

DISINFORMATION AND FOREIGN INFORMATION MANIPULATION AND
INTERFERENCE (FIMI) CONFERENCE, 6-7 MAY 2026

OPENING REMARKS



MR. FILIP IVANOVIĆ
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN
AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT OF MONTENEGRO



MR. EMANUELE GIAUFRET
DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR - WESTERN EUROPE
EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



MR. GILLES SCHWOERER
WB3C

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS, PANELISTS AND FACILITATORS



DAVID COLON, PHD

David Colon is a senior professor of history and researcher at Sciences Po, Paris, and a media specialist and author of "The Information War: States in the Battle for our Minds". His focuses on mechanisms of disinformation and mass manipulation, as well as solutions to counter these threats to democratic regimes. He is a member of the Internet, AI and Society research group at the CNRS. His books include Propagande (2019), Akropolis Award and Jacques Ellul Award, and Les Maîtres de la Manipulation ("Texte", 2023).



JAKUB KUBŚ, PHD

Jakub Kubś holds a PhD in Humanities. Since 2021, he has been working in disinformation analysis. He is the author of numerous reports on Russian propaganda, coordinated inauthentic behavior (CIB) in social media, and in-depth analyses of Russian media financing. In his work, he applies data analysis, network visualization, OSINT techniques and tools, and programming. He has conducted training on Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI), the DISARM framework, and the OpenCTI platform for government institutions and NGOs across Europe and Africa. He is currently a researcher at GLOBSEC.



RONAN MOUCHOUX

Ronan Mouchoux is co-founder and Chief Technology Officer of XRATOR, a French cybersecurity company specialising in cyber risk quantification and threat intelligence. His career in cyber threat intelligence spans research and investigation roles at the French Postal Service, Kaspersky Lab, Sekoia.io and Airbus Defence & Space, where he tracked advanced persistent threats targeting large multinational organisations, governments institutions and the cybersecurity industry. He is a graduate of in Telecommunications Engineering and holds a post-graduate degree in Criminology, a combination that shapes his approach to cybersecurity as both an engineering and an investigative discipline. Beyond XRATOR, he teaches threat intelligence, cyber-risk management and cybersecurity leadership in French universities and business schools, and contributes to European forums on hybrid threat analysis.



JELENA STEFANOVIĆ

Political and Election Expert at OSCE/ODIHR. MPA at Harvard Kennedy School / Ash Democracy Fellow 2021/2022. Jelena Stefanovic has worked as Deputy Head of Mission, Political Analyst, Long-Term Observer Co-ordinator and Parliamentary Liaison Officer on over 30 Election Observation Missions deployed by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

PANEL 1: HOW FIMI OPERATIONS ACTUALLY WORK

What distinguishes organic debate from coordinated manipulation?
Evidence thresholds: what is enough to act as a government? How can early detection enable prebunking of emerging narratives before they take hold?



Moderator: Marko Banović, Analyst at the Digital Forensic Centre

DFC is the first digital hub of its kind founded by the Atlantic Council of Montenegro. The work of the DFC is focused on countering disinformation, fake news and propaganda campaigns which are aiming to destabilise democratic process in both Montenegro and wider Western Balkan region. Marko specialises in researching and combating malign foreign influence with the main focus on online media outlets and social media. Since 2020, I have been doing briefings, workshops and trainings on disinformation, media and digital literacy in Montenegro. He graduated at University of Westminster in London.

LEJLA TURČILO, PHD



Lejla Turčilo is full professor at the Department of Communication Studies/Journalism at the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Sarajevo, where she teaches the courses Media Theory, Online Journalism and Media and Politics at the undergraduate and master's levels, and Media and Communication in the Age of Post-Truth at the doctoral level. Within the Erasmus+ Program she has been a visiting professor at the Charles University in Prague and Universite Catholique de Lille. She has published four single-authored books, eight co-authored books, five manuals, and ten research publications. She has also published more than fifty academic and professional papers in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro, the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Germany, the United States, and Colombia.

MIROSLAV SAZDOVSKI



Miroslav Sazdovski serves as a Senior Analyst at the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats (Hybrid CoE). In this capacity, he contributes to the work of the Community of Interest on Hybrid Influence and leads the Centre's analytical focus on the Western Balkans region.

Prior to joining Hybrid CoE, Mr. Sazdovski held senior positions in the Government of North Macedonia, including as Chief of Staff and Political Adviser in the Cabinets of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs.

FILIP STOJANOVSKI



Programme Lead, Metamorphosis Foundation, Skopje. Stojanovski works on the Western Balkans Anti-Disinformation Hub, a regional initiative led by Metamorphosis with partner organisations and supported by the Kingdom of the Netherlands. He has been engaged in countering disinformation since 2011, including founding the fact-checking platform Truthmeter.mk and contributing to initiatives such as the Media Fact-Checking Service and Crithink - a programme promoting critical thinking and media literacy.

With a background in civil society and independent media since the mid-1990s, his work spans disinformation, digital media and public awareness. He holds a BSc in Computer Science from Graceland University (USA) and a Master's degree in e-business management from Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (France).

PANEL 2: ELECTION INTEGRITY: BUILDING RESILIENCE

A whole-of-society approach to countering FIMI – institutions, platforms, media, and rapid response protocols for the final mile including prebunking of electoral manipulation narratives.



Moderator: Olivera Komar, PhD, Professor at the Faculty for Policial Science, Montenegro

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MILICA KOVAČEVIĆ

Program Director of the Center for Democratic Transition (CDT) in Montenegro, active since 2001. A recognized expert in electoral reform and institutional transparency, she specializes in the analysis of public policies and democratic development. Her primary expertise lies in countering disinformation and foreign influence, serving as a key member of the fact-checking platform raskrinkavanje.me. Additionally, she has extensive experience in Euro-Atlantic Integration and serves as a strategic consultant for NGOs across the Western Balkans and Eurasia, focusing on campaign management and organizational development.



ZLATKO VUJOVIĆ, PHD

Executive Director of ENEMO and President of the Governing board at the Centre for Monitoring and Research CeMI. Since 2017 he is a member of the Board of Directors of the Global Network of Domestic Election Monitors. He graduated from Law School in Podgorica and got M.Sc. in Political Science at the University of Montenegro. He has a Ph.D. in Comparative Politics at the Faculty of Political Science in Zagreb. He is an assistant professor at the Faculty of Political Science of University of Montenegro covering the following courses: Electoral Systems, Public Policy, Public Opinion and Public theories.

He served as the Head of the International Election Observation Mission seven times (Kosovo in 2010 and 2013, Armenia 2018, Serbia 2020 and Ukraine in 2015, 2019 and 2020), as well as the LTO and STO in different EOMs run by ENEMO, NDI, OSCE - ODIHR. He led more than 15 domestic EOMs in Montenegro. He published articles in different international scientific journals, as well as been one of coauthors of a book published by international publishers like Palgrave, Routledge. His research interests include: personalization of electoral systems, presidentialization of political parties, democratic transition and consolidation, as well as intra-party democracy.



MADALINA VOINEA

Mădălina Voinea is the Coordinator of the Digital Watchdog Program at the Romanian Think Tank Expert Forum, where she leads research on influence operations, inauthentic online behavior, and digital policy. She authored several investigations into covert networks promoting political actors ahead of Romania's 2024 presidential elections. Mădălina also led research for the FACT Hub (EDMO Moldova) in September 2025, documenting AI-generated propaganda and inauthentic networks targeting Moldovan voters.



DANIJELA VOJINOVIĆ

Grant Manager, CRTA (Centre for Research, Transparency and Accountability), Serbia
CRTA is an independent, non-partisan civil society organisation dedicated to promoting democratic culture and civic engagement. Since 2016, CRTA has been engaged in election observation at both national and local levels. They coordinate the Citizens on Watch network, which brings together several thousand citizens trained to monitor the integrity of the voting process. Improving conditions for free and fair elections sits at the core of their mission.



Moderator:
Draško
Jabučanin
Digital
Forensic
Centre
Montenegro

PANEL 3: RESPONSE OPTIONS: WHAT IS LEGITIMATE, EFFECTIVE AND SAFE

Public communication under uncertainty, legal tools, cross-government coordination, institutional trust, media literacy.

Analyst at the Digital Forensic Center (DFC) in Montenegro. His work primarily focuses on identifying and counteracting foreign malign influence, hybrid threats, and disinformation campaigns within Montenegro and the wider Western Balkans.



THIBAUD PERRARD

French cybersecurity expert, reserve officer at the Cyberdefense Command, and co-founder/gérant of THUCY. THUCY is a specialized cybersecurity firm formed in 2023 by the merger of Volt Security and Thucydide. It focuses on threat intelligence, penetration testing, and IT infrastructure protection. He brings experience in risk analysis, threat scenario modeling and crisis management. He has a background in complex system engineering and information system security



RADICA ZEKOVIĆ

Strategic Communications and Advocacy Executive working at the intersection of policy, technology, and digital information ecosystems. She develops strategic communication approaches that translate complex policy and tech-driven agendas into clear, audience-focused narratives shaping perception and outcomes across government, international organisations, and civil society. Her work spans democratic governance, digital transformation, and social cohesion, with a focus on disinformation, hate speech, and polarisation in today's platform-driven information environment, including algorithmic transparency and AI literacy. She is particularly engaged in strengthening institutional trust, media literacy, and resilient public discourse in digitally mediated societies.



JETMIR RAJTA

Cybersecurity Analyst at the National Cybersecurity Authority (AKSK) in Albania, where he is a specialized member of the simulations and Red Team. With a primary focus on protecting national critical infrastructure, his expertise lies in ethical hacking, penetration testing, and proactive vulnerability discovery to neutralize threats before exploitation. Rajta contributes to data-driven defense strategies and the development of capacity-building initiatives for government personnel. He is an active advocate for regional cyber resilience

PANEL 4: SAFEGUARDING THE EUROPEAN PATH: BUILDING RESILIENCE IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

Strengthening institutions,
defending public trust, and
reducing vulnerabilities to
foreign interference.



Moderator: Nikoleta
Đukanović, PhD

Nikoleta Đukanović is a Montenegrin scholar specialising in European and international studies. She holds a PhD from the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade. Dr Đukanović is the author of numerous academic and policy publications and serves as Assistant Professor in Foreign Policy and International Organisations at the University of Donja Gorica.



BILJANA PAPOVIĆ

State Secretary at the Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro, with over 15 years of experience in policy analysis and institutional reform. Her work has focused on rule of law, public administration reform, electoral processes, and EU integration. She previously served as Advisor to the President of Montenegro on political system and domestic policy, and for more than a decade held senior leadership roles at the Center for Democratic Transition, where she led initiatives on governance reform, transparency, and electoral integrity. Her expertise lies at the intersection of democratic governance, institutional resilience, and public communication of reforms—bringing a practical perspective on strengthening trust in institutions and safeguarding the integrity of democratic processes.



NATALIE PAUWELS

Natalie Pauwels leads the Strategic Coordination and Communication Unit at DG ENEST, overseeing the European Commission's communication and coordination efforts related to enlargement and the EU's engagement with partner countries, including the Western Balkans. Her work focuses on strategic communication, policy coordination, and strengthening resilience to hybrid threats, including disinformation and Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI).

She plays a key role in aligning EU messaging and policy priorities across institutions and partners, supporting democratic resilience and the European integration process in the region.



ARMELA KRASNIQI

Armela Krasniqi is Chair of the Audiovisual Media Authority of Albania, elected by the Albanian Parliament in 2021. She teaches journalism and communication at Bachelor and Master level at the Universities of Pristina and Albania. She has extensive experience in media and communication, including as Director General of the Albanian Telegraphic Agency, and has held leadership roles in regional and European media organisations, serving as Vice President of the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA) and as President of the Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities (MNRA).



MIROSLAV SAZDOVSKI

Miroslav Sazdovski serves as a Senior Analyst at the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats (Hybrid CoE). In this capacity, he contributes to the work of the Community of Interest on Hybrid Influence and leads the Centre's analytical focus on the Western Balkans region.

Prior to joining Hybrid CoE, Mr. Sazdovski held senior positions in the Government of North Macedonia, including as Chief of Staff and Political Adviser in the Cabinets of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs.

PANEL 5: JUDICIAL RESPONSE TO FIMI AND DISINFORMATION

From digital evidence to prosecution of FIMI. Strengthening rule of law in the digital space.



Moderator: Ana Bukilić

Ana Bukilić is a Project Manager for the rule of law and legal reforms projects. Her recent engagement included the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) where she worked as the Programme Coordinator for the rule of law and justice sector reform programmes. Her work focuses on strengthening judicial capacity, including training for judges and prosecutors on areas such as cybercrime, digital evidence, and commercial mediation



AUDREY GERBAUD

French magistrate currently serving as a deputy prosecutor (vice-procureure) at the Tribunal judiciaire de Paris (Paris Court). She is a key member of the court's specialized Cybercrime Section (J3), which operates under Paris' regional jurisdiction for the fight against organized crime (JIRS) and has national jurisdiction for the fight against cybercrime. Her work focuses on high-stakes digital investigations and the prosecution of complex technological crimes.



ARBEN MURTEZIĆ, PHD

Legal adviser to the Vice President of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. He graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University of Sarajevo and obtained a Master's degree from the University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom. In December 2018, he earned a PhD in International Law from the American University in Bosnia and Herzegovina. From 2010 to 2016, he served as Chief Disciplinary Prosecutor at the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina. He is former Director of the Centre for Judicial and Prosecutorial Training of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2016-2024) and a Cybersecurity Chevening Fellow. He is the author of several publications in the fields of cybercrime, judicial ethics, and judicial independence.



IVAN JOKIĆ

Ivan Jokić serves within the Police Directorate of Montenegro as the Head of the Criminal Intelligence Division, under which the Cybercrime Unit operates, where he focuses on investigating and combating cyber-enabled crime and strengthening digital forensic and intelligence capabilities. He has been involved in broader criminal intelligence and law enforcement work within the Police Directorate, contributing to efforts against organized and transnational crime and supporting the development of intelligence-led policing approaches. His professional work includes participation in analytical and strategic assessments related to crime trends in Montenegro and the Western Balkans, as well as cooperation with international partners on capacity building and modernization of law enforcement practices.



MARINA BARBIR

Judge at the Higher Court in Belgrade, serving in the criminal division. She previously worked at the First Basic Court in Belgrade and began her judicial career as a trainee in district and municipal courts. She has contributed to professional and academic discussions on criminal law, including topics such as electronic evidence in criminal proceedings, and has been involved in judicial policy and reform processes, including participation in working groups related to Serbia's war crimes prosecution strategy. In addition, she has been active within the professional community, including serving on the board of the Association of Judges of Serbia.

PANEL 6: MEDIA ON THE FRONTLINE OF FIGHT AGAINST DISINFORMATION

How media organisations detect, verify, respond to, and build resilience against disinformation, including AI-generated content with a focus on debunking practices and audience trust.



Moderator: Olivera Nikolic
Director Montenegro Media Institute

Olivera Nikolić has been working in journalism since the mid-1990s. She began her career at Antena M, known for its anti-war editorial stance, and went on to collaborate with numerous international media. She served as a correspondent for Deutsche Welle and the BBC, and has long reported for Beta News Agency, while also contributing to Agence France-Presse. She currently serves as Director of the Montenegro Media Institute, a position she has held since 2017. She holds a degree in International Relations and Diplomacy from the Faculty of Political Sciences in Podgorica. Nikolić's work focuses on media ethics, media literacy, and strengthening resilience to disinformation, including advocacy for a national media and information literacy framework as a key tool against manipulation and propaganda.



ADELINA HASANI, PHD

Adelina Hasani, PhD, is a researcher and publicist. She graduated from the Faculty of Political Science at Ankara University (Türkiye). She earned her Master's degree (MA) in Human Rights and Democracy in South East Europe (ERMA) from the University of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and the University of Bologna (Italy). She completed her PhD in International Relations at Ankara University, with her dissertation titled "The Transformation of Russian Federation Security Policy: The Former Yugoslavia States." Adelina has authored several publications and delivered academic presentations on gender and nationalism in former Yugoslav countries, as well as Russian foreign policy. She currently works as Head of Research at Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development (KIPRED).



NICOLAS GOINARD

Nicolas Goinard is a French journalist with Ouest-France, previously with Le Parisien, where he covered crime, justice, and investigative reporting. His work increasingly focuses on information integrity, fact-checking, and media literacy, including contributions linked to Fake Off (<https://fr.ulule.com/fakeoff/>). He is also the author of L'Affaire Roukia ou les ombres de Mayotte, reflecting his background in investigative journalism and complex case reporting.



MARKO BANOVIĆ

Analyst at the Digital Forensic Center (DFC) which is the first digital hub of its kind founded by the Atlantic Council of Montenegro. The work of the DFC is focused on countering disinformation, fake news and propaganda campaigns which are aiming to destabilise democratic process in both Montenegro and wider Western Balkan region. Marko specialises in researching and combating malign foreign influence with the main focus on online media outlets and social media. Since 2020, I have been doing briefings, workshops and trainings on disinformation, media and digital literacy in Montenegro. He graduated at University of Westminster in London.



SUNČICA BAKIĆ

Director of the Agency for Audiovisual Media Services (AMU), Montenegro's independent regulatory authority for audiovisual media, institution responsible for media regulation, oversight of broadcasters, and safeguarding public interest in the audiovisual sector, including media pluralism and compliance with legal standards. AMU explicitly recognizes emerging challenges: disinformation, hate speech, and AI-driven content manipulation, growing role of social media and influencers as quasi-media actors and legal and regulatory gaps around platforms.