



# 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:**

- **JULIAN VASSALLO**, Deputy Head of EU Delegation
- **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**



## DAY 1 - November 30 (Tuesday)

Venue - Hotel Panoramika and online - ZOOM Platform

**14:55 – 15:55 | Open 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**



**Meeting with mentors**

## DAY 2 - December 1 (Wednesday)

**12:00 – 13:00 | Experiences from non-formal education of young people for media literacy and critical thinking**

**Speakers:**

- **ŽAKLINA CVETKOVSKA**,  
Center for Audio and Audio-Visual Arts from Kriva Palanka
- **VIOLETA GLOGOROSKA**,  
Metamorphosis Foundation

**Description:** Panel discussion intended for a general audience, especially for civil society organizations working with young people and /or media literacy, affirmation of the experiences of the CriThink Project implemented by Metamorphosis Foundation and the experiences of the Center for Audiovisual Arts - Kriva Palanka.



**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.



**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.

**3:15 – 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.



## Final presentation and voting

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

**Moderator:**

**FILIP STOJANOVSKI,**

Director of Partnership and Resource Development, Metamorphosis Foundation

**Speakers:**

- **ALCEO SMERILLI,**

Western Balkans Task Force

Strategic communication, task forces and information analysis (SG.STRAT.2)

European External Action Service

- **FERDI FERHAT ÖZSOY,**

Program Manager, International Fact-Checking Network

- **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.

Hybrid  
day **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