

WEASA2022 Speakers



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#WEASA2022 Keynote Speaker



Linas Linkevičius

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania

Linas Linkevicius served as Lithuania's Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2012 to 2020. Before, Ambassador Linkevicius served as the Lithuanian Permanent Representative to NATO from 2005 until 2011.

Prior to this, he was elected as a Member of Seimas (Parliament) (1992-1996). In 1993, he was promoted to Minister of National Defence of Lithuania, a post which he held from 1993-1996. He was then appointed as the Ambassador and Head of Mission of Lithuania to NATO and the WEU. From 2000-2004, Ambassador Linkevicius was appointed again as Minister of National Defence of Lithuania. He was the Ambassador for Special Missions at the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2004-2005).

In 2012, he was the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Lithuania to the Republic of Belarus.

Twitter: [@LinkeviciusL](https://twitter.com/LinkeviciusL)

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Givi Gigitashvili

Digital researcher at the Atlantic Council's DFD Lab

Givi Gigitashvili is an open-source analyst and digital researcher at the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab (the DFRLab), where he investigates influence operations, social media manipulation and computational propaganda campaigns in Eastern Europe and South Caucasus.

More about Givi can be found [here](#).

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Alexandru Coica

Head of Eastern Europe and Central Asia Unit,
European Association for Local Democracy

Alexandru Coica has over 12 years of experience working in international development sector at European and global levels. For the past 4 years his focus is Eastern Partnership and Central Asia where he supervises various projects on local good governance, citizens engagement and local development within ALDA – European Association for Local Democracy. Alexandru is our alumnus from Moldova.

More about Alexandru can be found [here](#).

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#WEASA2022 Speaker



Victoria Vdovychenko

PHD, Advisory Assistance Team Lead at VPM on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration

Victoria Vdovychenko is working on the challenges of the European Union, Euro-Atlantic integration, hybrid warfare, strategic communication. She holds MSc and PhD in Foreign Policy and World History, Diplomatic Academy of Ukraine.

During COVID-19, she was heading the research team to analyze the pandemic challenges on the political narratives in the Western and Central Europe. Moreover, Victoria is a co-author of policy paper Ukraine under Zelenskyy: Domestic, Foreign and Security Policy in Flux published in February 2022.

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#WEASA2022 Speaker



Stefano Braghioli

PhD, Associate Professor at European Studies
at University of Tartu

Stefano Braghioli currently serves as director of the Master's programmes in "European Studies" and "European Union – Russia Studies" offered by the same institute. He received his PhD in Comparative and European Politics from the University of Siena (Italy) in 2010.

His main research interests include party politics in the European Parliament, EU-Russia relations, regional integration, and party-based populism and euro-scepticism. He serves as academic coordinator of the Jean Monnet Module "Neighbourhood, Enlargement, and Regionalism in Europe" (NearEU).

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Alice Stollmeyer

Founder and Executive Director of Defend Democracy

Alice Stollmeyer is the founder and Executive Director of Defend Democracy, an independent nonpartisan NGO working transatlantically. With a background in social studies of science, technology and society, she specialised in public affairs, Strat Com and digital advocacy. Alice grew increasingly concerned about foreign, domestic and technological threats to democracy. That's why she founded Defend Democracy.

Alice now works on democracy, security, technology, geopolitics and hybrid threats.

More about Alice can be found [here](#).

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#WEASA2022 Speaker



Dominik P. Jankowski

Head of the political section of the Permanent
Delegation of Poland to NATO

Dominik P. Jankowski is a security policy expert, diplomat, and think tanker. He currently serves as Political Adviser and Head of the Political Section at the Permanent Delegation of Poland to NATO. He specializes in NATO-Russia relations, arms control, disarmament, nonproliferation, and energy security as well as Eastern European affairs.

In 2019, he was the James S. Denton Transatlantic Fellow with the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA) in Washington, D.C. He also is a 2021-2022 Arms Control Negotiation Academy (ACONA) Fellow with the Harvard University. He is a prolific writer with over 250 publications which appeared in 20 countries.

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Ana Stevanovic

PhD in Arts and Media, Serbian politician

Ana Stevanovic is a Serbian politician specializing in media relations and media manipulations with more than 8 years of practical experience in Serbian politics. Her political interests cover the democratisation, human rights, and the EU integration of Serbia. She holds PhD in Arts and Media.

In 2016 she was elected as a member of the Parliament of the Republic of Serbia, and she was a member of the National Assembly delegation at the Council of Europe. During her term, she uncompromisingly struggled to raise awareness about media abuse and media manipulations, and she wrote dozens of texts on these subjects which are published in scientific journals, daily newspapers and some online portals.

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Andreja Stojkovski

Executive Director of PRESPA Institute

Andreja Stojkovski graduated at the Faculty of Law of the University Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje and finished his Master's Studies in EU Law at the University Carlos III in Madrid, as a fellow of the Agency for International Cooperation and Development of the Kingdom of Spain.

Andreja has more than twenty years of professional experience with Institutions, as a National Legal Expert on a number of projects in the area of Environmental Law, as Teaching Assistant in Higher Education, as well as with Civil Society. From October 2006, to August 2018 he was part of Civil Society, advocating for the Europeanisation of Society and EU Accession.

More about Andreja and PRESPA can be found [here](#).

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Marta Szpala

Political analyst on the Western Balkans

Marta Szpala is a Senior Fellow in the Centre for Eastern Studies in Warsaw and Coordinator of the Think Tank Forum during the Polish presidency in the Berlin Process (2019). She is an author and editor of publications on political and economic transformation of the Balkans states. Marta is a Research Project Manager in the project "Current state of stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina" and researcher in the various project devoted to transformation and EU integration of Western Balkans.

She is a visiting lecturer at the University of Warsaw and the College of Europe in Natolin. Frequently appears in media on Western Balkans and other related topics.

More about Marta can be found [here](#).

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#WEASA2022 Speaker



Nad'a Kovalčíková

PhD, Senior Analyst EU Institute for Security Studies

Nad'a Kovalčíková focuses on hybrid threats, foreign interference, disinformation, resilience and democracy, election security, and transatlantic cooperation. She holds a Ph.D. in international economic relations with a focus on globalization and security threats.

Nad'a was formerly a Program manager and Fellow at the Alliance for Securing Democracy in the German Marshall Fund of the United States. She also worked at NATO, the European Parliament, the French and Canadian embassies, and several NGO and think tank projects.

More about Nad'a can be found [here](#).

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#WEASA2022 Speaker



Stuart Allan

Professor of Journalism and Communication

Stuart Allan is Professor of Journalism and Communication in the School of Journalism, Media and Culture at Cardiff University, UK. He has published extensively, with a special interest in citizen journalism, including its history as well as how it is currently evolving in war, conflict and crisis situations. Many of his books have been translated into different languages, including Polish.

More about Stuart can be found [here](#).

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#WEASA2022 Speaker



Giorgi Iashvili

Cyber security expert

Giorgi Iashvili is an information security professional with over 15 years of leadership experience and with a successfully completed projects in the field of ICT and Cyber Security governance.

He has been involved in various international projects as a Cyber Security Subject-Matter Expert, including, recently completed USAID Digital APEX project Building Cybersecurity Resilience for Georgian Elections.

Giorgi is a Cardiff University (UK) graduate and PhD candidate at Georgian Technical University.

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Łukasz Król

Digital security specialist

Łukasz Król is a researcher, lecturer, facilitator, and digital security trainer. With a background in technology and political science, he studies the ways in which we can bridge our technological and social realities. Łukasz currently focuses on digital security teaching pedagogies and tool selection, algorithmic bias, and the wider relationship between humans and technology.

More about Łukasz can be found [here](#).

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#WEASA2022 Speaker



Katarzyna Szymielewicz

Co-founder, president of the Panoptikon Foundation

Katarzyna Szymielewicz is an Expert in human rights and technology, lawyer and activist. She is the co-founder and president of the Panoptikon Foundation – Polish NGO defending human rights in surveillance society. From 2012 to 2019 Katarzyna is the vice-president of European Digital Rights.

In the past – associate at international law firm Clifford Chance and member of civic advisory board for the Minister of Digital Affairs in Poland. Graduate of the University of Warsaw (Law) and the School of Oriental and African Studies (Development Studies). Since 2015 Ashoka Fellow.

More about Katarzyna and Panoptikon can be found [here](#).

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#WEASA2022 Speaker



Maria Avdeeva

Research Director at the European Expert Association

Maria Avdeeva, Research Director at the European Expert Association and security analyst. She focuses on disinformation, information operations, and threats to democracy. Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine she has been documenting Russian war crimes and reporting from the ground on the situation in the besieged city of Kharkiv.

More about Maria can be found [here](#).

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#WEASA2022 Speaker



Aiganysh Aidarbekova

Open source investigator at Bellingcat

Aiganysh Aidarbekova is a researcher and trainer of Bellingcat. She conducts open-source investigations ranging from corruption in Central Asia to conspiracies in Europe. Aiganysh is also part of Bellingcat's TechTeam project which specializes in data driven investigations and tool development. As a trainer she has conducted workshops on open-source intelligence for hundreds of journalists and activists around the world.

More about Aiganush can be found [here](#).

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Szabolcs Panyi

Award-winning investigative journalist, Direct36

Szabolcs Panyi participated in 'The Pegasus Project' uncovering spyware surveillance in Hungary. His mobile phone was also hacked by authorities of Viktor Orbán's government. He works for non-profit investigative outlet Direkt36 where he covers topics such as Russian and Chinese influence, national security, and corruption.

More about Szabolcz can be found [here](#).

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#WEASA2022 Speaker



Roman Washchuk

Retired Canadian diplomat,
Business Ombudsman in Ukraine

Roman Washchuk joined the Foreign Service in 1987. In Ottawa, he worked in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in the Eastern Europe, European Union, and Policy Planning Divisions, as well as on the Global Partnership, and the Stabilization and Reconstruction Task Force.

Abroad, he worked in the Political/Economic sections of Embassies in Moscow (1988-91), Kyiv (1994-98), and Berlin (2002-2007). Appointed Ambassador of Canada to Serbia in 2011, with concurrent accreditation to Northern Macedonia and Montenegro. Transferred to Kyiv in October 2014, where he served as Ambassador of Canada until October 2019. Co-organized the Conference on Reforms in Ukraine (Toronto, 2019).

Twitter: [@WaschukCanUA](https://twitter.com/WaschukCanUA)