

# DISINFORMATION AND FOREIGN INFORMATION MANIPULATION AND INTERFERENCE (FIMI) CONFERENCE

Held under the Chatham House Rule, the conference will examine how governments and societies can anticipate, prevent (prebunk), and respond to (debunk) malign information operations.

**Date:** 6–7 May 2026

**Location:** Science and Technology Park, Podgorica, Montenegro

**Venue:** Conference Hall Unicorn, II floor

*The conference is organized under the EU-funded project “Improving the resilience of critical entities and the protection of public spaces and cyberspace against security threats in the Western Balkans” 2026-2028.*

*Working language of the conference will be English without simultaneous translation.*

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## Day 1: Wednesday, 6 May 2026

Time	Session	Details
09:00 – 09:30	Opening Remarks	<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks:</b> Objectives, Chatham House Rule, Expected Outcomes  <b>Speakers:</b> Gilles Schwoerer, WB3C Filip Ivanović, Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, Government of Montenegro Delegation of the EU in Montenegro representative
09:30 – 10:15	Keynote Address	<b>FIMI as a National Security and Governance Challenge</b> How foreign influence exploits governance gaps — a historical reflection and how states respond without undermining freedoms.  <b>Speaker:</b> Sciences Po, France
10:15 – 11:15	Case Study	<b>Anatomy of a Russian Disinformation Operation in Ukraine</b> From storyline to impact: mapping actors, vectors, and decision-making pressure points.  <b>Speakers:</b> OSINT Industries and XRator, France
11:15 – 11:45	Networking Break	Coffee and Refreshments (Lobby)

Time	Session	Details
11:45 – 12:30	Panel 1	<p><b>How FIMI Operations Actually Work</b></p> <p>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?</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Division for Information Integrity and Countering FIMI, EEAS VIGINUM, France Faculty of Political Sciences, Sarajevo Hybrid Centre of Excellence, Finland</p>
12:30 – 13:15	Case Study	<p><b>Deconstructing a Deepfake Incident</b></p> <p>Decision points: verification, attribution, messaging, coordination, legal boundaries and real-time debunking strategies in high-pressure environments.</p>
13:15 – 14:15	Lunch Break	Networking Lunch (Lobby)
14:15 – 15:00	Panel 2	<p><b>Election Integrity: Building Resilience</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) Centre for Democratic Transition (CDT), Montenegro Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France Adria Digital Media Observatory (ADMO), Croatia</p>
15:00 – 16:30	Interactive Exercise	<p><b>War Game: Tabletop Exercise (Breakouts and Debrief)</b></p> <p>Mixed country groups with assigned roles. Injects: manipulated video, leaked documents, coordinated hashtags, proxy media, diaspora channels, offline incidents. Participants will test both prebunking and debunking responses under time pressure.</p> <p><b>Facilitators:</b> OSINT Industries, France</p>
16:30 – 17:00	Closing	<b>Day 1 Close: Reflection and Family Photo</b>

## Day 2: Thursday, 7 May 2026

Time	Session	Details
09:00 – 09:15	Morning Briefing	<b>Recap &amp; Lessons Learnt</b>

Time	Session	Details
09:15 – 10:00	Panel 3	<p><b>Safeguarding the European Path: Building Resilience in the Western Balkans</b> Strengthening institutions, defending public trust, and reducing vulnerabilities to foreign interference.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> DG ENEST Ministry for European Affairs, Montenegro Ministry for European Affairs, Albania Ministry of Interior, North Macedonia Ministry for European Affairs, Serbia Hybrid Centre of Excellence, Finland</p>
10:00 – 10:45	Panel 4	<p><b>Response Options: What is Legitimate, Effective, Safe</b> Public communication under uncertainty, legal tools, cross-government coordination, institutional trust, media literacy.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> OSINT Industries, France THUCY, France Ministry of Interior, Serbia Ministry of Culture and Media, Montenegro</p>
10:45 – 11:15	Networking Break	Coffee and Refreshments (Lobby)
11:15 – 12:30	Panel 5	<p><b>Judicial Response to FIMI and Disinformation</b> Investigations, evidence, and cross-border prosecution.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Europol Cyber Department J3, Court of Paris Ministry of Justice, North Macedonia Ministry of Justice, Montenegro</p>
12:30 – 13:15	Panel 6	<p><b>Media on the Frontline of Fight Against Disinformation</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Ouest France Daily Digital Forensic Centre, Montenegro Independent Researcher, Kosovo* Agency for Audio-Visual Media of Albania Agency for Audio-Visual Media of Montenegro</p>

Time	Session	Details
13:15 – 13:30	Closing Remarks	Conference Wrap-up and Family photo
13:30	Departure	Lunch & Departure (Lobby)

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*\*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence. TBC indicates speakers or moderators to be confirmed.*