyst, The European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats (CoE Helsinki)

INFO: This session will discuss fact-checking and countering disinformation for future journalists and communicators through practical examples and models. The participants will be briefed about the “Four Lines of Defence” model for countering disinformation, developed by Mr. Kalensky himself. The students will receive several examples of disinformation cases from the current Russian disinformation campaign about the war in Ukraine, and they will be tasked to come up with measures to counter this disinformation campaign. The aim of the workshop is to equip transmitters of information with tools that ensure that end-users receive accurate and factual information.

14:00 - Coffee Break
14:15

14:15 - **Workshop - Part 2: “Disinformation in Europe and Four Lines of Defense”**
15:05

(Session 50 min)

Educator/Trainer: Mr. Jakub Kalensky, Senior Analyst, The European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats (CoE Helsinki)

INFO: Continuation of the Workshop Part 1.

15:05 - **Closing remarks**
15:15

- ❑ RCC
- ❑ OBCT
- ❑ CoE Helsinki

The event is public. Will be broadcasted, also, via the ZOOM platform. All interested participants/audiences can be invited to register.

Zoom registration link: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PN9jlpARQaelriDAaZs_hA