Bios of all attendees

Inês Wortelboer NarcisoInês is a half-dutch, Portuguese, mother of 2 who after 12 years working in Law Enforcement decided to invest in an Academic career. She has a Master's degree in Criminology from the University of Leicester and specialized in Open Source Intelligence during her work in Law Enforcement. Currently, she is at ISCTE-IUL finishing her Phd on offender's knowledge on police criminal investigation techniques. Stemming from her Open Source Intelligence background, she has been integrated in ISCTE's Media Lab, developing research on topics like fake news, disinformation, fact checking, internet research methodologies and digital investigations.

José Moreno
José is a researcher at MediaLab ISCTE-IUL, studying issues related to digital media and information dissemination on social media platforms. After a 20 year long career as a journalist and digital journalist, he enrolled in a Master and subsequently a PhD to study media's transition to digital and the role of social media platforms on the current media landscape. Within MediaLab, he has participated in projects related to the monitoring on public discussions both on social media platforms and digital media outlets. He also provides training for current and aspiring journalists on digital tools and storytelling. José is the father of two boys and lives in Lisbon.

Bios of all attendees

Miroslava Sawiris

I am a Research Fellow within the Strategic Communication Programme of the GLOBSEC Policy Institute. My focus areas are information operations actors, strategies and tactics as well as the impact of these on democratic societies, particularly in Europe. I also specialise in research of information operations and utilisation of social media as a mean of election interference (case studies of the recent Slovak presidential election and the EP Elections in V4 context). My academic credentials: BA in Arabic and Russian Civilisation (University of Leeds) and MA in International Relations (University of York).

Josh Smith

is Demos' Chief Technology Officer and a senior researcher at the Centre for the Analysis of Social Media. He specializes in the application of natural language processing algorithms to large social datasets, working on fields from digital healthcare to the role of the police online. He has recently published on Russian information operations across Europe, and is currently leading a project to study the forthcoming election in Mozambique.

Bios of all attendees

Tomáš Kriššák: expert on cognitive security who studied political science at UMB in Banská Bystrica. He is currently working for OSF Bratislava as an project manager on several projects and initiatives that focus on negative externalities of contemporary communication technologies including social media and other interactive platforms.

Ivana Savic, project coordinator at CRTA Philologist and activists. Former French language teacher. In CRTA for the second time since 2013. She manages CRTA social networks, works on collecting data for initiative Who is in my government and she is a part of CRTA observation mission "Citizens on Watch". She enjoys learning. Ivana believes that Serbia can and should be much better and she actively works on making that happen.

Bios of all attendees

Maria Piotrowska is currently completing her PhD thesis in Department of African Languages and Cultures at the University of Warsaw, where she also works as professor assistant. She covers topics raging from cultural conceptualizations in language, to politics in discourse, to elections in Africa. Hitherto, she observed elections as the STO in several Sub-Saharan countries and Europe with EU, OSCE, The Carter Centre and Fundacja Odpowiedzialna Polityka; she was also working for several years in NGO sector implementing humanitarian and development aid projects in the Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa.

Robert Lech graduated from the Faculty of Economic Sciences at the University of Warsaw, Poland and holds MBA from SIMI, Copenhagen, Denmark. He has been working for international organizations like the World Bank/International Finance Corporation as a management and financial advisor. In 1996-2001 he worked for the OSCE as an Election Supervisor in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Kosovo. In 2002 he joined the OSCE/ODIHR EOMs as Operations Expert and LTO Coordinator and subsequently he has provided logistics, security and coordination support to over 30 OSCE/ODIHR and EU EOMs in European, African, Asiatic and Oceanic countries. From 2015 he has been working as a trainer for the Solidarity Fund PL and provided training for over 140 short- and long-term observers and for members of the Polish Parliament. In 2018 he co-organized and coordinated the first domestic observation of the Polish local elections where over 80 observers were monitoring the process in the Masovian voivodeship. He also continues his advisory work in Poland and abroad.

Bios of all attendees

Rania Wazir, Ph.D.
I am a mathematician and a freelance data scientist. I view digital technologies such as AI, deep learning, and big data as powerful tools, and am committed to enabling access and development of these tools for all. I am on the board of the Vienna Data Science Group - a non-profit committed to outreach and creating a platform for data scientists and enthusiasts to connect and learn from each other - and co-initiator of the data4good initiative, which unites a community of data scientists who wish to use their skills for positive social impact. The social media monitoring project with wahlbeobachtung.org is being undertaken by a group of data4good volunteers. As part of my freelance activities, I have also conducted two prior social media monitoring campaigns. The first was a collaboration with journalists in France, Germany, Italy and France, and concluded in May 2018 The second was conducted for Amnesty Italy prior to the EU parliamentary elections, and concluded July 2019).

Dr. Armin Rabitsch
Armin Rabitsch is a senior governance expert with over 20 years of international experience in democratisation and governance; with a focus on political analysis, electoral assistance, conflict mitigation and human rights. Armin worked as UNDP governance analyst and IFES country director in Zimbabwe, as OSCE/ODIHR senior election adviser in Poland, and EU democracy and election expert in more than 30 countries (Arab, African, Asian, American and Pacific).
Armin has a Masters Degree in Political Science and a PhD in international relations (University of Innsbruck/Austria). He is the co-founder and chairperson of Election-Watch.EU, a non-partisan civil society organisation advocating for participatory electoral reforms and young voter education in the EU and Austria. In this context, he lectures at the Global Campus of Human Rights in Venice and currently pursues an LLM in international Human Rights Law and Environmental Protection at Charles University in Prague/Czech Republic.

Bios of all attendees
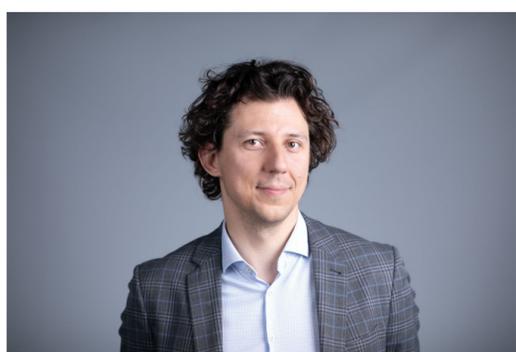
Viktoras Daukšas has more than 13 years of experience in development of online technologies. A physicist by education he is also a creative problem solver, helping organisations to tune internal processes and deliver outstanding platforms. Viktoras has worked on development of most popular and successful e-services in the Baltic states, including the online platform of one of the biggest media outlets. He is also an ardent advocate of IT progress and gladly shares his experience in conferences and other public events. Last 3 years Viktoras leads Debunk EU. Initiative was funded by Google DNI fund.

Mikheil Benidze
Mikheil is the Executive Director of the International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED) and served as the Secretary-General of European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO) from November 2016 to April 2017. He was also a member of the State Constitutional Commission of Georgia in 2017. Mikheil has managed local and international election observation missions on behalf of ISFED and ENEMO. Since 2010 he has been involved in ISFED's election observation, reforms advocacy, and local self-government projects in various capacities. He has significant experience in nonprofit organizations, project development and coordination, fundraising, donor relations, as well as oversight of organizational development and strategic planning areas. Mikheil has been involved in introducing interactive incident mapping of electoral violations through the multi-NGO elections portal (www.electionsportal.ge) and produced studies on election administration composition. Recently, Mikheil has been spearheading ISFED's efforts of developing social media monitoring methodology for elections and introduction of social media monitoring in the context of the 2018 presidential elections in Georgia.

Mikheil holds an MBA degree from Porto Business School of University of Porto (Porto, Portugal) and a Bachelor's degree from Tbilisi State University (Tbilisi, Georgia).

Bios of all attendees

Giovanna Maiola
Since 1995 Giovanna has been working in Osservatorio di Pavia, a research institute specialised in communications and media analysis. She is involved in studies related to electoral campaigns and media, political and public communication as well as research on democratic development. She is also a trainer and consultant in Italy and abroad. Since 1999 she has worked as a media and campaign specialist for international organisations (United Nations, European Commission, OSCE, Council of Europe), Italian institutions and non-governmental organisations in the field of freedom of expression, democratisation and human rights as well as electoral laws. She holds a MA in politics as well as an LLM. At present Giovanna works as training coordinator at the EU-funded project Election Observation and Democracy Support (EODS).

Mirella Marchese
Mirella is a senior researcher at the Osservatorio di Pavia, where she has worked since 1995. In this role, she is in charge of developing researches related to content analysis of the news, electoral campaign and the media, political communication. Mirella is also involved in delivering media monitoring trainings and consultations at national and international level. During her professional experience, she joined, in the role of Media Analyst, a number of Electoral Observation Missions and Technical Assistance.

Bios of all attendees

Rufin Zamfir is Programmes Director and coordinator of the Western Balkans Programme at GlobalFocus Centre. He coordinates research activity on the Balkans area, organises and participates in thematic events and produces analytical content – policy papers, publications etc. Rufin also coordinates the more recent programme on Security and Asymmetric Threats (hybrid war, cyber warfare radicalisation, terrorism) and the subsequent project "Comparative study of Russian pressure and propaganda in Eastern Europe. Building resilience and response mechanisms". He's a former Intelligence officer in the Romanian National Intelligence Service/SRI, with 10 years of experience, both on operative and analytical domain. Rufin Zamfir has a Masters degree in Communication at the National School of Political and Administrative Studies in Romania and a Certificate in Terrorism Studies at St. Andrews' University, Scotland.

Vlad Iaviță is a junior researcher at the Global Focus Centre.
Beginning with the summer of this year, he has held a position of Junior Researcher for the Asymmetric Threats Programme of the Global Focus Centre. He has previous work experience for the Romanian Cultural Institute in London and the UCL Politics Society, which he co-founded.
He is studying in his senior year of the BA History, Politics and Economics programme at University College London (UCL).
Other relevant training experiences are his participation in the International Affairs Student Conference "Global Research Summer School" in both 2017 and 2018 and Debating Competitions.

Bios of all attendees

Aleksandra Kuratko Pani is an election and parliamentary development expert with over 20 years of experience in over 30 countries worldwide. She directs the work of two NGOs in Croatia and works as a consultant on NDI's parliamentary programs in Albania and election programs in Sri Lanka. She currently serves as a chairwoman of Gong's Council. Her specialties are advanced election monitoring techniques, organizational development, management and communications. Aleksandra has a political science/journalism background and a Master of Science degree in International Relations and Security.

Dominika Kubišová is an intern at Stratpol (Strategic Policy Institue) and Ph.D. student at Masaryk University, interested in politics, new media, elections, and languages (Balkan region especially), participated in Stratpol monitor during the presidential election campaign in Slovakia in 2019.

Bios of all attendees

Michael Meyer-Resende is the Executive Director of DRI. Michael is German, a lawyer with fifteen years work experience in political transitions and democratisation. Works in the Middle East, Africa, Europe and Asia. His professional experience includes two years legal practice in Berlin, four years with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the OSCE (Warsaw); adviser on ODIHR Election Observation Missions; almost three years with the election team of the European Commission in Brussels (leading exploratory missions to Mozambique, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, West Bank/Gaza, Lebanon, Egypt); in 2006 he co-founded DRI and serves as Executive Director since then. With work experience in the BBC, he has published articles for the New York Times, The Guardian, Die Zeit and other papers as well writing for research publications. He is based in Berlin.

Rafael Goldzweig is the Research Coordinator at Democracy Reporting International. He joined DRI in October 2018 and he monitors the impact of social media on elections and referenda around the world. His work entails the development of methodologies and data analysis & visualisation to assess how social media impacts public discourse, offering recommendations on how to turn the online environment into a more open and democratic space. Prior to joining DRI, he worked for the Dahrendorf Forum, a Berlin based think-tank, where he researched the interaction between regulation, new technologies and democracy. Rafael was a Google Policy Fellow and a DAAD Helmut-Schmidt-Program Scholar. He holds a Bachelor degree in International Relations (University of São Paulo) and a Master of Public Policy (Hertie School of Governance). Rafael speaks English, German, Spanish and Portuguese.

Bios of all attendees

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, a proficient media institution with extensive experience of delivering media monitoring on behalf of international institutions as well as technical assistance to civil-society groups. Rasťo has worked as media and election analyst, consultant, and trainer, participating in some 30 OSCE/ODIHR election observation missions, most recently in Italy and the Netherlands. He has also 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, most recently in Nigeria, Moldova, Myanmar, and Ukraine.
For the last four years, Rasťo has focused intensively on the issue of propaganda and disinformation as well as the role of social media during elections.
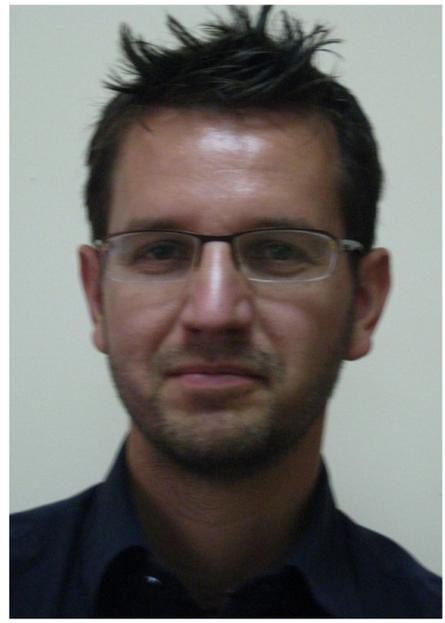
Ivan Godársky holds a master law degree from the Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. He participated in the Open Society Foundation programme 'Street Law' aimed to increase legal awareness of students and teachers. Since 1998 he is working in Slovak-based media organization MEMO 98, which has been focusing on media monitoring, assistance and advocacy in Slovakia and worldwide.
As a consultant and trainer, Ivan has taken part in a number of domestic media and legal initiatives as well as foreign media-related and technical assistance projects in the framework of the European Union, United Nations, Council of Europe and various donors, such as NED, NDI, OSI, IMS and EED, most recently in former Soviet Union countries and Balkan. In addition, he has been working as media analyst in the OSCE/ODIHR and EU EOMs in almost 40 missions, most recently in Russia, Armenia and North Macedonia.