

Conference: Pro-Kremlin propaganda – examples of practices against propaganda from Visegrad and Eastern Partnership countries

Brno, 23 – 24 May 2018

Venue: Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University, Joštova 10, Brno, Czechia, room U32

Participation: For registered and confirmed participants only. Please contact pavel.rumbur@nesehnuti.cz with requests for participation.

Programme:

23 May 2018

13:00 – 13:15 Introduction

13:15 – 15:45 Panel I.

- Mykhailo Samus: „Characteristics of pro-Kremlin propaganda in Ukraine and the ways through which Ukraine deals with it“
- Cristina Mogildea: „Russian propaganda in the Republic of Moldova and related countermeasures“
- Alyona Marchkova: „Russian propaganda in Transnistria“

15:45 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 17:45 Panel II.

- Jonáš Syrovátka: „Czech responses to the pro-Kremlin propaganda“
- Juraj Smatana: „Slovak experience with increasing information literacy of the country“

17:45 – 18:00 Closing of the first day

19:00 – ? non-formal dinner

24 May 2018

10:00 – 12:00 Panel III.

- Jerzy Targalski: “Characteristics of the recent pro-Russian propaganda in Poland”
- Beatrix Tölgyesi: “Pro-Kremlin propaganda in Hungary”

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch break

13:00 – 15:30 World café

- Interactive discussion. Simple, effective, and flexible format for hosting large group dialogue.

15:30 – 15:45 Closing

Panelists:



Mykhailo Samus

CACDS Deputy Director for International Affairs. In 2009-2015 he was a Head of CACDS and Defense Express Office in EU (Prague, Czech Republic). Before 2009 he was CACDS deputy director, CACDS military-political projects coordinator, Editor-in-chief of Export Control Newsletter, journalist of Defense Express. His articles are publishing in Defense Express, Dzerkalo Tyzhnia, Radio Svoboda, Dilova Stolytsia, Espresso, Lidovky, Komentari, NatoAktual.cz. Education: 2007 – Institute of Journalism, Kyiv Shevchenko National University 1993 – Kyiv Naval Academy.

Characteristics of Pro-Kremlin Propaganda in Ukraine and the Ways through which Ukraine Deals with it

The successful results of repelling Russian propaganda in Ukraine is showing that even unprepared and politically, economically and military weak state could adapt to informational aggression. The main condition for this success, according to the basic principles of national resilience, is highly developed democratic civil society. In the situation when state failed to defence nation from informational attacks, civil society could fast and effectively build strong network of uncentralized actors with highly professional specialist. Moreover, uncentralized and chaotic nature of this network rather impossible to destroy from outside because of absent of joint command center and structure. CACDS proposes “fusion” construction of national informational resilient system to tackle propaganda. Government and civil society should create fusion network without centralization but with possible coordination for concrete tasks and actions.



Cristina Mogildea-Leva

Head of Publications and Research Department at the Independent Journalism Center (IJC) in Chisinau, Moldova. Has been involved in a number of activities researching the media landscape in Moldova and monitoring the state of the press: OSF's [Mapping Digital Media](#) (2012), [ENP East Media Freedom Watch](#) (2013-2014) and IREX's Media Sustainability Index (2013, 2015). As of 2017, she is in charge of supervising publishing activities on the media-related website [Media-azi.md](#), as well as co-ordinating media monitoring activities focusing on propaganda and manipulation for the consumer-education portal [Mediacritica.md](#).

Russian propaganda in the Republic of Moldova and related countermeasures

The Republic of Moldova, presented as a case study, is one of the countries directly exposed to the Russian propaganda, with media playing the main role in this respect. Main causes of external propaganda. Techniques and tools the Moldovan authorities, civil society sector and media organizations should take to counter it. Moldovan authorities and CSO sector should act on two levels in order to secure the country's media and information space: in the short and medium term to adopt legal provisions in order to stop and regulate external media content, and in the long term to launch, support, conduct and implement media literacy initiatives.





Aliona Marchkova

Founder and ex-chairwoman of legal information center Apriori in Tiraspol, one of the few organizations in Transnistria defending civil rights and promoting freedom of speech and access to information in the region. There has been a unique place „Civil Club no. 19“ working on civic education of the local citizens.

Russian propaganda in Transnistria

Influence of propaganda and misinformation on politics, culture and social relations in Transnistria. As in many post-Soviet countries, there's an immense influence of Russian media – or in fact, Transnistria is fully integrated into media space of Russia. But unlike in many other countries and regions, in Transnistria very small part of information originates there – only those related to local news and events. Information about outside world is provided only from Russian-language sources, usually originating in Russia. The only realistic instruments of resistance to propaganda is increasing level of media literacy of the population and development of outside contacts, first of all economic.



Jonáš Syrovátka

A Project Coordinator at Prague Security Studies Institute, working primarily on projects concerning Russian influence activities in the Czech Republic. He holds a Master's degree in Political Science and International Relations from the Masaryk University in Brno.

Czech responses to the pro-Kremlin propaganda

Introduction of the existing findings about the pro-Kremlin propaganda in Czech context, identification of the actors tackling this challenge and providing the recommendation based on the Czech experience.



Juraj Smatana

A teacher, member of regional parliament and a civic activist. In 2014, he published first list of websites spreading pro-Kremlin propaganda in Slovakia and Czechia. He's a member of judging committee of the project konspiratori.sk, contact person of anonymous project Blbec.online and one of the authors of fact-checking site „Dezinformácie - Hoaxy – Propaganda“. He lectures for schools and the public.

Slovak experience with increasing information literacy of the country

Summary of current opinion polls on geopolitical orientation of the citizens and media preferences by political allegiance in Slovakia. Description of unstable, contradicting character of current Slovak government, appearing in lack of visible results of state institutions in defense against hybrid threats. Positive examples of increasing information literacy, mostly by NGOs, media and business sector.





Jerzy Targalski

Jerzy Targalski (1952), graduated from the Warsaw University (Faculties of History and Oriental Studies), member of the anti-communist opposition (since 1976), historian and political scientist, lecturer at the Oriental Studies at the Warsaw University (1998-2016), doctorate: Disassembly of the communist system in Yugoslavia (2007), specialisation: the national questions in Central-East and South-East Europe, Soviet and Russian disinformation, perestroika and the role of KGB and GRU in the disassembly of the communist system.

Characteristics of the recent pro-Russian propaganda in Poland

The pro-Russian propaganda in Poland is based partly on the true reasons but uses all disinformation measures to plunge the political scene into chaos and to use the search for security to present Russia as the only possibly ally. The pro-Russian propaganda is focusing on the four main topics: Jewish enslavement of Poland, US’s plot to involve Poland into the war against the pacific Russia and EU attack on catholic Poland. The main goal is to break Polish – US alliance and to provoke the hostility against the NATO bases and neighbours: Ukraine and Lithuania. The pro-Russian propaganda in Poland is combated only by a few private persons. Consequently the impact of pro-Russian propaganda on Polish society, specially on the so called Eastern Poles, is constantly growing.



Beatrix Tölgyesi

Researcher and PhD student at Pázmány Péter Catholic University (Budapest), specializing in information warfare and post-Soviet and Eastern European politics.

Pro-Kremlin propaganda in Hungary

The paper gives an overview of the means of Russian propaganda in Hungary with special focus on internet outlets and state funded media and analyses what kind of different audiences are targeted by the different channels. It will also give a survey of the lack of countermeasures compared with other EU-countries.

