



Networking conference

Dialogue for Future 2022

“Building resilient civil societies and defending democracies in the EU and its Eastern Neighbourhood”

28-29th of November 2022
09:00 - 19:00 o'clock
Humboldt Carré Berlin
Behrenstraße 42, 10117 Berlin

Working language: English

Sunday, November 27th, 2022

Arrival of the participants

Monday, November 28th, 2022

09:00 - 09:30 Registration & coffee reception, digital poll

09:30 - 10:15 World Café on the biggest challenges for civil society in our days

10:15 - 10:30 Welcoming

- **Enno Strudthoff**, wechange eG, Berlin
- Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

10:30 - 10:45 Keynote

The role of civil society in preserving democracy and the rule of law in the time of violence, militarization and war

- **Oleksandra Matviichuk**, Ukrainian Human Rights Lawyer and Civil Society Leader, Head of the Centre for Civil Liberties, an active campaigner for democratic reforms in Ukraine and the OSCE region (online)

10:45 – 12:30 Panel discussion and Q&A from the audience

Resisting to autocracies and fighting for human rights and free media

Autocratic actors from Russia and Belarus have tried to undermine and exploit the weaknesses of democratic societies, its electoral process and public discourse in Western, Central and Eastern Europe for the past years. What are the lessons from civil society actors and journalists from the region fighting disinformation, propaganda, persecution and autocratic practices? What joint efforts of civil society could be effective in protecting democratic societies from the authoritarian efforts to manipulate the public discourse in the West?

- **Tamina Kutscher**, journalist, slavist and historian, Editor-in-chief, dekoeder, Berlin
- **Dr. Anke Giesen**, Member of the Board, Memorial International

- **Pavel Sapelko**, Lawyer and Member of the Human Rights Centre "Viasna", Belarus
- **Alexandra Pushkina**, Director of Communications, Zerkalo.io (formerly TUT.BY)

Moderation: Sabine Adler, Eastern Europe Expert, Deutschlandfunk (tbc)

12:30 - 13:30 Lunch break

13:30 - 15:00 Parallel working groups / seminars on common challenges and solutions

A. Alliances of civil societies beyond the borders: Forms, tools and effectiveness of joint action

Authoritarian coercion made civil society actors move their activities outside of their home countries and act across the borders. What are successful practices of building networks and partnerships of the civil society actors in the hosting countries? What are the challenges that these alliances have to overcome? What lessons have civil society actors and journalists learned about resisting autocracy? How could these activities inform the civil society in the Western democracies that are targeted by authoritarian regimes? What experience and best practices can help creating lasting connections with the countries of origin?

- **Natalia Pryhornytska**, Co-Founder of IWEK e.V. Alliance of Ukrainian Organizations
- **Khatia Kikalishvili**, Programme Director for Eastern Partnership, Centre for Liberal Modernity (Libmod)

Moderation: Olga Dryndova, Editor Belarus-Analysis, Research Centre for East European Studies, Berlin

B. Strengthening Ukraine in the reconstruction, modernization and European integration triad: Approaches for international partners and donors

What can German and European civil society and state actors do to boost the Ukrainian civil society and its impact in policy-making processes? Which formats of international cooperation would restore stability in Ukraine and enhance the cohesion and sustainability of civil society efforts? Which initiatives can help to avoid polarization and rebuild civil society structures that have been destroyed by Russia's war?

- Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
- Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

Moderation: Mattia Nelles, Co-Founder of the German-Ukrainian Bureau

C. Transformation of civil society in times of war and violence

How did civil society actors survive and adapt their activities to Russia's war? How has the war changed their mission? What are best practices and the central lessons learned from other war zones in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe? Whether and how these lessons could be helpful for Ukrainian civil society?

- **Maria Golub**, Centre for Ukrainian Victory (ICUV), Warsaw

Moderation: Inna Nelles, Co-Founder of the German-Ukrainian Bureau

D. IT-security, data safety and digitalization of civil society organizations

What security challenges do civil society organizations face in the digital age? What are the IT risks for civil society organizations, activists and journalists? How should small organizations be structured to protect themselves and their collaborative work from cyber-attacks? What methods to use in empowering communities and individuals to forge lasting digital transformations by building resilience in organizations?

- **André Eichhofer**, Cybersecurity Analyst at the German Organization for Cybersecurity (DCSO), Berlin
- **Alexander Alistair**, works with NGOs, activists on digital safety, disinformation and the social and ecological impact of technology, Reclaimed Systems

Moderation: Enno Strudthoff, Project Manager, wechange eG, Berlin

15:00 - 15:30 Brief presentation of the results of the working groups / seminars by the moderators

15:30 - 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 - 16:45 Flea Market of Ideas 1

Participants can make offers and requests for knowledge on topics that most interest them and then will be matched together. Then, they can get together in small groups for knowledge sharing session.

16:00 - 16:45 Registration of external guests

16:45 - 17:00 Welcoming of external guests

17:00 - 17:15 Keynote: Democracy under siege: what do we stand for in the decade ahead?

- **Ralf Fücks, Co-Founder, Center for Liberal Modernity (LibMod), Berlin**

17:15 - 19:00 Panel discussion

Wars, crises, destabilization: the future of liberal democracy and the European security order

With the beginning of Russia's war against Ukraine, the European security order was severely endangered. Russian strategy, aimed at destabilizing European states and polarizing their societies, puts politics, civil society, and media before unprecedented challenges. Preserving the unity of the European Union, strengthening European support to Ukraine, and consolidating democratic societies becomes more important than ever. What does this war mean for the future of the liberal democracy, fundamental rights, and freedoms on the European continent? What does a new European conflict-order look like? How can Europe and its partners handle a potential long-term conflict with Russia? Finally, what are the visions of the future European continent, and what will be the role of Ukraine in it? The panel discussion engages with pathways for prospective action in a changing political and security landscape.

- **Olha Stefanishyna**, Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic integration, Kiev, Ukraine (online) (tbc)
- **Roderich Kiesewetter**, MP, CDU/CSU, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Parliamentary Oversight Committee (tbc)
- **Rebecca Harms**, former Head of the Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament, Brussels
- **Stefan Meister**, Program Director, International Order and Democracy, DGAP, Berlin

Moderation: Miriam Kosmehl, Senior Expert for Eastern Europe, Bertelsmann Foundation Berlin

19:00 Reception

Tuesday, November 29th, 2022

09:00 - 09:30 Registration & coffee

09:30 - 10:30 World Café

10:30 - 10:40 Welcome & summary of the first day

10:40 - 11:00 Keynote

Resilience of the Ukrainian civil society in the frontline areas

- **Serhij Zhadan**, Ukrainian Poet, Novelist, Essayist, and Translator, Kharkiv, Ukraine

11:00 - 12:30 Open Fishbowl and Q&A

Radicalization and polarization as vital risks for liberal democracy

Societies are increasingly atomized and fractured into smaller segments, while societal institutions once maintaining cohesion are losing trust. What are the driving factors of these societal tendencies? What risks to democracy do polarization and radicalization of society bear for liberal democracy and what can be done by media and civil society actors to counteract them?

Input: Olga Onuch, Lecturer in Politics at the University of Manchester and an Associate Fellow at Nuffield College of the University of Oxford (tbc)

- **Anton Shekhovtsov**, Director of the Centre for Democratic Integrity (Austria), Associated Researcher at the Research Center for the History of Transformations at the University of Vienna (Austria)
- **Sergi Kapanadze**, Founder of the Think Tank Georgia's Reforms Associates (GRASS) (tbc)
- **Olexiy Haran**, Sociologist, Democratic Initiatives Foundation, Kyiv (tbc)
- **Liubov Tsybulska**, Founder and Head of the Centre for Strategic Communication and Information Security in Ukraine (tbc)

Moderation: **Hanno Gundert**, Managing Director, n-ost, Berlin (tbc)

12:30 - 13:30 Lunch break

13:30 - 15:00 Parallel working groups / seminars

Peer-to-peer learning on psychosocial support, crisis management and communications for civil society actors

A. Psychological resilience of civil society in times of war

In times of conflict or outright war, civil society is fulfilling important tasks often at great risks for their physical or mental health. How to maintain psychological and mental health of staff members, volunteers and family members in extremely challenging circumstances? What are best practices from Ukraine and elsewhere on how to cope with the stress and prevent burnout? How to handle grievances and the loss?

- **Imke Hansen**, Leading MHPSS Officer at Vostok SOS and Libereco Partnership for Human Rights
- **Sven Stabroth**, Program coordinator for the Civil Peace Service program, GIZ

B. Sustainable crisis management and communication for civil society actors

Good communication and the right crisis management is key for civil society in times of war or conflict. What are the right strategies and tools of communication with the society and partners and how to learn from best practices from Ukraine and elsewhere? How to achieve the sustainability of activities and find the opportunities for development in times of crises and the war?

- **Orysia Lutsevych**, Head, Ukraine Forum, Chatham House (tbc)
- **Inna Melnykovska**, Assistant Professor in Comparative Political Economy at the Political Science Department at Central European University

C. Developing resilience against hostile disinformation, societal polarization and harmful radicalization

Countering propaganda and populism, repelling cyber-attacks, and consolidating democratic societies becomes more important than ever. What risks do civil society organizations, activists, and journalists face in the current context, and how to mitigate them?

- **Dmitri Teperik**, Programme Director, "Resilient Ukraine", International Centre for Defence and Security (tbc)
- **Stefanie Schiffer**, Director, European Exchange, Founding Member of the European Platform for Democratic Elections (EPDE) and of the Kyiv Dialogue, Berlin

15:00 - 15:30 Brief presentation of the results of the working groups / seminars by the moderators

15:30 - 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 - 16:45 Flea Market of Ideas 2

Participants can make offers and requests for knowledge on topics that most interest them and then will be matched together. Then, they can get together in small groups for knowledge sharing session.

16:00 - 16:45 Registration of external guests

16:45 - 17:00 Summary of the internal part of the conference & welcoming of external guests

17:00 - 17:15 Keynote

The End of the Empire of Lies: Limits of Russian Propaganda

- **Peter Pomerantsev**, British writer, researcher of propaganda (online) (tbc)

17:15 - 19:00 Panel discussion and Q&A from the audience

Russian imperial ambition derailing: consequences of Russia's war against Ukraine for the Eastern Partnership Region and the EU

Russia's war against Ukraine has shown the limits of its power and the weaknesses of Putin's regime. What are the scenarios for a post-Putin order in Russia's neighbourhood beyond Ukraine? What does a weakened Russian imperial power mean for the states and societies in Belarus, the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia? Across the region other actors are trying to fill the vacuum that weakening Russia leaves. Does that mean more chaos or a new attempt of hegemony? How should the EU revise its approach and policies towards the Eastern Partnership region and/or reform itself?

- **Johannes Schraps**, MP, Member of the Committee on European Union Affairs (SPD)
- **Sabine Fischer**, Expert on Russia, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (tbc)
- **Artyom Shraibman**, Belarusian Political Analyst, founder of Sense Analytics Consultancy
- **Nino Evgenidze**, Executive Director, Economic Policy Research Centre, Georgia
- **Armen Grigoryan**, Centre for Policy Studies, Yerevan, Armenia

Moderation: Mattia Nelles, Co-founder of the German-Ukrainian Bureau

19:00 Reception

[Wednesday, November 30, 2022](#)

Promote stable partnerships through new projects

9:00 Visit of the Federal Foreign Office & appointments with NGOs in Berlin (in two groups)

10:00 - 10:30 Welcome & presentation of the funding program "Expanding cooperation with civil society in the Eastern Partnership countries and Russia"

- **Daniel Demele**, Federal Foreign Office, Berlin (tbc)

10:30 - 11:00 Q&A

11:00 - 11:30 Presentation of the networking platform civilsocietycooperation.net

- **Enno Strudthoff**, Project Manager, wechange eG, Berlin

11:30 - 13:00 Workshop on Project development and application process

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

14:30 Closing remarks

15:00 End of the conference & departure of the participants

Organized by:

wechange eG,
Oberlandstrasse 26-35
12099 Berlin



Kindly supported by:



Federal Foreign Office