



High-Level Conference on Media Literacy and Information Integrity: Building Resilience to Disinformation and FIMI in Europe

Organised by the Council of Europe

*under the auspices of the
Moldovan Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe*

20 March 2026

MAIB Park

31 August 1989 Street, 127
MD-2012, Chişinău

In today's digital age, disinformation, foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI), hate speech, and other forms of information disorder are increasingly eroding public trust and undermining the integrity of democratic processes. Malicious actors exploit online platforms to rapidly spread misleading content, influence public opinion, and distort public discourse, ultimately threatening the very foundations of democracy. In these challenging times, a collective response is needed.

With the [New Democratic Pact for Europe](#), the Council of Europe unites with its partners to boost and integrate solutions that work and create new responses. Organised under the auspices of the Moldovan Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and under the umbrella of the [New Democratic Pact for Europe](#), this Conference is offering the opportunity for institutions from various member States and partners to exchange critical experiences and discuss specific mechanisms to collectively find innovative ways in which to build a healthier, more resilient, and trustworthy information environment across Europe.

A critical tool in this effort is Media and Information Literacy (MIL), which empowers individuals with the skills to critically assess, debunk, and respond to misleading and harmful information. By promoting MIL, the Council of Europe seeks to strengthen societal resilience, enable effective democratic participation, and ultimately foster information integrity.

These issues are also central to the European Democracy Shield of the EU, an initiative that aims, among others, to protect democratic systems against external threats, including FIMI and disinformation, and is closely aligned with the work of the Council of Europe in promoting democratic resilience.

The Council of Europe has already made significant efforts to counter the threat of disinformation and promote a healthy information environment, notably through the work of its steering committees – the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI), the Steering Committee on Democracy



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(CDDEM), the Steering Committee for Education (CDEDU), and the Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY). As part of these broader efforts, the conference will launch two key documents recently adopted by the CDMSI, aimed to help member States develop national MIL strategies and provide actionable steps to counter disinformation and promote information integrity.

In addition, the conference will provide an update on the Council of Europe's most recent efforts to address FIMI. The Council has established a Committee of Experts on Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (PC-FIMI) to assess the feasibility of adopting a legal instrument in the field of criminal law aimed at countering FIMI-related threats, including disinformation, election interference, and other forms of information manipulation. This initiative is crucial for equipping member States with the legal frameworks necessary to safeguard democratic processes, enhance the resilience of democratic institutions, and ensure accountability in the face of pressing threats.

Overall, the conference aims to serve as a critical step in advancing the collective efforts at strengthening democratic resilience and security and foster a more accountable and secure information environment across Europe and beyond.



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Programme

09:00 – 09.30	Introduction and Welcome
	Daniela CUIBĂ , Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the Council of Europe
	Opening Addresses
	Maia SANDU , President of the Republic of Moldova
	Alain BERSET , Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Family Photo	
09.45 – 11.00	European and National Challenges and Innovative Approaches to Tackling Disinformation and FIMI
Moderator	Liliana VIȚU , Chair of the Audiovisual Council, Republic of Moldova
Panellists	○ Gianluca ESPOSITO, Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe ○ Julien MOUSNIER, Director for Rule of Law, Fundamental Rights and Democracy, European Commission ○ Stanislav SECRIERU, National Security and Defence Adviser to the President of the Republic of Moldova ○ Yuliia YANCHUK, Deputy Director of the Department of Strategic Communications and Promotion of Ukrainian Culture of the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine ○ Valentin JUCAN, Vice President of the National Audiovisual Council of Romania <i>The session will conclude with a 15-minute Q&A</i>
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee break
11:30 – 12:45	Fighting Disinformation and FIMI in the Digital Age
Moderator	Viktor DENISENKO , Vice Minister of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania
Keynote speech	Michael O'FLAHERTY , Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights
Panellists	○ Heini HUOTARINEN, Chair of Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (PC-FIMI) ○ Eva KLØVE, Head of Strategy and Policy, EEA and Norway Grants Secretariat ○ Viktors MAKAROVs, Special Envoy on Digital Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia ○ Valentyn KOVAL, First Deputy Chair of the National Council of Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine <i>The session will conclude with a 15-minute Q&A</i>



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12.45 – 14.30	Lunch
14.30 – 15:45	Council of Europe Guidance in Building Resilience to Disinformation and Promoting Media and Information Literacy
Moderator	Martina CHAPMAN , Council of Europe Expert, Former Independent Chair of the National Counter Disinformation Strategy Working Group, Ireland
Panellists	○ Aikaterini POLYZOU, Chair of Council of Europe Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI) – on the Guidance Note on Countering the Spread of Online Mis- and Disinformation ○ Urbano REVIGLIO, Research Associate, Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom (CMPF), European University Institute – on Resisting Disinformation: 10 Building Blocks to Strengthen Information Integrity ○ Brian O’NEILL, Council of Europe Expert, Technological University Dublin – on National MIL Strategies: Practical Steps and Indicators ○ Konrad BLEYER-SIMON, Research Fellow, Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom, European University Institute – on the RESIST project methodology <i>The session will conclude with a 15-minute Q&A</i>
15:45 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:15	Media and Information Literacy Efforts to Build Information Integrity
Moderator	Brian O’NEILL , Council of Europe Expert, Technological University Dublin
Panellists	○ Aneta GONȚA, Deputy Chair of the Audiovisual Council of the Republic of Moldova, CDMSI Member on behalf of the Republic of Moldova ○ Martina CHAPMAN, Council of Europe Expert, Former Independent Chair of the National Counter Disinformation Strategy Working Group, Ireland ○ Vitor TOMÉ, Council of Europe Expert, Autonomous University of Lisbon, ISCTE-University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal ○ Cyril NTONE, Programme Specialist, Information Integrity, Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) ○ Adeline HULIN, Chief of Unit MIL and digital competencies, UNESCO <i>The session will conclude with a 15-minute Q&A</i>
17:15 – 17:30	Conclusions and Next Steps
	Liliana VIȚU, Chair of the Audiovisual Council, Republic of Moldova Roberto OLLA, Head of Democratic Institutions and Freedoms Department, Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity, Council of Europe



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