

DISINFORMATION AND FOREIGN INFORMATION MANIPULATION AND INTERFERENCE (FIMI) CONFERENCE

Held under the Chatham House rule, the conference will explore how governments and societies can anticipate, prevent (prebunk), and respond (debunk) to 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.

NB. Working language of the conference will be English without simultaneous translation. Filming and recording is allowed only during the opening session.

Day 1: Wednesday, 6 May 2026

Time	Session	Details
09:00 – 09:30	Opening Remarks	<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks: Objectives, Chatham House Rule, Expected Outcomes Conference host: Vanja Madzgalj, WB3C</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gilles Schwoerer, WB3C• Filip Ivanović, Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, Government of Montenegro• TBC Emanuele Giaufret, Deputy Managing Director - Western Europe EEAS
09:30 – 10:15	Keynote Address	<p>FIMI as a National Security and Governance Challenge How foreign influence exploits governance gaps — a historical reflection and how states respond without undermining freedoms.</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• David Colon, PhD, Associate Professor at Sciences Po, France
10:15 – 11:15	Case Study	<p>Anatomy of Disinformation Operations: Case Study and Lesson Learned From storyline to impact: mapping actors, vectors, and decision-making pressure points.</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ronan Mouchoux, Co-founder and CTO, XRATOR, France

Time	Session	Details
11:15 – 11:45	Networking Break	Coffee and Refreshments (Lobby)
11:45 – 12:30	Panel 1	<p>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?</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lejla Turčilo, PhD, Professor of Communications at the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Sarajevo • Miroslav Szadovski, Senior Analyst, The European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats, Finland • Filip Stojanovski, Programme Lead, Metamorphosis Foundation, North Macedonia • Miloš Nikolić, Acting Director General, Directorate for NATO and Security Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro <p>Moderator: Marko Banović, Digital Forensic Centre, Montenegro</p>
12:30 – 13:15	Case Study	<p>Disrupting a Covert Influence Operation: The REST Media / Rybar Case A deep dive into a Russian state-affiliated influence operation, examining tactics, attribution, and links to the Western Balkans. The session will also explore how such networks can be exposed and disrupted, including legal and operational approaches to tackling FIMI infrastructure.</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jakub Kubš, PhD, Researcher at GLOBSEC
13:15 – 14:15	Lunch Break	Networking Lunch (Lobby)
14:15 – 15:00	Panel 2	<p>Election Integrity: Building Resilience against FIMI and Disinformation 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>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milica Kovačević, President at the Centre for Democratic Transition (CDT), Montenegro • Zlatko Vujovic, PhD, CEO of the European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO) and President of the Governing Board of CEMI • Danijela Vojinović, Grants Manager, Centre for Research, Transparency and Accountability, Serbia • Madalina Voinea, EFOR, Romania <p>Moderator: Olivera Komar, PhD, Professor at the Faculty for Political Sciences, University of Montenegro</p>

Time	Session	Details
15:00 – 15:45	Panel 3	<p>Response Options: What is Legitimate, Effective, Safe Public communication under uncertainty, legal tools, cross-government coordination, institutional trust, media literacy.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thibaud Perrard, Co-founder, THUCY, France • Radica Zeković, Director General at the Directorate for Media, Ministry of Culture and Media, Montenegro • Jetmir Rajta, Specialist at the Sector for Statistics, Modelling and Indicator Analysis, National Authority for Cybersecurity of Albania <p>Moderator: Draško Jabučanin, Digital Forensic Centre, Montenegro</p>
15:45 – 16:00	Closing	<p>Day 1 Close: Reflection and Family Photo MC: Vanja Madzgalj, WB3C</p>

Day 2: Thursday, 7 May 2026

Time	Session	Details
09:00 – 09:15	Morning Briefing	<p>Recap & Lessons Learnt MC: Vanja Madzgalj, WB3C Opening remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sofia Badari, Programme Manager for Cybersecurity, DG ENEST
09:15 – 10:15	Panel 4	<p>Safeguarding the European Path: Building Resilience in the Western Balkans Strengthening institutions, defending public trust, and reducing vulnerabilities to foreign interference.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biljana Papović, State Secretary, Ministry for European Affairs of Montenegro • Natalie Pauwels, Head of the Strategic Coordination and Communication Unit at DG ENEST • Miroslav Szadovski, Senior Analyst, European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats, Finland • Armela Krasniqi, Chairwoman of Audiovisual Media Authority of Albania <p>Moderator: Nikoleta Djukanovic, PhD, University lecturer in European Studies and International Affairs, University Donja Gorica</p>
10:15-10:25	Insight	<p>Election Integrity in the Age of FIMI: Lessons from Election Observation Speaker: Jelena Stefanović, Political and Election Expert, OSCE; Serbia</p>

Time	Session	Details
10:25 – 11:10	Panel 5	<p>Judicial Response to FIMI and Disinformation From digital evidence to prosecution of FIMI. Strengthening rule of law in the digital space.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audrey Gerbaud, Cyber Department J3, Court of Paris • Arben Murtezic, PhD, Legal Counsel of the Vice President of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina • Marina Barbir, Judge at the Higher Court in Belgrade • Ivan Jokić, Head of Cybercrime Unit, Police Administration of Montenegro <p>Moderator: Ana Bukilić, LL.B, Project Manager for rule of law and justice reform</p>
11:10 – 11:40	Networking Break	Coffee and Refreshments (Lobby)
11:40 – 12:40	Panel 6	<p>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.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicolas Goinard, Journalist covering media and information integrity, Ouest-France • Marko Banović, Analyst, Digital Forensic Centre, Montenegro • Adelina Hasani, PhD, Head of Research at Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development (KIPRED) • Sunčica Bakić, Director, Agency for Audio-Visual Media Services, Montenegro <p>Moderator: Olivera Nikolić, Director, Montenegro Media Institute</p>
12:40 – 14:10	Interactive Exercise	<p>War Game: Tabletop Exercise (Breakouts and Debrief) 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>Facilitators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ronan Mouchoux, Co-founder and CTO, XRATOR, France • Thibaud Perrard, Cybersecurity expert, THUCY • Nicolas Goinard, Journalist covering media and information integrity, Ouest-France
14:10 – 14.15	Closing Remarks	<p>Conference Wrap-up MC: Vanja Madžgalj, WB3C</p>
14:15	Departure	Lunch & Departure (Lobby)