

Dear students,

On behalf of the Czech centre Bucharest, I would like to invite you to the all-day **discussion forum "Václav Havel European Dialogues"** continuing with the concept we started the last year. **The event will take place in Bucharest on May 8th**, so that we can also symbolically celebrate Europe Day together.

The project seeks to create a platform for dialogue on the challenges facing contemporary Europe and the Europe we want to live in the future. This year, we have selected **disinformation** as the main topic, and we will discuss it from various perspectives, both national and international one. In the morning sessions, we will have expert contributions in two blocks followed by discussion, in the afternoon we will give space to your contributions, since the event is meant to amplify the youth voices on contemporary issues.

What do we expect from your side? Presentations for max. 15 minutes, to hear your opinion, presentations, analytical inputs and arguments on disinformation.

As a starting point, we offer some quotes from various sources that you can possibly take as inspiration (see the following pages). But you don't have to stick to them strictly – feel free to be creative and critical. Find your own perspective which might be of interest to others.

Deadline for your papers/presentations – April 10th.

Your papers/presentations can be formulated either in Romanian or English. (The afternoon part of the event will be held in both languages; alternatively, the morning part will be held in English.)

The specific circumstances of the selection process and your participation should be discussed with the designated Professor at your university.

We hope to have students participation from different cities in Romania, such as from Cluj, Bucharest, Iași, Constanța, Timișoara or Sibiu, so the event should also have its valuable networking aspect.

We look forward to your participation and hope to see you in Bucharest in May.

Sincerely,
Robin Ujfaluși, Director of the Czech centre Bucharest

A FEW THOUGHTS YOU MIGHT POSSIBLY TAKE AS INSPIRATION

"Immigration has thus become a symbol of the relatively rapid entry of disinformation into public discourse and what we call, for lack of a better term, the post-truth era, an age in which it is not essential to prove the truth of the content shared. Instead, the main criterion for success is reach, resulting in a situation where a manipulated or misinformation-fuelled, accelerated attitude can quickly change the public mood and, ultimately, political decision-making." **(Bohumil Kartous on the post-truth era)**

"If the current state of the information space can be considered a potentially high threat to social security, trust, and identities, we should also ask how to reduce this risk. First, we should acknowledge that they cannot be illuminated entirely; if we do not want to lose freedom of expression and freedom to share information, we cannot allow complete control over its dissemination. That would be contrary to the spirit of liberal democratic constitutions. At the same time, however, society is beginning to realize not only that there is a problem but also the extent of its seriousness." **(Bohumil Kartous on the protection of freedom of expression)**

"Although the methods we now refer to as hybrid warfare has been used by humankind since immemorial, they are receiving more attention today in an age of high information availability. In addition, the experience of the Cold War, nuclear deterrence, and the power dominance of the West have brought about an emphasis by its opponents on indirect means of conflict. "

"New technologies mean new vulnerabilities. The complexity of today's world is also new. Hybrid threats are not new in their nature, but in their complexity, technological sophistication, and in systematic effects." **(Jaroslav Kurfurst, Is anything around hybrid warfare new?)**

“Territorial revisionism is one of the most sensitive and likely very effective disinformation topics, given that all of Ukraine’s neighbours share a traumatic history of successive territorial loss and recovery in relation to Kyiv. Nationalists in Romania, Poland, and Hungary would welcome an opportunity to reopen the topic and contemplate the dissolution of the Ukrainian state; a plan for partition among neighbours was proposed early on by Russian propaganda.”

“Across the region studied, three narratives converge to convey the idea that peace must be quickly negotiated, and if Ukraine and the West do not engage with Russia in this sense, even making (some of) the concessions that Moscow demands, this means that they have a hidden interest in prolonging the war, to the detriment of their citizens. The defeatist narrative (primarily present in Poland and Romania, as well as Serbia) claims that Ukraine simply cannot win, so for humanitarian reasons to protect its citizens, as well as to cut its losses, Kyiv should try to negotiate a way out of conflict sooner rather than later. The egoistic or national interest narrative (more prominent in Hungary) maintains that peace is necessary in order to ensure regional security and stop the war from spilling over, whether directly or through indirect effects.” (**Global Focus report on Disinformation in a regional context**, [full text here](#))