

Democratic Resilience in the Contested Infosphere

12 - 19 July 2026

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 12	Arrival of participants
13:00–14:00	Lunch
14:00–15:30	<i>Participants are free to enjoy Natolin gardens :)</i>
15:30–16:00 <i>at Marie Skłodowska Curie Hall</i>	Meet the organisers (coffee & tea available)
16:00–18:00 <i>at Marie Skłodowska Curie Hall</i>	Formal introductions • Welcome, present regulations, rules, and procedures of conduct • Introductions of participants • Introduction of external evaluator: expectations
18:00–19:30 <i>Restaurant</i>	Welcome dinner
Monday July 13	Opening of the WEASA 2026 edition
8:30–9:45	Breakfast
11:00–11:30 <i>Winter Garden</i>	Opening ceremony: Remarks by WEASA co-organizers Ewa Ośniecka-Tamecka , Vice-Rector, College of Europe Radosław Jasiński , Program Director, Polish-American Freedom Foundation
11:30–13:00 <i>Winter Garden</i>	Keynote Address: “All Hands on Deck in Countering Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference. How to Mobilise Governments and Societies?” Tomasz Chłoń , Plenipotentiary of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland for countering international disinformation
13:00–14:30	Lunch
14:30–16:00 <i>Winter Garden</i>	Workshop: “Digital Frontline: Everyday Tactics and Tradeoffs” Aleksandra Atanasova , OSINT Investigation Lead, Reset Tech <i>Premise: Disinformation spreads not because people are irrational, but because it is engineered to exploit the way we process information and form trust. This session unpacks those cognitive mechanisms and asks what understanding them changes about how you respond. From there, it moves into the operational reality of platform accountability: filing reports, engaging trust-and-safety teams, and navigating enforcement systems that rarely move at the speed of the threat. The hard calls between speed and accuracy, advocacy and access, legal constraint and urgency are still made by people,</i>

	<i>often under pressure. What does an effective response actually look like when the system pushes back?</i>
16:00–16:30	Coffee and tea break
16:30–18:00 <i>Winter Garden</i>	Introducing WEASA 2026 programme and Participant-led sessions: Mini-Sessions and the Oxford Debate Tatevik Hovhannisyan , WEASA Project and Communications Officer
18:00–19:00	Dinner
Tuesday July 14	
8:30–9:45	Breakfast
10:00–11:30 <i>Winter Garden</i>	Partner Presentations and Opportunities for WEASA participants beyond WEASA ● Polish American Freedom Foundation ● College of Europe in Natolin
11:30–12:00	Coffee and tea break
12:00–13:30 <i>Winter Garden</i>	Workshop: “AI-Generated Manipulation & Crisis Preparedness” Speaker: Amil Khan , CEO and co-founder of Valent Premise: <i>We will examine the information–manipulation landscape and how it is evolving with AI. The session will focus on how hostile states, criminals, and grifters leverage synthetic content, automated mass posting, and audience profiling to shape the worldviews of populations in the service of specific political and economic interests. It will include an examination of emerging strategies for detection, attribution, and resilience–building across public institutions and online platforms.</i> Moderator: Oksana Korchak
13:30–14:30	Lunch
14:30–15:45	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/ Moderator: Nino Macharashvili
18:00–19:00	Dinner
19:30–21:00	Exploring synergies: open exchange for future joint projects

Winter Garden	Moderators Oksana Korchak & Nino Macharashvili
Wednesday July 15	
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 Winter Garden	Panel discussion: “Is the Door Still Open? The Future of Eastern Partnership in a Reordering World” Adam Lazowski, Professor of EU Law, University of Westminster (London) and European Neighbourhood Chairholder, College of Europe (Natolin) Iryna Krasnoshtan, Program Director, International Center for Ukrainian Victory Vano Chkhikvadze, Head of the EU Policy of Araminta, Germany <i>Premise: The expert panel will discuss how Russia’s continued war against Ukraine and broader global turbulence are reshaping EU integration prospects for Ukraine and Moldova. Meanwhile, democratic backsliding in Georgia, Armenia’s engagement with the EU, and the complex positions of Belarus and Azerbaijan highlight diverging regional paths. This panel will explore what these dynamics mean for the future of the Eastern Partnership.</i>
13:00–14:00	Lunch
14:00–15:30 Winter Garden	Workshop: OSINT workshop (Part 1) Sopo Gelava, Associate Director, Research at the Atlantic Council, DFRLab <i>Premise: This practical, hands-on session will teach participants key skills such as geolocation, verification, and fact-checking data they discovered online.</i> Moderator: Nino Mcharashvili
15:30–16:00	Coffee and tea break
16:00–18:00 Winter Garden	Workshop: OSINT workshop (Part 2)
18:00–19:00	Dinner
19:30–21:00 Paderewski Hall	Evening Fireside Chat: “NATO’s Role in the Era of Hybrid Threats” Dominik P. Jankowski, Deputy Secretary General for Policy and Outreach at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly <i>Premise: 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.</i>

Thursday July 16	
8:30 – 9:45	Breakfast
10:00–11:30 <i>Winter Garden</i>	Workshop: “Practical training on cybersecurity” Maciek Piasecki, Digital security personal trainer and advisor for high-risk projects <i>Premise: 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 will be a standard talk in which we discuss security basics to ensure that everyone has the same baseline knowledge. The second one will include an in-depth Q&A session and the option of bespoke advice for participants who would benefit most from it.</i> Moderator: Oksana Korchak
11:30–12:00	Coffee and tea break
12:00–13:30 <i>Winter Garden</i>	Workshop: Elections of Today and the Future: Influencers, Money Flows and AI-Slop (Part 1) Konrad Kiljan, Expert at CEE Digital Democracy Watch <i>Premise: We will unpack how today’s elections are shaped by a new mix of political influencers, cross-platform money flows, and low-quality AI-generated “slop” flooding feeds. The session will focus on how opaque financial incentives, platform recommender systems, and generative models interact to distort reach and accountability, and what regulators, watchdogs, and campaigns can do to map these ecosystems, trace funding, and mitigate AI-driven manipulation before the next wave of contests.</i> Moderator: Nino Macharashvili
13:30–14:30	Lunch
14:30–16:00 <i>Winter Garden</i>	Workshop: Elections of Today and the Future: Influencers, Money Flows and AI-Slop (Part 2)
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: Oksana Korchak
18:30–19:30	Dinner
Friday July 17	
8:30–9:45	Breakfast

10:00–11:30	Panel Discussion: “ Emerging Multipolar World and Global Security Risks ”
Winter Garden	Dr Jakub Jakóbowski, Deputy Director of the Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW) and the head of the China Department Tiziano Marino, Observatory on India at CeSPI - Centro Studi di Politica Internazionale Piotr Zalewski, <i>The Economist</i> Türkiye correspondent <i>Premise: This panel will explore how the rise of external powers is reshaping Euro-Atlantic security and the global order not only in the Eastern Partnership area, the Middle East, and Central Asia. Speakers will discuss the strategic roles of China, Türkiye, Iran, India, and other emerging actors, examining the risks and challenges they pose to regional stability, international cooperation, and the wider geopolitical landscape.</i> Moderator: Oksana Korchak
11:30–12:00	Coffee and tea break
12:00–13:30	Mini-Session: Country presentations: SWOT analysis of Euro-Atlantic integration of the countries , Part 3 /Belarus, Ukraine/
Winter Garden	Moderator: Nino Macharashvili
13:30–14:30	Lunch
14:30–16:00	Preparations for Oxford Debate & free time
Winter Garden	
16:00–16:30	Coffee and tea break
16:30–18:30	Preparations for Oxford Debate & free time
Winter Garden	
18:30–19:30	Dinner
Saturday July 18	
8:30–9:45	Breakfast
10:00–11:00	Final preparations for Oxford Debate
11:00–11:30	Coffee and tea break
11:30–13:30	Oxford Debate: “ This House believes that foreign interference, not internal weakness, is the main cause of democratic backsliding in the Eastern Partnership ”
Winter Garden	
13:30–14:30	Lunch
14:30–15:45	WEASA 2026 Feedback Session and Evaluations
15:45–16:15	Coffee and tea break

16:15–17:00	Diploma Award Ceremony
<i>Winter Garden</i>	
17:00–17:45	Life after WEASA: Presentation of WEASA Alumni programme
<i>Winter Garden</i>	Tatevik Hovhannisyan , WEASA Project and Communications Officer
18:00	Family photo in front of the Palace
18:30 - 20:00	Closing dinner
Sunday July 19	
08:30–10:00	Breakfast
10:00-12:00	Departure