IS DEMOCRACY IN DANGER IN THE INFORMATION AGE?

6 > 8 / Strasbourg
November 2019

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World Forum for Democracy

Programme Overview

Wednesday 6 November

09.30-10.30 Time for Facts

10.30-10.40 Musical Interlude

10.40-11.00 Welcoming Words

11.00-12.30 Plenary Session 1
Democracy Dies in Darkness:
do we have all the information we need?

12.30-14.00 Lunch Break

14.00-16.00 Plenary Session 2
Restoring Trust in News

16.00-16.30 Break

16.30-18.30 Plenary Session 3
Information and Technology:
friends or foes?

18.30 Inauguration of Cartooning for Peace's
Fresco

Thursday 7 November[1]

09.00-11.00 **FIRST SERIES OF LABS AND FORUM TALKS**
Forum Talk 1 Artificial Intelligence and Information
Forum Talk 2 Disinformation and Fake News
Forum Talk 3 Environmental Journalists in Danger

Lab 1 Human 2.0: Youth and Digital Empowerment
Lab 2 Rebuilding Trust in Institutions
Lab 3 The Human Brain: The Ultimate Fact-Checker?

11.00-11.30 Break

11.30-13.00 **SECOND SERIES OF LABS AND FORUM TALKS**
Forum Talk 4 Information Integrity
Forum Talk 5 Safety of Journalists

Lab 4 Building Resilience to Disinformation
Lab 5 Voting Under the Influence
Lab 6 Violence and Bias: Gender Inequalities in Journalism

13.00-14.30 Lunch Break
13.00-14.30 Screening of "A Dark Place" and Discussion

14.30-16.30 **THIRD SERIES OF LABS AND FORUM TALKS**
Forum Talk 6 Strengthening Democracy in the 21st Century
Forum Talk 7 Fact-Checking

Lab 7 MythBusters
Lab 8 Social Media: Freedom and Accountability
Lab 9 What is the Future of Local Journalism?
Lab 10 The Search for Truth in a 'Post-Truth' World

16.30-17.00 Break

17.00-18.30 Carte blanche : Cartooning for Peace

17.00-18.30 Conversation with David Patrikarakos
War in 140 Characters: How Social Media Is
Reshaping Conflict in the Twenty-First Century

Friday 8 November

09.00-10.30 Plenary Session 4
Freedom of Expression
and Protection of
Journalists

10.30-11.30 Plenary Session 5
A Multilateral Response

11.30–13.00 Reporting from the Forum
and ceremony for the
Democracy Innovation
Award

13.00 Closing Performance

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[1] Please refer to page 7 for more details on Forum talks / page 10 for Labs.

Is Democracy in Danger in the Information Age?

CHALLENGE

Information is changing. The volume, the content, the platforms: each of these has evolved beyond recognition in a short period of time. Twenty-five years ago, most of our information came from print publications, television and radio. Today, these are complemented, rivalled and often eclipsed by websites, blogs and social media. Well-known outlets have been joined by a plethora of new sources – including millions of individuals – that spread news with the click of a share button.

The **World Forum for Democracy 2019** will be dedicated to **Information and Democracy**. The questions we must address in 2019 are to what extent information is reliable, whether this helps or hinders citizens in taking part in democratic processes, and what lessons we should learn for ensuring the free flow of information in the future.

GOALS

The World Forum for Democracy is a unique platform for political decision-makers and activists to debate solutions to key challenges for democracies worldwide. By identifying and analysing experimental initiatives and practices, the Forum highlights and encourages democratic innovations at grassroots level, and their transfer onto a systemic level in order to strengthen the foundations of democratic societies. The Forum thus contributes to the evolution of democracy and the development of more participatory and inclusive structures and institutions. This is a moment to think big and make changes.

FORMAT

The Forum is divided into Plenary Sessions and Forum Talks, consisting of lively debates between the audience and personalities from politics and public life about the political perspectives and living conditions now and in the future. There are also Labs, which are the heart of the Forum. For this year, the initiatives must help us understand how democracy, democratic institutions and practices can help combat disinformation and fake news, and how artificial intelligence and new technologies can become an enabler of democracy.

LABS

Carefully selected following an open call, these initiatives will share evidence about efforts that have led to the creation of best practices and new approaches to inform, educate or counter disinformation. They aim to offer a sustainable and ethical solution. On the final day of the Forum, the **Democracy Innovation Award** will be given to the most popular initiative featured in the labs.

SATELLITE EVENTS

To reach out to a wider range of contributors and enrich the debate, the Forum welcomes the organisation of "satellite events" by universities renowned in the sphere of political studies and international relations, non-governmental organisations, municipalities and other institutions. The organising institutions are free to decide independently about the dates and format of the event, the speakers and the specific topic(s). The satellite events will take place prior 30 June, 2020. Possible formats include seminars or a seminar series, lectures in schools, surveys, social media campaigns, hackathons, local implementation of innovation initiatives presented in previous Forums, Radio/TV debates, or lightening talks with the public at large (at NGOs, schools, community centers, etc.).

Partners

The World Forum for Democracy is organised by the Council of Europe in partnership with the City of Strasbourg, the Region Grand-Est, the Conseil Départemental of Bas-Rhin and the French Government.

Patronage

The World Forum for Democracy is placed under the high patronage of **Emmanuel MACRON**, President of the French Republic.

Detailed Programme

Wednesday, 6 November 2019

09.30-10.30 **Time for Facts**
Council of Europe Hemicycle - Interpretation FR/EN/RU

Moderator:
Ms Claudia LUCIANI, Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance, Council of Europe

Panel:
Ms Carina HAUPT, Media Analyst, Media Intelligence Service, European Broadcasting Union
Mr Rasmus KLEIS NIELSEN, Director, Reuters Institute
Mr Richard WIKE, Director of Global Attitudes Research**,** Pew Research Centre

10.30-10.40 **Musical Interlude**

10.40-11.00 **Opening Session – Welcome Words by the Organisers**
Council of Europe Hemicycle – Interpretation FR/EN/RU

Words from the Host:
 Ms Liliane Maury PASQUIER, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Moderator:
Ms Sophie ROSENZWEIG, Journalist, Arte

Panel:
Ms Marija PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ, Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Mr Jean-Baptiste MATTEI, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France to the Council of Europe
Ms Claudine GANTER, Grand Est Region, France
Mr Frédéric BIERRY, President of the Bas-Rhin Departmental Council, France
The Mayor of Strasbourg, France

11.00-12.30 **Plenary Session 1 - Democracy Dies in Darkness: do we have the information we need?**
Council of Europe Hemicycle – Interpretation FR/EN/RU

Moderator:
Ms Annette GERLACH, Journalist and TV host, Arte

Panel:
Ms Nighat DAD, Lawyer, Founder of the Digital Rights Foundation, Pakistan
Ms Hauwa IBRAHIM, Human Rights Lawyer, Sakharov Prize Winner 2005, Nigeria
Mr Enrico LETTA, Dean of the Paris School of International Affairs at Sciences Po, Former Prime Minister, Italy
Mr Alexei VENEDIKTOV, Editor-in-chief, Echo of Moscow, Russian Federation

12.30-14.00 **Lunch Break**

14.00-16.00 **Plenary Session 2 - Restoring Trust in News**
Council of Europe Hemicycle - Interpretation: FR/EN/RU

Moderator:
Mr Vladimir VASAK, Reporter, Arte

Panel:
Ms Anna BELKINA, Journalist, Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Head of Communications, Marketing and Strategic Development, RT, Russian Federation
Ms Christine OCKRENT, Journalist, Author, Producer of the programme "Affaires Etrangères" on France Culture Radio
Mr Jean-Paul PHILIPPOT, Administrator-General, RTBF, Belgium
Ms Francesca UNSWORTH, Director of the News and Current Affairs, BBC, United Kingdom

16.00-16.30 **Break**

16.30-18.30 **Plenary Session 3 - Information and Technology: friends or foes?**
Council of Europe Hemicycle – Interpretation FR/EN/RU

Moderator:
Ms Annette GERLACH, Journalist and TV host, Arte
Panel:
Ms Laura BONONCINI, Public Policy Director, Southern Europe, Facebook
Ms Donna CHU, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China
Mr Harley DAVIS, Vice-President, Lab and Decision Management, IBM France
Mr Jun TAKAO, Director General, General Bureau for Europe, Japan Broadcasting Corporation

18.30 **Inauguration of Cartooning for Peace's Fresco**
Palais de l'Europe – Foyer de l'Hémicycle

Thursday, 7 November 2019

09.00-11.00 **FIRST SERIES OF LABS AND FORUM TALKS**

Forum Talk 1 - Artificial Intelligence and Information
Forum Talk 2 - Disinformation and Fake News
Forum Talk 3 - Environmental Journalists in Danger

Lab 1 - Human 2.0: Youth and Digital Empowerment
Lab 2 - Rebuilding Trust in Institutions
Lab 3 - The Human Brain: The Ultimate Fact-Checker?

11.00-11.30 **Break**

11.30–13.00 **SECOND SERIES OF LABS AND FORUM TALKS**

Forum Talk 4 - Information Integrity
Forum Talk 5 - Safety of Journalists

Lab 4 - Building Resilience to Disinformation
Lab 5 - Voting Under the Influence
Lab 6 - Violence and Bias: Gender Inequalities in Journalism

13.00-14.30 **Lunch Break**
13.00-14.30 **Screening of "A Dark Place" and Discussion**

14.30-16.30 **THIRD SERIES OF LABS AND FORUM TALKS**

Forum Talk 6 - Strengthening Democracy in the 21st Century
Forum Talk 7 - Fact-Checking

Lab 7 - MythBusters
Lab 8 - Social Media Freedom and Accountability
Lab 9 - What is the Future of Local Journalism?
Lab 10 - The Search for Truth in a 'Post-Truth' World

16.30-17.00 **Break**

17.00-18.30 Carte Blanche session: **Cartooning for Peace**
Council of Europe Hemicycle – Interpretation FR/EN/ES

17.00-18.30 **Conversation with David Patrikarakos**
War in 140 Characters: How Social Media is Reshaping Conflict in the Twenty-First Century
Room 1 – Council of Europe – Interpretation FR/EN/RU

Moderator:
Mr Jean-Paul MARTHOZ, Columnist with Le Soir and writer, Belgium

Rapporteur:
Ms Claire LEY, Student, Sciences Po Strasbourg, France

Friday, 8 November 2019

09.00-10.30 **Plenary Session 4 - Freedom of Expression and Protection of Journalists**
Council of Europe Hemicycle – Interpretation FR/EN/RU/ES

Moderator:
Mr Vladimir VASAK, Reporter, Arte

Panel:
Mr Ricardo GUTIÉRREZ, General Secretary, European Federation of Journalists
Ms Sibeth NDIAYE, Secretary of State to the Prime Minister, Government Spokeswoman, France
PLANTU, Press cartoonist, caricaturist, France
Ms Shirley YAM, Journalist, Vice Chair of Hong Kong Journalists Association, Hong Kong, China

Contributors:
Mr Matthew CARUANA GALIZIA, Investigative journalist, Malta
Mr PEDRO X. MOLINA, Press cartoonist, caricaturist, Nicaragua

10.30-11.30 **Plenary Session 5 - A Multilateral Response**
Council of Europe Hemicycle – Interpretation FR/EN/RU/ES

Moderator:
Ms Gabriella BATTAINI-DRAGONI, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Panel:
Mr Christophe DELOIRE, Secretary General, Reporters Without Borders
Mr Harlem DESIR, Representative on Freedom of the Media, OSCE
Mr Anthony GOOCH, Director of Public Affairs and Communication, OECD
Mr Alexandre STUTZMANN, Senior Adviser and Team Leader for Social, Human Rights, Humanitarian and Cultural Issues, Office of the President, United Nations General Assembly

11.30-13.00 **Reporting from the Forum and Ceremony for the Democracy Innovation Award**
Council of Europe Hemicycle – Interpretation FR/EN/RU

Moderators:
Ms Snežana SAMARDŽIĆ-MARKOVIĆ, Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe
Ms Anja OLIN-PAPE, Representative of the Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe

General Rapporteurs:
Mr Manuel ARRIAGA, Professor, New York University
Mr Timothy KARR, Principal Director of Strategy and Communication, Free Press

The Council of Europe's Democracy Innovation Award is given each year to the most popular democracy innovation presented in the Labs, as voted by the Forum participants.

Presentation of the Democracy Innovation Award and Closing Address by
Ms Marija PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

13.00 **Closing Performance**

DETAILED PROGRAMME OF FORUM TALKS – Thursday 7 November

09.00 – 11.00 FIRST SERIES OF FORUM TALKS

Forum Talk 1 - Artificial Intelligence and Information
Room 6 – Palais de l'Europe – Interpretation: FR/EN/RU

In a world of filter bubbles and fake news, Artificial Intelligence is increasingly being cited as both a problem and a possible solution. It is developing at a fast pace and having an ever-growing influence in our daily lives. In what ways could AI come to dominate our information landscape? Will the data AI collects allow us to see the inequalities in our society, or replicate them on mass?

Moderator:
Mr Yannick MENECEUR, Information Society and Action against Crime Directorate, Council of Europe

Panel:
Dr. Alessandro CURIONI, IBM Fellow, Vice President, Government and Regulatory Affairs, Europe
Mr Daniel RZASA, Editor-in-Chief, 300Gospdarka, former Teaching Fellow at Google News Lab, Poland
Mr Olaf STEENFADT, Journalist, Head of Journalism Trust Initiative, Reporters Without Borders

Rapporteur:
Mr Victor ROTARI, Junior Project Officer, Office of the Directorate General of Programmes, Council of Europe

Forum Talk 2 - Disinformation and Fake News
Room 7 – Palais de l'Europe – Interpretation: FR/EN

Disinformation and fake news are saturating our media landscape, often helped by the fact that wild speculation is much more exciting than reality. Disinformation strategies often rely on recipients, who act as amplifiers and multipliers. The proliferation of the fake news phenomenon, largely through social networks and social messaging, threatens democracies and raises the question of regulation and self-regulation of social media companies. At the same time, politicians and governments around the world often invoke fake news to delegitimise critical reporting and to justify activities to curtail media freedoms. In this challenging environment it is important that journalists stand up as standard bearers for best practice, to verify the information. This Talk explores the role of institutions and journalists in combatting fake news and promoting robust, fact-based reporting.

Sponsorships:
INGO Conference
International Media Support

Moderator:
Mr Giacomo MAZZONE, Head of Institutional Relations, European Broadcasting Union

Panel:
Mr Flemming HANSEN, Senior Researcher, Danish Institute for International Studies, Denmark
Mr Roman DOBROKHOTOV, Editor-in-Chief, The Insider, Russian Federation
Ms Olga YURKOVA, Journalist, Cofounder of StopFake.org, Ukraine

Contributors:
Ms Gulnara AKHUNDOVA, Head of Department for Global Response, International Media Support
Mr Krzysztof BOBINSKI, President of Unia&Polska, a pro-European think-tank, Polish Society of Journalists, Poland

Rapporteur:
Mr Simon MATTHIJSSEN, Chair of the Human Rights Committee, Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe

Forum Talk 3 - Environmental Journalists in Danger

Room 1 – Palais de l'Europe – Interpretation: FR/EN

As more journalists investigate the impacts and disclose environmentally hazardous practices, they are increasingly coming up against threats and harassment. This talk explores the ongoing dangers faced by journalists reporting on environmentalism and what can be done about them.

Moderator:
Ms Sophie KAYES, Senior Officer, Eurasia, United Kingdom

Panel:
Ms Carey GILLAM, Investigative Journalist, USA
Ms Sandhya RAVISHANKAR, Investigative Journalist, India
Mr Laurent RICHARD, Founder and Executive Director, Forbidden Stories, France

Rapporteur:
Ms Anastasia NOHOVITSYNA, Justice Sector Reform Projects Support, Council of Europe

11.30-13.00 – SECOND SERIES OF FORUM TALKS

Forum Talk 4 - Information Integrity
Room 7 – Palais de l'Europe – Interpretation: FR/EN

Social media has come to have an outsized influence on the way we interact with the outside world. As we discover more about how such networks affect our attitudes and opinions, it is important to think about how we can ensure the integrity of information in democratic contexts. This talk will explore how to manage the impact of social media on our democratic processes.

Sponsorship:
International Organisation of la Francophonie

Moderator:
Mr Bertrand LEVANT, Programme Officer, Directorate Political Affairs and Democratic Governance, International Organisation of la Francophonie

Panel:
Mr Georges CONTOGEORGIS, Academic, Political Scientist, Greece
Mr Jean-François FURNEMONT, Founding Partner at Wagner-Hatfield, Belgium
Mr Nouri LAJMI, President, High Independent Authority of the Audiovisual Commission and president of the French Network of Media Regulators, Tunisia
Ms Marguerite OUEDRAOGO, President of the data protection authority of Burkina Faso, Burkina Faso

Rapporteur:
Ms Céline LE FLOUR, Student, Sciences Po Strasbourg, France

Forum Talk 5 - Safety of Journalists
Room 1 – Palais de l'Europe – Interpretation: FR/EN/RU

Around the world, being a journalist is becoming more and more dangerous. From harassment and intimidation, to imprisonment and murder, journalists face increasing challenges. This session will explore accounts of journalists who have faced such challenges and ask what can be done to protect them more effectively.

Sponsorship:
Committee to Protect Journalists

Moderator:
Mr Tom GIBSON, EU Representative and Advocacy Manager, Committee to Protect Journalists

Panel:
Mr Sidharth BHATIA, Journalist and Writer, India
Ms Munizae JAHANGIR, TV Journalist and Documentary Filmmaker, Pakistan
Ms Yasmine MEREI, Writer and Journalist, Syria

Rapporteur:
Mr Dancho YAKIMOV, Project Assistant, Education Policy Division, Directorate of Democratic Participation, Council of Europe

14.30-16.30 - THIRD SERIES OF FORUM TALKS

Forum Talk 6 - Strengthening Democracy in the 21st Century
Room 7 – Palais de l'Europe – Interpretation: FR/EN/RU

Democracy is facing many challenges today. In Europe and elsewhere in the world we see a lower trust in the institutions, increasing political apathy, and political polarisation and fragmentation. Different kinds of manipulation and disinformation, especially during electoral campaigns, are on the rise, and highly polarised societies are the most vulnerable to this. On the other hand, empowered citizens can now inform and express themselves as well as participate in decision making like never before. The challenge for democracy in the 21st century is to find the right means to protect the freedoms that come with more access to information, while limiting the risks that go along with them.

Sponsorship:
European Union

Moderator:
Mr Matjaž GRUDEN, Director of Democratic Participation, Council of Europe

Panel:
Mr Patrick COSTELLO, Head of Division, Democracy and Electoral Observation, European External Action Service
Ms Marie-Hélène BOULANGER, Head of Unit, Union Citizenship Rights and Free Movement, DG Justice, European Commission
Mr Ingo MANNTEUFEL, Head of Department for Russia, Ukraine and Turkey and Head of Russian Service, Deutsche Welle
Mr Sam VAN DER STAAK, Head of the Regional Europe Programme and Europe Office, IDEA

Rapporteur:
Mr Andrea ROMEO, Trainee at the Political Section of the European Union Delegation to the Council of Europe

Forum Talk 7 – Fact-Checking
Room 1 – Palais de l'Europe – Interpretation: FR/EN/RU

In the digital age, the prevalence of fake news and disinformation is reaching unprecedented levels. As citizens increasingly mistrust the information they are receiving, it is having serious negative effects on democratic societies. How can we ensure the reliability of the information we are receiving? How can we instil good fact checking practices while also rooting out disinformation?

Moderator:
Mr Sander VAN DER LINDEN, University Lecturer in Social Psychology, Cambridge University, United Kingdom

Panel:
Ms Marie BOHNER, Project Manager for First Draft
Mr Derek BOWLER, Head of Social Newsgathering, European Broadcasting Union
Mr Tommaso CANETTA, Fact-Checker, Pagella Politica, Italy
Mr Stefan SCHUSTEREDER, Educator, L2C Trainer, Expert for the Council of Europe

Rapporteur:
Mr Vasileios GIANNAS, Co-Secretary, Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

DETAILED PROGRAMME OF LABS – Thursday 7 November

09.00–11.00 FIRST SERIES OF LABS

Lab 1 - Human 2.0 Youth and Digital Empowerment
Room 8 – Palais de l'Europe – Interpretation: FR/EN

Given the multiplication of tools to access the internet, we are now exposed to information at a very early age. In this digital era of fast-paced and often biased information flows, how can we empower young people? They are the ones that share stories, posts and create the "information bubbles" of tomorrow. How can we train them to spot fake news? What tools can we give them to develop their digital skills and their critical thinking?

Sponsorship:
Département du Bas-Rhin, France

Moderator:
Ms Camelia NISTOR, Freelance Trainer, Coach and Consultant, Romania

Co-moderator:
A member of the Youth delegation

Young Digital Leaders, Group of the European Youth for Change, Romania

Young Digital Leaders is a European programme aimed at empowering young people through digital citizenship, critical thinking and media literacy skills, so that they can become tomorrow's digital leaders. It was created to equip young people from disadvantaged backgrounds with the skills they need to be safe, powerful, and effective online citizens. The project was developed in partnership with Google.org and the Institute for Strategic Dialogue and explores new ways of teaching digital citizenship in formal educational settings in Europe.

Presenter: **Ms Adelina DRAGOMIR**, YDL Project Manager & Trainer, Romania

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Training of 20 Media and Information Ambassadors, **Département du Bas-Rhin, France**

From January 2019 to summer 2019 during their civic service with the association "Unis-Cité", 20 young people were welcomed to become Media and Information Ambassadors. They work in 9 libraries within the network of Bibliothèque Départementale du Bas-Rhin. Their mission is to develop an analytical capacity and critical thinking among information consumers. Their work particularly targets young people and adolescents through the organisation of workshops, conferences, debates with professionals and escape games. Their aim is to build up participants competence in media literacy and to ensure its sustainability.

Presenters:
Ms Catherine GRAEF-ECKERT, Bas-Rhin Departmental Councilor, France
Mr Jean-François MARCHAL, Head of *antennes Unis Cité Alsace,* France

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How do adolescents get information when they are online? Limitations and solutions, UNESCO, Argentina

This initiative explores how adolescents get their information from the internet and defends the urgency of promoting digital and information literacy as a priority for public policies. This presentation explores the program developed by UNESCO in Latin America to incorporate Digital and Information Literacy in the school curriculum. The program transforms the current practices of using information among teenagers. On social media real and fake news are disseminated with much greater speed and credibility, which is important as more students are using such sites to find information and many admit to having trouble assessing the reliability of sources.

Presenter: **Ms Roxana MORDUCHOWICZ**, UNESCO Consultant Buenos Aires, Argentina

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Panel:
Ms Elodie BETH-SEO, Senior Project Officer, Section of Global Citizenship and Peace Education, UNESCO
Ms Rut EINARSDÓTTIR, Member of the Advisory Council on Youth to the Council of Europe, Iceland

Rapporteur:
Mr Aren MELIKYAN, Journalist, Media Initiatives Center, Armenia

Lab 2 - Rebuilding Trust in Institutions
Room 3 – Palais de l'Europe – Interpretation: FR/EN

Transparency is one of the basic principles of good governance, and in times of disconnect and distrust between citizens and governments, its importance is only increasing. But can we truly achieve it? How can we make sure that governments are held to high transparency standards? How can they interact meaningfully with their constituents? To what extent can we involve civil society in contributing to government transparency and accountability? How can we rebuild the trust between citizens and governments?

Sponsorships:
Région Grand-Est, France
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

Moderator:
Ms Selin SAYEK BÖKE, Member of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe, Turkey

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Popvox, USA

In 2019 POPVOX is building a new kind of network (POPVOX / Nexus) that allows public officials to post updates and information but limits interactions to their own constituents – though anyone can "follow" and view. The first stage of this network, "LegiDash," is now in beta for Congressional staff. The next phase, "POPVOX Local," will be tested in several pilot jurisdictions this year. The goal for the network is to tangibly improve tone, trust, and truth in online civic engagement – and to broaden and diversify public participation at every level of government.

Presenter: **Ms Marci HARRIS**, CEO, Popvox, USA

Follow the Money, Connected Development, Nigeria

Connected Development's social accountability initiative, "Follow The Money" is a participatory advocacy-based initiative that tracks and advocates for proper utilisation of government and international aid funds in grassroots communities. It works to ultimately ensure that public services work for the people. Follow The Money is a network of activists, social workers, lawyers, journalists, development consultants, researchers and data analysts, that are signed up on our social mobility platform (www.ifollowthemoney.org) and use media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, mainstream media to amplify the voices of marginalised communities.

Presenter: **Ms Kevwe OGHIDE**, Specialist in Communication and Strategy, Nigeria

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Database of Assets of Serbian Politicians, Crime and Corruption Reporting Network, Serbia

In 2016, the KRIK team created a unique online tool: The Database of Assets of Serbian Politicians. It is a platform that provides all the key information about officials and candidates for the ruling positions in the Republic of Serbia. Its aim is to increase government transparency and accountability. The Database reveals what politicians and their family members own (real estate, companies…) as well as how they acquired these assets. The database provides another important category of information: all violations of the law and court proceedings against these public officials.

Presenter: **Ms Jelena RADIVOJEVIC**, Investigative Journalist, Serbia

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Panel:
Mr Miodrag MAJIĆ, Judge, Writer, Blogger, Serbia
Ms Marjatta PELTONEN, Project Manager, City of Helsinki, Finland

Contributors:
Mr Marc COOLS, Rapporteur on the Fight Against Corruption of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, Belgium
Mr Roberto RAMPI, Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Italy
The Vice President, Youth Delegation, Territorial Orientation and Democracy, Région Grand-Est

Rapporteur:
Secretariat, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe

Lab 3 - The Human Brain: The Ultimate Fact-Checker?
Room 5 – Palais de l'Europe – Interpretation: FR/EN

Information is pluriform: from algorithms to data to simple "news", it is getting increasingly hard to be able to understand everything that is thrown at us. This lab will look at initiatives that explain, analyse and help us process different types of information. How do algorithms work? What do statistics and studies truly mean? How can we be better informed?

Moderator:
Mr Andrej SLAPNIČAR, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the Council of Europe

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Retour aux Sources, Datagora, France

By promoting the publications of producers of statistical data and public studies, Datagora aims to facilitate their accessibility, understanding, and reuse in public debate. To date, we have succeeded in convincing nearly forty partner institutes (e.g. INSEE, DARES, France Stratégie, OECD, CNIL, etc.) to join the platform and grow it by administering their own pages. Thus, we allow often unknown organisations to democratise information by promoting their publications, especially among a younger audience.

Presenter: **Mr Alexis LENOIR**, Co-Founder, Datagora, France

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MIL Kyi (Just Ask), Media Information Literacy Project, Myanmar

The Media Information Literacy Project is called "MIL Kyi" which means "Just Ask" in Myanmar's language. The project was developed in cooperation with Myanmar ICT for Development Organisation and the Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB). Its objective is to create and distribute digital content of "Media Literacy Knowledge and Skills" to the public across the country. Its wants to raise public awareness of how misinformation and disinformation can be manipulated in the digital age. MIL Kyi produces a weekly video broadcast, which aims at disseminating basic media literacy skills, skills that lead to a better-informed analysis of situations and decision making, based on critical thinking, to the general public, especially young people.

Presenters**:**
Ms Hnin-Wint NAING, Executive Programme Manager, MIL Kyi, Myanmar
Ms Katrin BANNACH, Project Manager, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Thailand and Myanmar

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AlGOVrithm, ePaństwo Foundation/CRTA, Poland

The alGOVrithms project identifies examples of algorithms used by public administration, describes how they work, verifies whether they have been introduced through legal regulations, checks how open and transparent they are and sees if there is any system in place that secures citizens' rights against abuses committed by algorithms. Through fostering debate among stakeholders from academia, government and civil society (through press materials, consultations involving civil society organisations and press conference concluding the project's findings), the initiative drives professional and public attention to the topic and encourages policymakers to understand the importance and the potential of algorithms in public administration. We have published the report "AlGOVrithms: State of Play" which summarises findings and have elaborated a separate document including the Policy Recommendations in English and each of the Partners' languages.

Presenter**: Mr Krysztof IZDEBSKI**, Policy Director, ALGOVrithm, Poland

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Panel:
Ms Flutura KUSARI, Legal Advisor, European Centre for Press and Media Freedom
Mr Sander VAN DER LINDEN, University Lecturer in Social Psychology, Cambridge University, United Kingdom

Rapporteur :
Ms Charlotte ROUSSEAU, Student, Sciences Po Strasbourg, France

11.30-13.00 – SECOND SERIES OF LABS

Lab 4 - Building Resilience to Disinformation
Room 8 – Palais de l'Europe – Interpretation: FR/EN

Our societies are increasingly aware of being exposed to disinformation, fake news or propaganda. We are ever more concerned about the authenticity of information in the digital age. One in two internet users say they are subjected to fake news. Some individuals and groups seem better equipped to cope with the phenomenon, due to the education, media literacy or exposure to alternative media sources. How can we build resilience in the societies to fight disinformation? How can we raise awareness about media, social media, information sources and their traps? What tools do we have to help fact-checking?

Sponsorship:
Education Department, Council of Europe

Moderator:
Ms Corina CĂLUGĂRU, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the Council of Europe

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Media and Information Literacy Card Game, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Thailand

The card game "Media and Information Literacy" was developed by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation and Thai Media Fund, an independent organisation funded by the Thai Parliament to promote media literacy. It encourages young players to take a critical approach to media. The game aims to raise awareness among young students about the media they consume and create. Our approach is to provide training to primary and high school teachers believing that those trained teachers will use our card games in their classrooms to raise awareness about media and information literacy to their students.

Presenters:
Ms Pimrapaat DUSADEEISARIYAKUL, Project Manager, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Thailand
Ms Katrin BANNACH, Project Manager, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Thailand and Myanmar

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Co-Inform Co-Creating Misinformation Resilient Societies, Spain

The Co-Inform project aims to contribute towards the goal of tackling misinformation on social media by focusing on a trans-European, multidisciplinary effort targeting three main key stakeholder groups: policymakers, journalists and citizens. Co-Inform consortium partners strongly believe that researching both the technological and behavioural aspects of this phenomenon is necessary to develop tools that will have a real impact on society. To do so, the project aims at developing tools that will provide stakeholders with easy access to fact-checked information, helping them make better-informed decisions which constitute the foundation of any democracy.

Presenters:
Mr Adrià RODRIGUEZ-PEREZ, Political and Legal Analyst, Specialised in Civic Technology, Spain
Dr Eleni A. KYZA, Associate Professor in Information Society with the Department of Communication and Internet Studies at the Cyprus University of Technology

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Panel:
Mr Richard HEISE, Political Scientist, Researcher, Project Coordinator, Leibniz University, Germany
Ms Elisavet KARAKITSIOU, Historian-Archaeologist, Teacher, Project Partner, Epal Korydallou School, Greece

Contributor:
Mr Thomas SCHNEIDER, Vice-Director, Federal Office of Communications, and Chair CDMSI, Switzerland

Rapporteur :
Ms Lorène KARAM, Student, Sciences Po Strasbourg, France

Lab 5 - Voting Under the Influence
Room 3 – Palais de l'Europe – Interpretation: FR/EN/RU

In order to vote, citizens ought to be informed. It is essential to look at how some initiatives work at providing impartial information to voters on "current" topics during elections. Do we need additional tools against misinformation and disinformation in the voting process? Is there such a thing as an impartial information? If we were to be better informed, would that change the outcome of the vote?

Sponsorship:
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Moderator:
Mr Georgios KATROUGKALOS, Member of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe, Greece

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#ChooseRespect, Quaker Council for European Affairs, Belgium

#ChooseRespect is a project which aims to provide two resources to European voters:
- Impartial, empirical information about migration in Europe;
- Advice on how to build more positive and constructive narratives about migration.

The goal is to help European citizens to counter the fear-mongering and misinformation about migration which forms so much of current political discourse. Via our "myth-buster" page, people can get better informed regarding commonly-held ideas about migrants and refugees and share this information with others. Our "positive narrative toolkit" then offers simple advice about how to counter these myths in conversations with others, with an emphasis on dialogue as opposed to debate. This two-pronged approach is targeted mainly towards social media, where misinformation spreads easily and civility is often limited.

Presenter**: Mr Martin LENG**, Communications Coordinator, QCEA, Belgium

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Well-Informed Vote, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany

Populism often thrives due to irresponsible promises and in places where the public is ill-informed about the consequences of such policies. To make voting well-informed, it is suggested that we divide the options into particular issues which are put to votes separately, and by summarising public attitudes to the issues, make the public decision.

This principle of `deconstructing' choice options into particular characteristics has been implemented in an alternative voting method which has been tested and improved in three experimental elections to the Student Parliament of the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology. The analysis of outcomes shows a significant gain in the representative capability of the Student Parliament and the voters' satisfaction.

Presenter: **Mr Andranik MELIK-TANGYAN**, Professor, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany

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Panel:
Mr Andrea CAIROLA, Programme Specialist, Division of Freedom of Expression and Media Development, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO
Ms Diana DUTSYK, Media Expert and Executive Director of CSO, Ukrainian Media and Communications Institute, Ukraine
Mr Rasťo KUŽEL, Executive Director, Memo 98, Slovakia
Ms Olga YURKOVA, Media Expert and Cofounder, NGO StopFake, Ukraine

Rapporteur:
Mr Guillaume LOISEAU, Project and Research Officer, Division of Electoral Assistance, Council of Europe

Lab 6 – Violence and Bias: Gender Inequalities in Journalism
Room 6 – Palais de l'Europe – Interpretation: FR/EN

It is essential, in the post #MeToo era to look at ways to not only advance gender equality in the media, but also to tackle gender bias, and protect female journalists, off and online. How can we provide gender-sensitive education for media professionals? To what extent do gender stereotypes remain in both the private and public spheres? Does it take women to provide unbiased journalism? How can we ensure the protection of female journalists in the era of hate speech?

Sponsorship:
International Press Institute

Moderator:
Ms Caterina BOLOGNESE, Head of Division, Secretary to the Gender Equality Commission, Gender Equality Division, Council of Europe

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Advancing Gender Equality in Media Industries, International

Advancing Gender Equality in Media Industries has designed a set of learning resources to inspire and inform both students and media professionals. It has also developed a Resources Bank of Good Practices that is openly accessible and a must-go place to learn about a multiplicity of transformative practices from around the world. It aims to provide: gender-sensitive training for students and media professionals; opportunities for cooperation amongst sectors and to provide practice-based knowledge through collaborations between universities and professional associations; to contribute to the elaboration of ethical standards and gender-sensitive governance of the media, and the formation of media policies, standards and regulatory practices.

Presenter: **Ms Karen ROSS**, Professor of Gender and Media, Newcastle University, United Kingdom

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An All-Women Newsroom, Chai Khana Media, Georgia

Chai Khana Media was established to provide unbiased, quality journalism focusing on human stories through powerful and creative storytelling in a conflict-marred region. In the South Caucasus unresolved and protracted conflicts, which broke out with the fall of the Soviet Union, have deeply shaped the society. Chai Khana works across conflict lines and it aims to portray people (specifically women and minorities) as they are, beyond the image of "the enemy" or "the other."

The project empowers young, female journalists; counters disinformation through reliable, unbiased reports; and revitalises narratives across the region through innovative storytelling. Chai Khana publishes in five languages (Armenian, Azerbaijani, English, Georgian, and Russian) thus engaging with vulnerable communities in the region and allowing individuals divided by conflict and language barriers to read stories from "the other side" - and to understand them.

Presenter**: Ms Monica ELLENA**, Lead editor, An All-Women Newsroom, Ukraine/Georgia

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Panel:
Ms Barbara TRIONFI, Executive Director, International Press Institute
Ms Banu GÜVEN, Journalist, Turkey

Contributor:
Ms Lisa KUZMENKO, Gender Expert for the Mass Media, Head of the Ukrainian NGO *Association 'Women in media",* Ukraine

Rapporteur:
Ms Diane TARDY, Student, Sciences Po Strasbourg, France

14.30-16.30 - THIRD SERIES OF LABS

Lab 7 - MythBusters
Hôtel De Ville – City of Strasbourg - Interpretation: FR/EN

This lab will look at ways to deconstruct fake news and to offer appropriate analysis of the situations they depict (through social media monitoring, websites, news mark…). How do we raise awareness about disinformation? What is fake news and how do we spot it? How do we identify and counteract disinformation across many platforms?

Sponsorship:
City of Strasbourg

Moderator:
The Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg, Responsible for European and International Affairs, France

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Disinformation Democracy and the Peace Journalism Solution, Center for Global Peace Journalism, USA

The Center for Global Peace Journalism has been actively engaged in worldwide efforts to use peace journalism principles to combat political propaganda, social media disinformation, and hyper partisan political reporting. The goals of these initiatives include improving reporting about elections and politics; equipping journalists to better spot propaganda and offer counternarratives; helping journalists and their communities identify and counteract disinformation across many platforms; and encouraging more thoughtful (and less partisan or sectarian) societal discourse.

Presenter: **Mr Steven YOUNGBLOOD**, Director, Center for Global Peace Journalism, USA

Fighting Disinformation, Anna University, India

This initiative aims to create awareness of and control disinformation by educating the people and delivering authentic news to them. In order to educate, we are providing capacity development on disinformation to young people. The target group is selected from different colleges who are studying under various programmes. Information is provided about the nature, process, elements, effects and ways to cross check disinformation every week for the period of three months. After the intervention, we test the knowledge gained through the training. In order to provide authentic news to people, we are creating standard news procedures in consultation with editors and journalists. Through this we create a "news mark" for authenticated news called "News Hygiene/ News Health".

Presenter: **Dr Sriram ARULCHELVAN**, Associate Professor Anna University, India

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Countering Disinformation in Nigeria, Centre for Democracy and Development, Nigeria

The initiative counters disinformation and misinformation through fact checking. Our team includes fake news spotters (focusing on Facebook and WhatsApp specifically), fact-checkers (who use IT tools) and social media handlers (who engage on relevant platforms). The fact checking is done in real time in response to spotted fake news across the country.

Presenter: **Mr Austin AIGBE,** Senior Programme Officer, Centre for Democracy and Development, Nigeria

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San Marino against Disinformation, San Marino

The initiative "San Marino contro la disinformazione" (San Marino Against Disinformation) was born with the intent of raising awareness about disinformation and media literacy as well as fostering cooperation between organisations and initiatives promoting quality information and democracy in the Republic of San Marino and abroad.

Presenter: **Ms Beatrice SIMONCINI**, Young Press Officer, Department of Foreign Affairs, Republic of San Marino

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Panel :
Mr Titus ALEXANDER, Author, Honorary Fellow, Crick Centre & Founder of Democracy Matters, United Kingdom

Lab 8 - Social Media Freedom and Accountability
Room 5 – Palais de l'Europe – Interpretation: FR/EN

Social media has become the core of information today. This lab will tackle the pressing issue that is quality control of shared information on social media, mainly through monitoring and accountability mechanisms. How can we use social media as an ally for critically assessing topical subjects? How do we hold platforms accountable for the information that goes through them? Is social media moderation and freedom of expression compatible?

Moderator:
Ms Letizia MAGNANI, Independent Journalist, San Marino

The Social Media Councils, ARTICLE 19, United Kingdom

While social media companies initially appeared as neutral providers of hosting services, and although there can be no doubt that they are important facilitators of online flows of information and ideas, their role in the circulation of online content has become increasingly controversial. Finding an approach for online content moderation that protects freedom of expression has become an increasingly pressing concern. ARTICLE 19 proposes the creation of Social Media Councils – a multi-stakeholder accountability mechanism that would provide an open, transparent, accountable and participatory forum to address content moderation issues on social media platforms on the basis of international standards on human rights.

Presenter**: Mr Pierre François DOCQUIR**, Head of Media Freedom, ARTICLE 19, United Kingdom

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Creating Digital Safe Spaces and Preserving the Public Sphere, University of Hong Kong

This initiative attempts to examine the technological, social-psychological, and economic conditions that would lead to the creation of digital "safe spaces", i.e. social media environments in which citizens could freely express themselves and obtain timely and verified public affairs information.

Presenter: **Mr Marko SKORIC**, Associate Professor, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China

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ALEX (Algorithms Exposed), TREX, Italy

ALEX is a research project based upon a free software named Tracking Exposed. ALEX's goal is to increase transparency behind personalisation algorithms so that people can have more effective control of their online experience and more awareness of the information to which they are exposed. It offers tools of digital empowerment and algorithm literacy to social media users. They then provide data, and ALEX produce academic research on algorithm influence, that thus becomes an input for policymakers and journalists.

Presenter: **Mr Leonardo SANNA**, Representative, Tracking Exposed, Italy

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Panel:
Mr Michael KLOS, Researcher and Lecturer on Freedom of Speech on the Internet, Leiden University, Netherlands

Rapporteur :
Ms Anne-Laure LIARDOU, Student, Sciences Po Strasbourg, France

www.wfdemocracy.org

Lab 9 – What is the Future of Local Journalism?
Room 3 – Palais de l'Europe – Interpretation: FR/EN

Local media is a vital factor in building communities, making people aware, informing, and engaging with them. It serves as a crucial lever for social change in people's actions and everyday life. However, as local media keeps getting more important, the issues they face are increasing, and their identity is starting to shatter. What is their role in the digital era? How should they be supported and promoted?

Sponsorship:
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe

Moderator:
Mr Raphaël COMTE, Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Switzerland

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Local Investigation in the Service of Citizenship and Democracy, Mediacités, France

Mediacités raison d'être is to investigate all the facts that thwart or devalue democracy. Their objective is to reconnect with the fundamentals of journalism by exercising its role as a counterpower. This may involve revealing illegal or immoral practices of certain decision-makers or revealing complex metropolitan issues with a strong educational focus. We seek to do this by involving our readers in the conduct of our investigations and by being transparent about how we operate (an open access section is dedicated to our backstage) or about the difficulties encountered during our investigations.

Presenter: **Mr Jacques TRENTESAUX**, Publication Director, Mediacités, France

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Le Drenche

Le Drenche is a newspaper, which for each current issue, offers readers:
- a simple, factual, short and precise context, to have the keys to understand the debate,
- two opposing opinion forums, the Pros and Cons, each written by a competent, legitimate, and committed person.

Two impacts are being sought:
- help the reader to form his own opinion
- allow the reader, by reading a reasoned opinion opposed to his own, to get out of his "filter bubble",
 or opinion bubble.

Presenter: **Mr Florent GUIGNARD**, CEO, Le Drenche, France

Panel:
Mr Meziane ABANE, Journalist and activist, Founder of Avant-Garde Algérie, Algeria

Contributors:
Mr Jean-Paul BASTIN, Member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, Belgium
Ms Barbara TOCE, Vice-President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, Italy
Mr Andrew DAWSON, Thematic Spokesperson on Promoting Public Ethics and Preventing Corruption at the Local and Regional Levels of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, United-Kingdom
The Vice President, Youth Delegation, Territorial Orientation and Democracy, Région Grand-Est

Rapporteurs:
Secretariat, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe

Lab 10 - The Search for Truth in a 'Post-Truth' World
Room 6 – Palais de l'Europe – Interpretation: FR/EN

Against the overflow of information citizens have started to gather and use more offline, real, face-to-face interaction. The goal is to be informed and construct an opinion by participating directly in the exchange of information. There is a whole new era of shared knowledge that exists outside of the traditional and digital spectrums. How can we foster and improve the exchange between citizens about their opinions? How to reconcile traditional medias and digital medias?

Moderator:
Ms Gulnara AKHUNDOVA, Head of Department for Global Response, International Media Support

Democracy Accelerator, Finland

Democracy Accelerator aims to develop democratic innovations that create a more inclusive, participatory and informed society. In the Constructive Journalism Initiative, we organise public meetings in which the participants discuss important societal issues, facilitated by journalists. The goal is to decrease opinion polarisation, mitigate "opinion bubbles", decrease the distribution of fake information, strengthen the role of reliable information and enhance public deliberation by creating a more constructive role to the media.

One example of constructive journalism is the Finland Talks event, organised by the Finnish daily Helsingin Sanomat. Pairs of people were formed with AI: an algorithm formed the pairs based on their opinions, which they had expressed in an online questionnaire. The people who represented the most opposite viewpoints were partnered up. Thousands of people then deliberated in face-to-face meetings about timely societal topics. As a result, the participants reported increased understanding of opposite political view points and stronger social cohesion.

Presenter**: Ms Tanja AITAMURTO**, Assistant Professor, Department of Communication University of Illinois, Finland

Better News, Iceland

Better News is a global neighbourhood community that bridges the gap between online and offline by enabling us all to report, edit and participate in our news. It is local news with expert involvement delivered to local residents and from there spread to global interests, depending on the subject. News stories are reported by local members of Better News. Locals, journalists and specialists are notified, improving and adding to the report. A fact-checked news report with on-site coverage is the result.

Presenter**: Mr Gunnar GRÍMSSON,** Founder, Better News*,* Iceland

Youthfully Peaceful, The BogotArt Foundation, Colombia

Youthfully Peaceful is an initiative that wishes to encourage a more democratic society. It has set up letter exchanges between FARC ex-combatants and civil society members in order to then achieve face-to-face dialogues between these ex-combatants and young people.

Presenter**: Mr Leonardo PARRAGA,** Executive Director, The BogotArt Foundation, Colombia

Contributors:
Mr Saša PAUNOVIĆ, Member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, Serbia
Mr Stefan SCHENNACH, Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Austria

Rapporteur:
Ms Nuria VILLANOVA, Communication Campaigns, OECD