



Workshop

Countering Hybrid Threats in the Information Space

3-4 December 2024

Michelangelo Hall, Grand Hotel Millennium Sofia

Agenda

Tuesday, December 3

9:30 *Welcome coffee and registration*

10:00 *Opening*

Ruslan Stefanov, Program Director, Center for the Study of Democracy

Kenneth Merten, Ambassador of the United States of America to Bulgaria (tbc)

Foreign malign influence in the information environment in Bulgaria: Russian disinformation about biological weapons in Ukraine

Goran Georgiev, Senior Analyst, Center for the Study of Democracy

Georgi Georgiev, Director, Information Center, Ministry of Defense

Vassil Velichkov, Co-Founder and CTO, Sensika

Dr. Ralitsa Kovacheva, Associate Professor, Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication, Sofia University

Todor Kiriakov, Media Analyst, A Data Pro

Discussion

*Moderator: Dr. Tatyana Novossiolo*va, Senior Analyst, Center for the Study of Democracy

Leveraging strategic communications for countering disinformation

Richard Chalk, CEO, REOC Communications

12:00 *Lunch*

13:00 *Strategizing an antidote to disinformation: A practical session*

REOC Communications and CSD

An interactive session where participants will use a scenario to examine the effects of disinformation threats. In break-out groups, they will consider the challenges posed by the spread of disinformation in the digital space and identify strategic communication approaches for mitigation and response. This will be followed by a facilitated discussion to compare strategies and design guiding principles and benchmarks to strengthen local capacity against disinformation threats.

16:00 *Closing*

Wednesday, December 4

9:00 *Welcome coffee and registration*

9:30 *Enhancing resilience against hybrid threats in the information space in Bulgaria*

Richard Chalk, REOC Communications

Dr. Jacob Udo-Udo Jacob, Executive Director, Center for Information, Democracy and
Citizenship, American University in Bulgaria

Dr. Nikola Tulechki, Knowledge Engineer, Ontotext

Dr. Todor Galev, Director of Research, Center for the Study of Democracy

Vladimir Milenski, Member, Atlantic Council of Bulgaria

Discussion

Moderator: **Dimitar Markov**, Director, Law Program, Center for the Study of Democracy

11:30 *Closing*

