



AGENDA

DEMOCRACY IN THE DIGITAL AGE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



30 November - 3 December 2021

Hybrid event



The project is co-funded by the European Union



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



METAMORPHOSIS
Foundation for sustainable ICT solutions



B | T | D The Balkan Trust for Democracy
A PROJECT OF THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND

The e-Society conference is organized by Metamorphosis Foundation for Internet and Society in synergy with the projects: "Increasing Civic Engagement in the Digital Agenda - ICEDA" - financially supported by the European Union and "Fact-Checking the Progress of North Macedonia Towards the EU" - financially supported by the National Endowment for Democracy and "Rapid Response to Vaccine Disinformation" - financially supported by Balkan Trust for Democracy (BTD), German Marshall Fund, USA. The views expressed during the conference do not necessarily reflect the views of the donors.

The Open Data Hackathon within the e-Society conference is organized by Metamorphosis Foundation for Internet Society with the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).



DAY 1 - November 30 (Tuesday)

Venue - Hotel Panoramika and online - ZOOM Platform

12:00 – 12:45 | Welcome & opening session

Moderator:
BARDHYL JASHARI, Executive Director, Metamorphosis Foundation

Speakers:

- **DAVID GEER**,
Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of North Macedonia (TBC)
- **ERIK JANOWSKY**,
USAID North Macedonia Country Representative
- **JETON SHAQIRI**,
Minister of the Ministry of Information Society and Administration
- **KRISTINA MAND**,
Senior Expert on e-Democracy at e-Governance Academy (Estonia)

Description: Speakers will provide their perspective and assessment on the state of democracy today and how technology shapes good governance and civic engagement. This session will also shed light upon the potential threats of the internet in the civic freedoms & rights and the role of the civil sector in countering them.

12:55 -13:15 | Lightning talk

Speaker:

- **LAURI TABUR**,
Change management expert, Estonian Center for International Development

Description: An inspirational talk about the vast opportunities and benefits that digitalization of services brings about. This talk also provides recommendations for all involved actors on how to alleviate the process and succeed in the digital transition.



13:15 – 14:25 | e-Participation & e-Engagement: Regional perspectives - Local actions

Moderator:
MILA JOSIFOVSKA DANILOVSKA, Programme Manager, Metamorphosis Foundation

Speakers:

- **MAJA CIMERMAN**,
General Manager, [Today is a new day](#) (Slovenia)
- **MARK CRIDGE**,
Chief Executive, [MySociety](#) (United Kingdom).
- **DEBORA PERCI**,
Project manager, [Democracy Plus](#) (Kosovo)
- **MARIJA VASILEVSKA**,
Project Manager, [Center for Social Innovations Blink 42-21](#) (North Macedonia) -
- **hvale vale**,
CTE (Closer than Ever) Strategy Facilitator, [Association for Progressive Communications](#)

Description: Successful stories of e-participation and e-engagement in the Balkans and Europe – How civic initiatives online have brought significant changes in the communities and improved citizens’ lives.

14:25 – 14:55 | Coffee break



🕒 14:55 – 15:55 | Open government data: when demand and supply meet halfway

Moderator:
QËNDRESA SULEJMANI, Director of Programme, Metamorphosis Foundation

Speakers:

- **IRENA BOJADZIEVSKA, PhD**
Independent Researcher
- **DELVINA HAXHIJAJA,**
Open Data Kosovo, Kosovo
- **LAZAR POP IVANOV,**
Head of Experimentation, UNDP
- **NADA RAKOCEVIC,**
Secretary of Association Board for ITC, Chamber of Economy of Montenegro

Description: The benefits of open government data are widely promoted in the region, yet the preparedness of institutions and the demand from the users is still lagging behind. This panel will focus on the mechanisms that could sustain regular publication & utilization of open data sets, so that their values are felt extensively.

🕒 15:55 – 17:00 | Lunch

🕒 15:00 -17:00

Meeting with mentors

DAY 2 - December 1 (Wednesday)

🕒 13:00 – 14:00 | Roundtable discussion: Algorithms, privacy and security. Let's talk human rights.

Speakers:

- **GOCE ARSOVSKI,**
Programme Support Officer, Metamorphosis Foundation
- **KRZYSZTOF IZDEBSKI,**
Legal and policy expert,
Stefan Batory Foundation, Poland
- **OLGA KYRYLIUK,**
Technical Program Manager,
American Bar Association
- **ORSOLYA VINCZE,**
Legal Specialist, K-Monitor, Hungary

Description: In the age of rapid digitalization, algorithms & AI solutions are being deployed frequently, and more so by governments and institutions across the globe. In a sense, algorithms will continue to have an impact on citizens well-being, but do they take into account their innate human rights? Where are the CSOs, the media and universities in the discussion of implementing increasingly sophisticated tech solutions, and why are they shying away from taking a seat at the table? Speakers will present their latest findings and recommendations and will try to encourage CSOs and others to actively engage in this topic.

🕒 13:00 -15:00

Meeting with mentors

🕒 16:00 -18:00

First pre-pitching session

DAY 3 - December 2 (Thursday)

 **12:00 – 13:00** | Training: Cyber Security – common myths and disinformation

Trainer:
GOCE ARSOVSKI

Description: The ever-expanding digital world doesn't seem to take into account the users' level of digital literacy and experience with computer systems. Adding to this, disinformation campaigns which are widely used in politics, have their very own "cyber-sub-branch" when it comes to online safety & privacy. The training will focus on prevailing myths and disinformation about common cyber-security threats and will attempt to address them.

 **13:15 – 16:30** | Training: How to build strong and sustainable system for privacy protection

Trainer:
ELENA STOJANOVSKA

Description: Personal Data Protection or GDPR has been a 'buzz term' for a long time, but many disregard or fail to understand its value. The webinar will explore the current Personal Data Protection Law and mechanisms in North Macedonia from the aspect of CSOs and citizens. It will provide CSOs with the knowledge and support for their full harmonization with the obligations that the Law establishes. As for the citizens, it will help them understand the Law and the power of the (mis)usage of their personal data from other entities, but also the dangers of sharing other people's personal data without any consent.



 **13:00 -15:00**

Meeting with mentors



 **16:00 -18:00**

Second pre-pitching session

DAY 4 - December 3 (Friday)

Venue - Hotel Panoramika and online - ZOOM Platform

 **12:00 – 13:30** | Workshop: Legal Aspects and Self-Regulation in the Fight Against Misinformation

Trainers:
DRAGAN SEKULOVSKI,
Executive Director at Association of Journalists of Macedonia

KATERINA SINADINOVSKA,
President of the Managing Board of the Council of Media Ethics of Macedonia

ELIDA ZYLBEARI,
Editor of Portalb.mk

 **13:30 – 14:00** | Coffee break

 **14:00 – 14:20** | Lightning talk

Speaker:

- **JAKUB KALENSKÝ,**
Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council

Description: A talk about patterns of foreign actor interference and influence on important processes in the region, and the spread of disinformation as a potent tool.



Public session  **13:00**

Final presentation and voting

Hybrid
day

🕒 14:30 -16:00 | Roundtable Discussion: Disinformation and the Threat to Democracy

Moderator:

FILIP STOJANOVSKI,

Director of Partnership and Resource Development, Metamorphosis Foundation

Speakers:

- **JASNA JELISIC,**
Head of Western Balkans Task Force, Strategic Communication and Foresight (STRAT.2), European External Action Service
- **BAYBARS ÖRSEK,**
Director, International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN)
- **ANA JEŠE PERKOVIĆ,**
Project Manager, Centre for European Perspective (CEP)
- **IVAN SIGAL,**
Executive Director, Global Voices
- **VLADIMIR PETRESKI,**
Editor, Truthmeter.mk

Description: This session will provide insights in the ongoing efforts to counter disinformation from global and EU perspectives, combined with the experiences of EU member Slovenia and EU candidate country North Macedonia. Speakers will tackle the issues of multi-stakeholder approach to policymaking and advancing the role of fact-checking and networking with mainstream media outlets, in particular under the circumstances of COVID-19 pandemic.

🕒 16:00 – 16:40 | Closing Ceremony

- **BARDHYL JASHARI,**
Executive Director, Metamorphosis Foundation
- **STANISLAV VASILKOVSKI,**
IT System Advisor, Ministry of Information Society and Administration
- **HACKATHON WINNER TEAM**

🕒 16:40 – 18:00 | Lunch