

Digital Resilience in the Age of Disinformation

6 - 13 July 2025

WEASA carefully monitors global geopolitical developments each year and develops its concept note through extensive brainstorming, analysis, and in-depth consultations with its partners and alumni. Please be aware that there is copyright protection for the content of WEASA and its speakers. Any attempt to solidify, multiply, copy, distribute, or otherwise disseminate the content of WEASA without prior consent from WEASA or without making a clear reference to WEASA would be deemed a copyright infringement.

| | |
|--|--|
| Sunday July 6 | Arrival of participants and facilitators |
| 13:00–14:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00-15:30 | Facilitators’ training, meeting with the Programme External Evaluator <i>Participants are free to enjoy Natolin gardens :)</i> |
| 15:30–16:00 <i>at Winter Garden</i> | Meet the organizers, meet the team (coffee & tea available) |
| 16:00–18:00 <i>at Winter Garden</i> | Formal introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Present regulations, Rules, and procedures of conduct ● Introductions of participants and expectations by Magdalena Tędziągolska |
| 18:00-19:30 <i>Restaurant</i> | Welcome dinner |
| Monday July 7 | Opening of the WEASA 2025 edition |
| 8:30–9:45 | Breakfast |
| 11:00–12:00 <i>Winter Garden</i> | Introducing WEASA 2025 programme and Participant-led sessions: Mini-Sessions and the Oxford Debate Tatevik Hovhannisyan , WEASA Project and Communications Officer Presenting the summary of the External Evaluation session Magdalena Tędziągolska |
| 13:00–14:00 | Lunch |
| 15:00-15:30 | Opening ceremony: Remarks by WEASA co-organizers Ewa Ośniecka-Tamecka , Vice-Rector, College of Europe Agnieszka Mazur , Program Director, Polish-American Freedom Foundation Moderator: Łukasz Król |
| 15:30-16:00 | Keynote Address: “Defending Democracy in the Age of Deception: Poland’s Perspective on Hybrid Threats and Transatlantic Resilience” Michał Baranowski , Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Technology of Poland |
| 16:00–16:30 | Coffee and tea break |
| 16:30–18:00 <i>Winter Garden</i> | Workshop: Platforms and algorithms Oliver Marsh , Head of Tech Research at Algorithmwatch |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| | <i>A significant portion of disinformation is shared on social media, boosted by its algorithms. This raises a host of complex issues, including how we should regulate such platforms and what free speech should look like in an algorithmic era. This session, we will look at the competing incentives big tech platforms, governments, and civil society face, and discuss what steps we could take to maintain a healthy information environment in an algorithmic era.</i> |
| 18:00–19:00 | Dinner |
| 19:00– | Free time |
| Tuesday July 8 | |
| 8:30–9:45 | Breakfast |
| 10:00–11:30 <i>Winter Garden</i> | Partner Presentations and Opportunities for WEASA participants beyond WEASA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Polish American Freedom Foundation ● German Marshall Fund of the United States ● College of Europe in Natolin |
| 11:30–12:00 | Coffee and tea break |
| 12:00–13:30 <i>Winter Garden</i> | Session: “The present and future of fact-checking with Demagog” <i>Kinga Klich, Head of Disinformation Counteraction Department of Demagog, a Polish fact-checking organization</i> <i>We will discuss the nature of fact-checking operations and what political neutrality in fact-checking looks like. Until recently, Meta funded fact-checking organizations around the world, providing a crucial source of income. Several months ago, Meta leadership announced its intention to cut such funding, and we will examine what alternative funding models fact-checking organizations could pursue.</i> Moderator: Irina Krasnoshtan |
| 13:30–14:30 | Lunch |
| 14:30–16:00 | Preparations for Mini-Sessions: Country presentations: SWOT analysis of Euro-Atlantic integration of the countries |
| 15:45–16:00 | Coffee and tea break |
| 16:00–18:00 <i>Winter Garden</i> | Mini-Session: Country presentations: SWOT analysis of Euro-Atlantic integration of the countries, Part 1 /Azerbaijan, Moldova/ |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 18:00–19:00 | Moderator: Irekli Leberkova Dinner |
| 19:30–21:00 <i>Paderewski Hall</i> | Evening interactive session with a Q&A: “The role of the US and Transatlantic Relationship in the EaP Region” Philip Bednarczyk , GMF Warsaw Office Director Moderator: Tatevik Hovhannisyan, WEASA Project Officer for Alumni and Communications |
| Wednesday July 9 | |
| 8:30–9:45 | Breakfast |
| 10:00-10:30 | WEASA facilitators take a moment to talk to the groups they are responsible for in order to better understand their needs and how they feel WEASA is going. |
| 10.30–12.30 <i>Winter Garden</i> | REUNIR/the End-of-Presidency discussion on ‘Is European Integration Still on the Table for the Eastern Partnership’ followed by a Q&A session: Radosław Darski , Deputy Director of the European Policy Department, MFA of Poland Adam Lazowski , Professor of EU Law, University of Westminster (London) and European Neighbourhood Chairholder, College of Europe (Natolin) Mirna Vlašić Feketija , Minister Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Croatia in Sweden. <i>*Horizon Europe REUNIR project – an additional event open to WEASA participants</i> |
| 13:00–14:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00-15:30 <i>Winter Garden</i> | Workshop: OSINT workshop (Part 1) Sopo Gelava , Research Associate at the Atlantic Council, DFRLab <i>This practical, hands-on session will teach participants key skills such as geolocation, verification, and fact-checking data they discovered online.</i> Moderator: Iryna Krasnoshtan |
| 15:30–16:00 | Coffee and tea break |
| 16:00–18:00 <i>Winter Garden</i> | Workshop: OSINT workshop (Part 2) |
| 18:00–19:00 | Dinner |
| 19:30–21:00 <i>Paderewski Hall</i> | Evening Fireside chat: “NATO’s Role in the Era of Hybrid Threats” Dominik P. Jankowski , Director of the Economics & Security Committee at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly |

Institutions like NATO don't just think about purely military cooperation. They also look at topics such as strategic communications, disinformation, and hybrid threats. In this fireside chat, we will offer some insights into how NATO approaches hybrid threats.

Moderator: **Tatevik Hovhannisyan**

Thursday July 10

8:30 – 9:45

Breakfast

10:00–11:30

Discussion: **Cybersecurity around the world**

Winter Garden

[Giorgi Iashvili](#), Cyber Security Consultant, WEASA alumnus

In an era where hybrid actors increasingly exploit both cyber and information spaces, democratic societies face escalating threats to their digital resilience. This session will explore how cyber and information operations, though distinct in tactics and targets, often converge in their strategic objective: to undermine public trust, interfere in democratic processes, and destabilize institutions. Drawing on recent high-profile cases of election interference and influence operations, we will examine how these threats are evolving. The session will also highlight the critical importance of cross-sector cooperation among governments, the private sector, and academia in strengthening national capacities, enhancing resilience, and fostering effective threat intelligence sharing.

Moderator: **Łukasz Król**

11:30–12:00

Coffee and tea break

12:00–13:30

Workshop: **Practical training on cybersecurity (Part 1)**

Winter Garden

[Łukasz Król](#), Journalist, digital security specialist

We examine the steps that individuals and small organisations can take to mitigate the risk of cyberattacks and information leaks. This will consist of two parts: the first one will consist of a standard talk, where we discuss security basics to ensure that everybody has the same level of baseline knowledge. The second one will include an in-depth Q&A session and the possibility of bespoke advice for participants who would best benefit from it

Moderator: **Łukasz Król**

13:30–14:30

Lunch

14:30–16:00

Workshop: **Practical training on cyber security (Part 2)**

Winter Garden

16:00–16:30

Coffee and tea break

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 16:30–18:30 <i>Winter Garden</i> | Mini-Session: Country presentations: SWOT analysis of Euro-Atlantic integration of the countries, Part 2 /Armenia, Georgia/ Moderator: Iryna Krasnoshtan |
| 18:30–19:30 | Dinner |
| 19:00–20:00 <i>Winter Garden</i> | Mini-Session: Country presentations: SWOT analysis of Euro-Atlantic integration of the countries, Part 3 /Belarus, Ukraine/ Moderator: Tatevik Hovhannisyan |
| Friday July 11 | |
| 8:30–9:45 | Breakfast |
| 10:00–11:30 <i>Winter Garden</i> | Workshop: Disinformation, democracy, and elections (Part 1) Jakub Szymik , Founder of CEE Digital Democracy Watch <i>In this session, we will reflect on how disinformation actors attempt to disrupt the democratic and electoral processes and examine their methods. We also examine how governments, civil society, and, to a certain extent, the private sector all play a role in combating disinformation.</i> Moderator: Irakli Jgharkava |
| 11:30–12:00 | Coffee and tea break |
| 12:00–13:30 <i>Winter Garden</i> | Workshop: Disinformation, democracy, and elections (Part 2) |
| 13:30–14:20 | Lunch |
| 14:30–16:00 <i>Winter Garden</i> | Preparations for Oxford Debate |
| 16:00–16:30 | Coffee and tea break |
| 16:30–18:30 <i>Winter Garden</i> | Panel Discussion: Global threats to security – multi-polar world and rising powers Adam Balcer , Programme Manager at the College of Eastern Europe Tiziano Marino , Head of Asia-Pacific Unit at Centro Studi Internazionali <i>In this expert panel, our speakers will discuss how external powers, including China, Turkey, Iran, and others, are challenging Euro-Atlantic relations. This session will give a global perspective on the wider issues that face geopolitics at home and beyond.</i> Moderator: Iryna Krasnoshtan |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 18:30-19:30 | Dinner |
| 19:00 - | Free time |
| Saturday July 12 | |
| 8:30-9:45 | Breakfast |
| 10:00-11:00 | Final preparations for Oxford Debate |
| 11:30-13:30 <i>Winter Garden</i> | Oxford Debate: “This House believes that foreign interference, not internal weakness, is the main cause of democratic backsliding in the Eastern Partnership” Moderator: Irakli Jgharkava |
| 13:30-14:30 | Lunch |
| 14:30-16:00 | WEASA 2024 Feedback Session and Evaluations |
| 16:00-17:00 <i>Winter Garden</i> | Diploma Award Ceremony |
| 17:00-17:45 <i>Winter Garden</i> | Life after WEASA: Presentation of WEASA Alumni program Tatevik Hovhannisyan , WEASA Project and Communications Officer |
| 18:00 | Family Photo in front of the Palace |
| 18:30 | Closing dinner |
| Sunday July 13 | |
| 8:30-12:00 | Breakfast / Participants depart |