

## *International Conference*

# *Blurring the Truth – Disinformation in Southeast Europe*

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**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2023  
**Place:** Hotel Balkan, Sofia  
**Languages:** English and Bulgarian with simultaneous translation

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09:00 – 09:30 Registration and Welcome Coffee

09:30 – 09:45 **Opening**

**Hendrik Sittig**

Director, Media Programme South East Europe,  
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Sofia

**Irina Nedeva**

President, Association of European Journalists - Bulgaria

**Yordan Bozhilov**

Director, Sofia Security Forum

09:45 – 10:15 **Keynote**

**Georgi Gospodinov**

Writer, Institute for Literature - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia

10:15 – 11:45 **Panel I:  
Blurring the Truth – Disinformation in Southeast Europe**

Content: What is the state of disinformation in Southeast Europe? Which are the main actors? What are the most common narratives and whose interests do they serve? This first panel will be dedicated to all of these questions and should build the foundation for the further discussions. The panelists include well-known journalists and media experts from the region. All of them are authors in the newest publication of the Media Programme of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung “Blurring the Truth – Disinformation in Southeast Europe”.

**Important note:**

During the event multimedia will be used. With their registration the participants give consent about the usage of photos and videos made before, during and after the event, for an unlimited period of time and for both online and print materials. They will be used by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.

**Ruslan Stefanov**

Director of the Economic Program, Center for the Study of Democracy, Sofia

**Stefan Janjić**

Editor-In-Chief, FakeNews Tragač, Belgrade

**Lejla Turčilo**

Professor, Faculty of Political Science, University of Sarajevo

**Ciprian Cucu**

Co-founder, Forum Apulum, Bucharest

Moderator:

**Christopher Nehring**

Adenauer Fellow, Guest Lecturer for Disinformation and Secret Services, Sofia University

11:45 – 12:00

Coffee Break

12:00 – 13:30

**Panel II:**

**The Good, the Bad and the Media: Journalists and Disinformation**

Content: Without a doubt, disinformation, propaganda and fake news play an essential role in the everyday work of media. In this sense, media – as one of the most important remedies against disinformation, can contribute to higher media literacy and better fact-checking skills. Or the opposite – it can function as a channel for disinformation. The second panel of the conference will focus on the impact of disinformation on media outlets on a daily basis. It will discuss the good, the bad and where media should stand.

**Alina Bârgăoanu**

Member of the advisory board, European Digital Media Observatory, Bucharest

**Alexei Lazarov**

Editor-in-Chief, Capital Weekly, Sofia

**Patrick Gensing**

Journalist, former head of the "ARD Faktenfinder", the fact-checking team of tagesschau.de

**Katerina Sinadinovska**

President, Council of Media Ethics, Skopje

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**Tatjana Lazarevic**

Editor-in-Chief, KoSSev.info, Mitrovica

*Moderator:*

**Claudia Nothelle**

Professor, University of Applied Sciences Magdeburg-Stendal

13:30 – 14:30

Lunch

14:30 – 15:00

WAKE UP Presentation!

**The Future of Disinformation - Metaverse, Deepfakes & ChatGPT**

**Christopher Nehring**

Adenauer Fellow, Guest Lecturer for Disinformation and Secret Services, Sofia University

15.00 – 16.30

**Panel III:**

**Can we win? Resilience and Countermeasures against Disinformation**

Content: Have we already lost or is there still a chance? What do we need in order to win against disinformation? The panel will approach the topic from various angles and propose countermeasures such as strategic communication, platform regulation, media literacy, fact-checking but also the development of psychological resilience.

**Tomass Pildegovics**

NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence, Riga

**Valerie Scholz**

Co-founder, Facts for Friends, Hamburg

**Dr. Natalie Pang (online)**

National University of Singapore

**Bozhidar Bozhanov**

Former Minister of Electronic Governance, Sofia

*Moderator:*

**Leila Bičakčić**

Director, Center for Investigative Reporting, Sarajevo

16:30

Coffee & End of the Conference

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