



COMPACT – Brussels Symposium

Disinformation in the European Elections 2019:

The role of social media and technology trends

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

PANEL 1 – WHAT TYPES OF THREATS? MISINFORMATION, DISINFORMATION, HACKING – WHO ARE THE PLAYERS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THOSE THREATS?

CHAIR: PAOLO CESARINI



Paolo Cesarini is head of the unit responsible for media convergence and social media at the European Commission, DG Communication Networks, Content and Technology since 2017. He previously held other management positions in the Commission, including in DG Competition. He also worked as a member of the legal service at the International Labour Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, and as a researcher at the Institute for Public and International Law of Siena University, Italy. He has been teaching EU competition law as visiting professor at Siena University, and as lecturer at Montpellier University, France. He obtained a master's degree in international law at Siena University and an LLM in EU law at the College of Europe, Belgium.

PANELISTS

ALEXANDRE ALAPHILIPPE



Alexandre Alaphilippe is the executive director of the Brussels-based nongovernmental organization EU DisinfoLab. After a degree in communications in his hometown of Clermont-Ferrand, France, Mr. Alaphilippe worked for four years as chief digital officer at the Clermont-Ferrand city hall. Since 2016, he has served as director of operations at the social media and EU affairs consultancy Saper Vedere, where he has emphasized the crucial role of civil society organizations in maintaining democratic values.

As a master's degree in international law, Mr. Alaphilippe co-founded the EU DisinfoLab in 2017.

MIKULAS PESKA



Mikuláš Peksa (born 18 June 1986 in Prague) is a Czech biophysicist, activist and a Czech Pirate Party politician elected Member of the European Parliament in the 2019 election. He studied biophysics at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of the Charles University in Prague focusing on nuclear magnetic resonance and worked as a researcher and a software engineer.

Peksa joined the Czech Pirate Party in 2013. In the 2017 Czech legislative election, he was elected a Member of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic. In the 2019 European election, he was elected Member of the European Parliament. He is a keen reader of history, philosophy and international relations with a strong pro-European and liberal bent.

LUBOS KUKLIS



Luboš Kukliš studied at Law Faculty of Comenius University in Bratislava, where he also obtained PhD in Administrative law. Since 2006 he is a chief executive at the Council for Broadcasting and Retransmission of Slovakia.

He is the Council's representative in European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services (ERGA), where he currently serves as Chair.

In 2016-2017 he chaired ERGA Subgroup on Protection of Minors that examined systems for protection of minors in EU media environment and in 2018 he lead ERGA's work on media plurality.

He frequently speaks at public events all over Europe and cooperates with international organizations on possible solutions on topics such as the spread of disinformation, protection of minors in the online space or the regulation of the new media. In the field of media and administrative law he is also active in writing - most recently Electronic Media Regulation (Wolters Kluwer, 2015), Slovak Broadcasting Act – A Commentary (Wolters Kluwer, 2016).



RAPHAEL KERGUENO

Raphaël is a policy officer in the Integrity team at Transparency International EU. He is working on projects related to the regulation of lobbying and conflict of interests in the EU institutions. Through his work with the online platform EU Integrity Watch, Raphael has published numerous analyses on the influence of money into politics that underpin the advocacy efforts of Transparency International in the field of political integrity.

PANEL 2 - WHAT TYPES OF THREATS? MISINFORMATION, DISINFORMATION, HACKING – WHO ARE THE PLAYERS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THOSE THREATS?

CHAIR: LUTZ GÜLLNER



Lutz Güllner works in the European External Action Service where he is Head of Division for Strategic Communications (since October 2017). In his function, he is dealing with a wide range of issues related to EU external relations, including issues related to disinformation and foreign interference in information spaces.

Prior to his current position he served as Head of the communications team in the European Commission's Directorate General for Trade (2013-17). He was also Deputy Head of the Trade Strategy Unit and responsible for the coordination of EU-US trade and economic relations.

In 2009 and 2010, Lutz Güllner was spokesperson for the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton. He was also the Commission's spokesperson for trade policy. In previous positions, he was in charge of economic relations between the EU and Russia.

Prior to joining the European Commission, Lutz Güllner worked as public affairs consultant in Brussels.

He studied political science and international relations at the Free University of Berlin and the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po) in Paris. He is teaching trade policy and EU foreign affairs at the post-graduate studies programme for European studies in Berlin.

PANELISTS

MIROSLAVA SAWIRIS



Miroslava is a Research Fellow within the Strategic Communication Programme at GLOBSEC Policy Institute, which focuses its research activities on the subversive efforts to undermine democratic societies and examination of strategies, actors and tools utilised in information operations.

Miroslava has conducted research looking into the impact of social media disinformation campaigns on electoral processes with case studies of 2019 Slovak Presidential Election and 2019 EP Elections in V4 countries. She holds a BA degree in Arabic and Russian Civilisation from the University of Leeds and a MA degree in International Relations from the University of York.

FLORIAN PENNINGS



Florian Pennings works as cybersecurity policy manager at Microsoft in the EU. He is experienced in EU industry collaboration and content stakeholder management regarding cybersecurity.

Mr. Pennings has coordinated strategic cooperation with industry stakeholders, from multinationals to SMEs for the Dutch National Cyber Security Center, for the EU Cybersecurity Agency ENISA, and currently on behalf of Microsoft. In his role Mr. Pennings actively participates in the EU cybersecurity policy discussions.

Mr. Pennings advocates public private cooperation in cyber security: cooperation is built on trust and common interests, not on differences.

RASŤO KUŽEL



Mr. Rasťo Kužel is a media and election expert with over 20 years of international experience. Since 1998, he has been the Executive Director of MEMO 98. Rasťo has worked as media and election analyst, consultant, and trainer, participating in some 28 OSCE/ODIHR election observation missions. He has worked in more than 150 election and media-related projects and missions in the framework of the UN, Council of Europe, OSCE, IFES, NED, NDI, DRI, and IMS. In 2011, Rasťo led a

consortium that implemented a UNDP project focusing on media assistance to public broadcaster, non-governmental organizations, and election administration in Georgia.

For the last four years, Rastó has focused on the issue of propaganda and disinformation, conducting a research on the impact of Russian narratives in the former Soviet Union countries and beyond, conducting trainings in media monitoring and fact checking and participating at various events focusing on this issue, including RightsCon, Beacon Project or the Digital Disinformation Forum at the Stanford University. Rastó has also focused on the role of social media during elections and ways to tackle their negative impact on elections processes as well as ways how to monitor these trends in the context of international observation of elections. He also contributed to publication by the Foreign Policy Centre examining the ways in which the governments of former Soviet Union (FSU) look to shape international narratives about themselves by using media, social media, advertising and supportive organisations to promote their worldview and challenge the people, institutions and ideas that oppose them.

As part of the REAPPS project, Rasto helped to co-author a White Paper on Social Media, Disinformation and Electoral Integrity to guide IFES programming in this area.

PANEL 3 - OVERVIEW OF REGULATORY INITIATIVES AND SUGGESTIONS IN EUROPE AND BEYOND IN THE AREA OF “INFORMATION DISORDER AND SOCIAL HARMS”

CHAIR: SEBASTIANO TOFFALETTI



Sebastiano Toffaletti is the Secretary General of the European DIGITAL SME Alliance since 2008. Sebastiano holds a master’s degree in management, Economics and Industrial Engineering from the University of Bologna. He authored several articles and position papers on Intellectual Property Rights, Standards, e-Skills, Net Neutrality and Cloud Computing, and serves as an expert in EU working groups and task forces, such as the EU Multi-stakeholder Platform on ICT Standardisation. Sebastiano is the chairman of the Working Group on SMEs at the European Cybersecurity Organisation, and since 2014, is also a member of the ETSI Board, the European Telecommunications Standards Institute.

PANELISTS

LUKASZ PORWOL



Lukasz Porwol is a Post-Doctoral Researcher and E-Government Deputy Unit Leader at the Insight Centre for Data Analytics, National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG). His research work focuses on leveraging digital technologies such as social media and Virtual Reality to support effective communication, collaboration and co-creation, in the context of e-Participation and Media Convergence.

Lukasz is an experienced leader, consultant and data architect and has been working with politicians, decision-makers and business representatives on various e-Participation initiatives. Lukasz has over 10 years’ experience in working and coordinating work in various European Commission and Enterprise funded projects (1 - €4 million) mainly in the domain of e-Participation, Open Data and Cloud Computing. This includes late H2020 projects like Route-to-PA, ARCADIA and Your Data Stories. Recently, he co-coordinated, a

successful proposal on Social Media and Media Convergence – COMPACT, H2020 project.

Lukasz has been elected (2nd term) to the Digital Government Society based in New York, USA. He is a registered ODI (Open Data Institute, London) trainer and official Medley (Elsevier) Advisor for Ireland. Lukasz has been recognised for his entrepreneurial efforts at BYIE Challenge in 2014. Lukasz is on board of directors for the Computer & Communications Museum of Ireland Limited. His background combines solid engineering and scientific knowledge (Eng. in Information Technologies, MSc in Data Management and Ph.D in Electronic Participation) with good management and PR skills.



TANJA PAVLESKA

Dr. Tanja Pavleska is a researcher at Jozef Stefan Institute and a member of the Slovenian ISOC Chapter. Her background is in electrical engineering. Her research is focused on trust and cybersecurity, digital policies, social media regulatory frameworks and information governance. She has been involved in the Next Generation Internet through the EIFFEL project. She was part of the cybersecurity task force in the e-SENS project, which provided a secure and interoperable cross-border infrastructure for the EU public services.

Tanja is actively involved in the EU-research stream of IoT Security, Trust and Privacy. Project-wise, she is leading the work on social media policies and regulatory frameworks in the COMPACT project and is part of the user-centric cybersecurity task-force in the CONCORDIA project.



IGOR DANIS

Igor Daniš is a junior researcher at the School of Communication and Media in Bratislava, Slovakia.

He studied economics at the University of Economics in Bratislava, Slovakia.



ANDREJ ŠKOLKAY

Andrej Školkaý, PhD, the scientist in charge of the research team of the School of Communication and Media, Bratislava, Slovakia, has published widely on various aspects of the media and political sciences.

He is the author of *Media and Globalisation* (SCM, Bratislava, 2009) and published a book on *Media Law in Slovakia* (Kluwer Law International, The Netherlands, 2016). Dr. Školkaý was member of the Press Council of Slovakia in years 2005-2008. He obtained his PhD in 2000 from Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia.



OLES KULCHYTSKY

Oles Kulchytskyy is a project manager at the Agency of European Innovations (AEI, <https://aei.org.ua/>) and software engineering company Euristiq (<https://www.euristiq.com/>). He has years of experience in managing various research projects at AEI aimed at the development of ICT, Creative Industry, Education, Renewable Energy, Agricultural, Food, Health, R&D areas in Ukraine and Europe. At Euristiq Oles manages IoT software development projects from the requirements elaboration till development and projects closure including IoT solutions for smart building management, smart city lighting, asset tracking, social platforms etc. Oles is working on his Ph.D. thesis related to the digitalization of companies, industry 4.0 and new management models for digital and smart companies.

PANEL 4 - ROLE OF SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS: HOW CAN DATA RELIANT PLATFORMS ACT RESPONSIBLY?

CHAIR: TANJA PAVLESKA



Dr. Tanja Pavleska is a researcher at Jozef Stefan Institute and a member of the Slovenian ISOC Chapter. Her background is in electrical engineering. Her research is focused on trust and cybersecurity, digital policies, social media regulatory frameworks and information governance. She has been involved in the Next Generation Internet through the EIFFEL project. She was part of the cybersecurity task force in the e-SENS project, which provided a secure and interoperable cross-border infrastructure for the EU public services.

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PANELISTS

ELISABETTA BIASIN

Elisabetta Biasin is a legal researcher at the KU Leuven Centre for IT & IP (CiTiP), where she conducts research in the field of privacy and data protection law. Her research interests include privacy and data protection related aspects on profiling and micro-targeting in the context of political campaigning.

Prior to joining CiTiP, Elisabetta worked in the private sector (Deloitte Legal, acting as a Legal Advisor within the GDPR | Data Protection Compliance Team) and accrued experience in the civil society sector (European Digital Rights (EDRI), advocating for the protection of rights and freedoms in the digital environment).





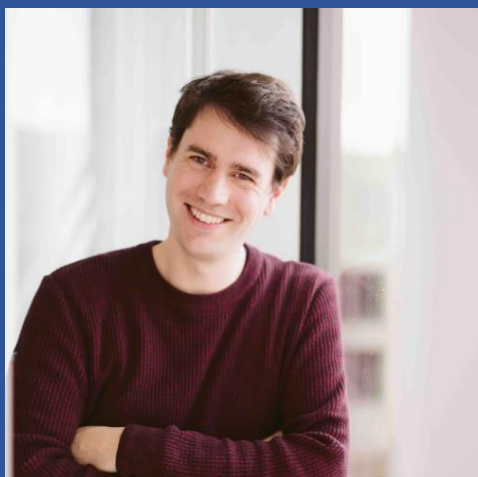
PAOLO CELOT

Paolo is the Founder and Secretary General of EAVI. The European no-profit organization that has worked the longest on promoting media literacy and full citizenship at EU level.

He is an expert to the European Commission's group on media literacy, a member of the advisory committee of the European Audiovisual Observatory and to the Steering Committee on media and information society at the Council of Europe. Before moving to Brussels, he worked extensively in the broadcasting sector, including for the BBC and RAI, both in London and in Milan and also collaborated with various public institutions.

He is an economist from Pisa University, he has sound knowledge of European affairs, he authored books and European-wide researches and speaks and writes about media and people.

THOMAS CARETTE



Thomas Carette studied physical sciences at the Université Libre de Bruxelles and obtained his PhD in 2010. He then went on with fundamental research on atomic physics for 3 more years, first in Stockholm, then back in Brussels. By then, he had decided to pursue a career in Big Data, Data Science, and Artificial Intelligence.

After 5 years bootstrapping Data Science practices in corporate financial institutions, Thomas decided to continue as an independent and works now as Data Science Researcher for Sony on privacy preserving technologies.

Since the creation of the Belgian Data Science Community, Thomas has been actively involved in it and is organising the Brussels Data Science meetups since 2018. Modern socio-economical challenges hold a very important role in his consideration of innovation.

He nourishes special interests in ethical machine learning, privacy preserving technologies, long term impacts of AI systems on society, and the challenge of responsibly integrating new technologies into both competitive businesses and social endeavours.



ANNIKA LINCK

Annika Linck is an EU Project Manager at European DIGITAL SME Alliance. As a Project Manager, she is responsible for EU-wide projects in the field of specialised skills development (IoT, Big Data and Cyber Security) and social media convergence. As a facilitator of the Working Group Cyber and Data, she follows cybersecurity and data privacy policy within DIGITAL SME, among other policy topics. In her previous positions, she has been working at Huawei Technologies and as an Assistant at the College of Europe, Bruges.

Annika is fluent in English, French and has an advanced intermediate level of Chinese. Her main interests revolve around how to enhance the competitiveness of the EU in the digital field, data protection and privacy, data economy and EU-China relations.