

The latest news from the World of Security

28th June 2024, Issue 15.

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source: European Digital Media Observatory

Introduction

By Sarah Černíková

Our regular CSC Newsletter is back and has a lot to offer! First, we will examine the results of the European Parliament elections. Our editor, Sarah Černíková, will comment on how disinformation affected the decision-making of European citizens during the elections and how it pays to use disinformation in campaigns. Attention will also be paid to Ukraine and how the results of the elections will affect European support in the conflict with Russia.

What you should definitely notice are recent news and events that were happening in the CSC world. CEOs Tomáš Kolomazník and Zdeněk Rod as co-authors of the new book "Proč věříme dezinformacím? (Why We Believe Disinformation?)" took part in several events on the occasion of the christening of the book. Notably, CSC is at the forefront of the debate about disinformation and strategic communication, with CEO Tomáš Kolomazník being invited as an expert for disinformation and strategic communication to several Czech main media.

Last but not least, we will introduce you to the project "Model NATO Germany", which CSC is a proud supporter of and was attended by our CEO Tomáš kolomazník last year. This conference, which will take place later this year, is aimed at security and international relations and is intended for everyone interested in these topics. Our colleague Kathrin Fiedler from Model NATO Germany will introduce you to what is being prepared for the conference and how you can participate in the conference yourself, offering a unique opportunity to gain insights, network, and contribute to the discourse on security and international relations.

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OPINION: Disinformation and fear as the real winner of the European Parliament elections?

By Sarah Černíková

The midpoint of the Super Election Year has seen the conclusion of one of Europe's most critical electoral events: the elections to the European Parliament. The results, announced on June 9th, have brought a significant revelation. Populist parties, which based their pre-election campaigns on disinformation and populism, have experienced a notable surge. This trend was observed in countries such as France, Belgium, Italy, Austria, Germany, and Hungary, where right-wing parties achieved significant victories. The unexpected rise of these parties, despite clear election polls and predictions, highlights a profound societal shift.

A pressing question arises: what do these results signify for the future of the European Union and its behavior beyond its borders? Furthermore, what do these outcomes reveal about the current state of the European Union through the eyes of its citizens? Two crucial observations can be made from the final results. Firstly, the substantial increase in right-wing parties indicates the prevailing societal mood. Many of these parties campaigned with an anti-Ukrainian stance, advocating for either the cessation or reduction of material and financial support to Ukraine. Additionally, these parties frequently employed disinformation and fear as effective tools to mobilize voters, as evidenced by the election results.

Despite European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's assertion that the democratic core remains robust and victorious, such optimism might be misplaced. A closer examination reveals that right-wing parties have triumphed in foundational EU states like France, Germany, and Belgium. This raises questions about the actual strength of the democratic core. There is a potential onset of a deteriorating situation within the EU, characterized by rising nationalist tendencies, immigration challenges, and strong opposition to green policies.

The election results have not only led to the rise of rightwing parties and the proliferation of disinformation and fear, but they have also introduced a degree of instability. The outcomes caused a political upheaval in France, where President Emmanuel Macron dissolved the National Assembly and called for new elections. This unexpected response has created further uncertainty regarding the future direction. Marine Le Pen, leader of the right-wing National Rally, which won the European Parliament election in France, expressed her readiness to assume power if victorious in the forthcoming national elections. Her non-critical stance towards Russia and President Putin could exacerbate existing challenges in supporting Ukraine, akin to the situations observed in Hungary and Slovakia.

The European Parliament elections have revealed three clear trends. Firstly, European Union citizens are increasingly discontented with the current state of Europe, driven by regulatory green policies and migration issues. This discontent stems from their fears about the future. Secondly, this fear makes them more susceptible to disinformation and manipulation, which played a significant role in the election outcomes. Finally, the election results have led to political instability at the national level in core EU member states such as France and Belgium, raising further questions about the future trajectory of the European Union.



Source: shutterstock.com/Skorzewial

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Q&A with authors

Why is this book "Proč věříme dezinformacím?" (why we believe disinformation) so important? Why should anyone interested in disinformation and STRATCOM not miss it?

This significant book is actually the only one of this type on the Czech market. It offers a unique insight into the issue of disinformation and strategic communication, one of the important problems of today. It also deals with how to effectively defend against misinformation or how to learn to recognize it safely. Don't miss this respected book from political and media experts.



Štefan Sarvaš (Mars), Tomáš Kolomazník and I published the first book in Czechia on how to use strategic communication to counter disinformation. The English version of this book will be launched in winter 2024/2025.



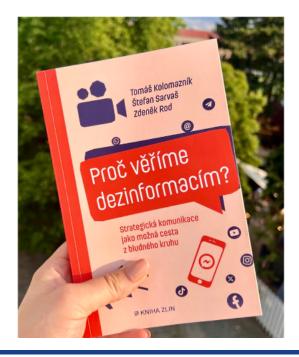
News and Events

CSC on Air!

Zdenek Rod discussed in podcast aktuality.sk DisinfoReport the role of disinformation and strategic communication. See the whole episode on spotify here.



Official launch of the first book on Disinformation and Strategic Communication in Czechia in McCann Prague!





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News and Events

At the beginning of June, both CEOs, Tomáš and Zdenek, officially presented their book on Disinformation and Strategic Communication in Kampus Hybernská in Prague. You can see the whole discussion on YouTube.



(1)

CEO Tomáš was talking on radio Frekvence 1 about deploying strategic communication to counter disinformation! The whole recording can be accessed <u>here</u>.



News and Events

We managed to shed light on our recent research on Disinformation and Strategic Communication during the Communication Forum at O2 Universum!





CEO Tomás went live on Czech TV to discuss Disinformation and Strategic Communication!





Project: Model NATO Germany–Call for Applicants

By Kathrin Fiedler from Model NATO Germany

Are you a student or young professional passionate about international relations, diplomacy and security? Then Model NATO Germany is the conference for you! From November 18 to 22, 2024, we are welcoming close to one hundred participants from all over the world to Berlin to take part in the second Model NATO Germany conference at the Federal Academy for Security Policy.

As a participant, you will be representing a member state of NATO in one of three committees, and coordinate with your colleagues and fellow delegates a collective response to the simulated crisis. The simulation will keep you on your toes, while key skills like acing negotiation strategies, public speaking, or strategic thinking. Additionally, you will benefit from our expert chairs' and speakers' valuable knowledge.

During the conference and your stay in Berlin, we are planning a few social events for you – so stay tuned! A definite highlight: We are coordinating with embassies in Berlin to have our delegates visit representatives of their assigned countries.

Please find all relevant information on our website https://www.modelnatogermany.de/ or e-mail us at registration@modelnatogermany.de!

We are looking forward to your applications and creating a diverse group of participants! **Applications** are open from June 30 until August 25.

Interested in last year's conference?

In November 2023, 96 participants from 21 nations came together for the first-ever Model NATO Germany conference. The proceedings were a complete success – for our organizational team who prepared for the conference for over a year as well as for the attendees.

In one of three committees, such as the North Atlantic Council, delegates negotiated their collective response to the president of the Republic Srpska calling for a referendum on potential secession from Bosnia and Herzegovina, threatening regional peace and possibly impacting Northern Kosovo. Simultaneously, the NordBalt undersea power cable was damaged amid the theft of classified documents, with suspicions of Russian involvement due to the presence of Russian ghost ships and increased drone activity in the area.

This year's conference will deal with a different crisis scenario, but we are confident in our participants to find an impressive solution once again.