

Transatlantic discussions on democratic interferences: a common response to hybrid threats

June 10th, 2022

Sala Jordi Maragall, CIDOB. Elisabets 12, 08001 Barcelona

Organised by: CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs) with the support of the U.S. Consulate General in Barcelona

Information warfare and social media manipulation have proven to be a very powerful tool to feed polarization and to erode institutional trust. This seminar wants to foster an open dialogue among experts about how to better build resilience to hybrid activities. Building transatlantic alliances and common approaches to these challenges increases the capacity to understand and confront such threats.

Friday, June 10th

Experts' seminar with stakeholders, journalists and researchers

09.00 – 09.15 **Welcome and goal of the dialogue**

Pol Morillas, Director, CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs)

Katie Stana, United States Consul General in Barcelona

09.15 – 10.45 **Disinformation and influence operations: reshaping politics and geopolitics**

A discussion between:

Raquel Jorge Ricart, Analyst on Technology and Digital Agenda, Elcano Royal Institute

Jack Kelly, Visiting Fellow, The German Marshall Fund; Data Investigator for Bank of America

Manel Medina, Director, Master's Degree in Cybersecurity and Blockchain Management, UPC; former Deputy Director, Technical Competence Department, ENISA, European Information Security Agency (2011-2014)

Jeffrey Michaels, IEN Senior Fellow in American Foreign Policy and International Security, IBEI

Chaired and moderated by

Karma Peiró, Journalist specializing in Information and Communication Technologies; co-director, Visualization for Transparency Foundation (ViT)

Followed by a debate between all the speakers and invited guests

10.45 – 11.15 Coffee break

11.15 – 12.45 **Analysing strategies for civic immunity to manipulation: countering, regulating, empowering**

A discussion between:

Veera Kaarela, Analyst, European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats

Carme Colomina, Research Fellow on Disinformation, EU and Global Politics, CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs)

Renee DiResta, Research Manager, Stanford Internet Observatory (*online*)

Jessica Berlin, Visiting Fellow, The German Marshall Fund, Berlin; Founder, CoStruct

Chaired and moderated by:

Nereida Carrillo, Journalist; Founder, learntocheck.org

Followed by a debate between all the speakers and invited guests

12.45 – 13.00 **Final remarks and conclusions**

Carme Colomina, Research Fellow on Disinformation, EU and Global Politics, CIDOB
(Barcelona Centre for International Affairs)

13.00 – 14.30 Light lunch