



ATLANTIC COUNCIL
OF MONTENEGRO

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

IMPRESSUM

Atlantic Council of Montenegro

Editor:

Ema Kaluđerović

Editorial Board:

Snežana Ljubojević

Jelena Danilović

Contributors:

Mia Lučić

Milan Jovanović

Translation:

Danijela Begović

CONTENTS

- 5 About**
- 6 Mission and goals**
- 7 Activities**
- 11 Participation**
- 15 Digital Forensic Center (DFC)**
- 16 Project team and trainings (DFC)**
- 17 Capacity building**
- 18 Plan of activities**



ABOUT

The Atlantic Council of Montenegro (ACM) was founded in 2006 and since then it has been a permanent institution devoted to promoting Euro-Atlantic values and international security. The Atlantic Council of Montenegro was admitted into membership of the Atlantic Treaty Association at the General Assembly held in Athens in 2006.

The Atlantic Council promotes constructive leadership and engagement in international affairs based on the central role of the Atlantic community in meeting the international challenges of the 21st century.

The Atlantic Council stimulates dialogues and discussions on critical international issues with a view to enriching public debate and promoting consensus on appropriate responses in the Government, the corporate and non-profit sectors, and the media in Montenegro and among the leaders in Europe and the USA. At the same time, important contributions by the Atlantic Council include identifying and shaping responses to major issues facing NATO and transatlantic relations, as well as building consensus among political parties towards NATO and Euro-Atlantic integration.

The objective of the Atlantic Council is to actively shape the security and international policy discourse in Europe and beyond by fostering dynamic involvement of Montenegro and South East Europe Region in international affairs. The Atlantic Council is the main organizer of the To Be Secure (2BS) Forum, the largest politico-security conference in South East Europe.

In that sense, the Atlantic Council of Montenegro has established the three new centers – the Centre for International Relations, the Digital Forensic Center and the Center for Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (in process) – in order to improve its activities in terms of security and cooperation, as well as to raise awareness of the existing disinformation trend.

MISSION AND GOALS

VISION: Becoming the most reliable source of political ideas and analysis in Montenegro and the SEE region.

MOTO: Turning words into action.

MISSION: The mission of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro is to strengthening democracy, security and stability in Montenegro and the Western Balkan region through the organization and coordination of scientific-research activities in the field of defense, security and diplomacy. Atlantic Council of Montenegro aims to become a platform for dialogue and discussion on key international issues, processes and changes in the Trans-Atlantic area and the SEE region through its projects and analysis of political processes. In this way, Atlantic Council of Montenegro is approaching its vision of becoming a leading think-tank in Montenegro and the SEE region.

GOALS: Contribute to the peace and security and emphasizing role and importance of NATO in the SEE region; Improvement of regional cooperation; Analyzing political processes and contributing to policy making; Emphasizing the importance of Montenegro's role as a NATO member in international processes; Implementation of educational and exchange programs for young people with the aim of training future generations of young leaders to develop effective policies.

Activities

MAY 21-23, 2018

TO BE SECURE FORUM



The Atlantic Council of Montenegro, under the auspices of the Government of Montenegro and with the support of NATO, US Embassy in Montenegro and Balkan Trust for Democracy (BTD), organized the eight 2BS Forum from May 21-23, 2018.

The 8th To Be Secure (2BS) Forum was officially opened by Dr. Savo Kentera, the President of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, who delivered his speech reminding that a year ago Montenegro became a NATO member and stating that Montenegro has demonstrated its commitment to be a part of the Western world by adopting democratic values.

The dynamic discussions were held through five panels, under the following titles: panel I "Western Balkans between unresolved past and emerging challenges"; panel II "Europe right now"; panel III "Has the U.S. foreign policy

changed under Trump administration?"; panel IV "Disinformation is a new information?" and panel V "Exploring the religion policy/security nexus". All of these panels addressed the current regional and global security and cyber-security issues, influence of new technologies on national security, foreign policy challenges, the consequences of increasingly present disinformation, methods of facing and countering fake news, as well as current and essential topics shaping and developing international relations and thereby the future of both, Europe and the rest of the world.

The eight 2BS Forum gathered more than 400 participants from the region, all over Europe and beyond, among others, three presidents, a number of ministers of defense and foreign affairs, NATO representatives, experts, US high representatives etc.

JUNE 5, 2018

CELEBRATING FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF NATO MEMBERSHIP



After having become NATO member, Montenegro has seen its flag risen in front of the NATO headquarter in Brussels two days afterwards. Due to that occasion, the following year, the representants of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro celebrated the first anniversary of the NATO membership in a symbolic manner, rising the both flags of NATO and Montenegro on the mountain Lovćen.

NOVEMBER 19-21, 2018

WORKSHOP: THE ROLE OF YOUTH AGAINST TERRORISM AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN THE WESTERN BALKANS



Workshop on the Role of Youth against Terrorism and Violent Extremism in the Western Balkans was organized by the Atlantic Council of Montenegro and YATA Montenegro, with the support of the Embassy of Canada, and was held in Podgorica.

During the 2 days event over 30 young people from across the Western Balkans learned and discussed with reputable speakers and experts about radicalization and the foreign fighter phenomenon among the youth in this region.

The young participants had a chance to get more thorough insight on what drives the young people to join terrorist organizations, what makes young people to go to foreign battlefields, what is the influence of social media in recruiting people,

what are the other mechanisms through which the youth is recruited? How to prevent it? What is the role of youth in positive messaging against violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism? What is the role of universities and religious institutions?

Vigorous presentations were delivered by renowned speakers, such as former Islamic extremist **Adam Deen**, Professor **Vlado Azinović**, director of the Police Administration of Montenegro **Veselin Veljović**, Archpriest-Stavrophor **Boris Brajović**, **Jessie Hronesova** from Akis Strategy and **Džemo Redžematović** from the Islamic Community of Montenegro.

Participation 

JULY 11-12, 2018

NATO ENGAGES: THE BRUSSELS SUMMIT DIALOGUE

The representative of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Azra Karastanović, attended at the 2018 NATO Summit in Brussels. Working as a consortium and in partnership with NATO, the Atlantic Council, the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF), Munich Security Conference (MSC), and Women in International Security

(WIIS) Brussels provided a unique opportunity for heads of state and government, military leaders, and senior officials to interact with next-generation policy-makers, opinion shapers, and experts as well as leaders in tech, business and media to tackle current and new uncertainties.



SEPTEMBER 26-29, 2018 – 64th

ATA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In the name of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, the 64th ATA General Assembly was attended by dr Savo Kentera, President and CEO of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro and Ema Kaluđerović, President of YATA Montenegro. The Assembly, organized by the Atlantic Treaty Association in partnership with the Euro-Atlantic Council of

Romania and with the cooperation of the Bucharest Security Conference, was held in September in Bucharest under the title „**The future of transatlantic security after the NATO Summit: a Black Sea region perspective**“, addressing the issues of hybrid threats, cyber defense and energy security.



OCTOBER 24, 2018

BALKANS 360 INICIATIVE

The seminar gathered key stakeholders, the United States and Germany, in Berlin on the October, 24 and was attended by dr Savo Kentera, the President and the CEO of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro. The main goal was to contribute to “innovative and coherent involvement” of the United States and Germany in the processes of Euro-Atlantic integration in the Western Balkans region; “empower mutual understanding and ca-

capacity” for cooperative approaches to current and emerging security challenges in the region; “broaden and deepen constructive networks” of professionals active in the region, with special emphasis on alumni networks of the George Marshall Center, GMF and BFPE. The main outcome of the initiative was a report with recommendations, to be presented at the next Brussels Forum in June 2019.

OCTOBER 29-31, 2018

WORKSHOP: YOUTH OUTREACH

The Atlantic Council of Serbia and Youth Atlantic Treaty Association of Serbia, under the auspice of the American Embassy in Belgrade and NATO PDD, organized the youth workshop under the title „Youth Outreach“. The workshop was attended by dr Savo Kentera, President and CEO of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro and Ema Kaluđerović, President of YATA Montenegro. The

participants were members of YATA organization of Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Croatia, Serbia and Kosovo and they addressed the topics of changing the name and the Euro-Atlantic integration of Macedonia, positive and negative aspects of NATO membership of Croatia, Albania and Montenegro, as well as the dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo.



NOVEMBER 8-9, 2018 – 6th

BELGRADE NATO WEEK

The 6th Belgrade NATO Week held in November in Belgrade was attended by Azra Karastanović, the representative of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro.

This high-level international conference and a flagship event by the Center for Euro-Atlantic Studies (CEAS) was organized with the support of NATO Public Diplomacy Division (NATO PDD) and the United States Embassy in Serbia.

The key themes discussed at the conference were explored through nine panels, each of them related to the future plans for cooperation between Serbia and NATO, the stability and security situation of Western Balkans, including achievements and prospects of the EU and Euro-Atlantic integration policies, then corrosive effects of disinformation campaigns, as well as challenges facing Belgrade-Priština talks and effects to the regional stability.



Digital Forensic Center – DFC

Atlantic Council of Montenegro has recognized the need for establishing Digital Forensic Center that would be located in Montenegro with main goal to strengthen the civil-society groups and media sectors in Montenegro and neighboring countries as well with an aim to counter disinformation and misinformation campaigns that have had a goal of destabilizing the region's politics and to prepare them to react on these concrete problems. That is why we want to place the foundation for digital hub that will fight new media and digital misinformation through the multi-sector (NGO, journalists, government) and multidisciplinary approach.

DFC will focus its activities on accomplishing following **objectives: countering the problem of misinformation and fake news** through research of titles and articles content that seem to be propaganda and providing verified information based on the deeper investigation; creating **Digital Intelligence Research Unit** under DFC as a huge step in developing research activities in Western Balkans region, especially in terms of technology and internet and **reducing problem of digital/new media illiteracy** through events, workshops, and lectures that will raise awareness of this issue and will provide basic understanding and education for civil servants and journalists from the Western Balkans region.

The team is well-rounded, consisted of people from various fields, such as political sciences, journalism and IT sectors, who cooperate closely with the Atlantic Council of the US (ACUS) as well as with the Institute for Statecraft, UK. It's also worth mentioning that we are part of the Integrity Initiative, a network of

people and organizations from across Europe dedicated to revealing and combating propaganda and disinformation with a view to educate on how to spot disinformation and verify sources. Task force of Digital Forensic Center has acquired necessary hardware and software as well as the relevant skills through various training courses with foreign experts on cyber security, disinformation and media with more to follow in upcoming months, both in Montenegro and abroad.

The response to malign influence must engage governments, international institutions, civil-society groups, and the private working together and learning from each other. These campaigns are synchronized and systematic, so the response must be as well.

Digital Forensic Center has launched the edition of **Magazine** that briefly provides a broad range of information and developments related to hybrid warfare and disinformation narratives across the Western Balkans.

For more data, please visit our website:
<http://dfcme.me/>

Project team and trainings (DFC)



HOUSE TRAINING

The house training under the title “Training on Countering Disinformation Operations” was attended by the trainers from the *Digital Forensic Lab* in Washington DC and 7 people from our team participated in this training. The goal of this training was to highlight the importance of the impact of disinformation on democratic processes and democracy in general, develop the responsibility for critical judgment when receiving information, and improve existing anti-disinformation mechanisms.



VILNIUS, LITHUANIA

Based on the recommendations given at the first house training, the DFC staff continued with education and training by visiting Vilnius, Lithuania where 6 members of the team had the opportunity to learn from local experts and 2 trainers coming from *The Institute for Statecraft* in the UK. They also had the opportunity to visit Strategic Communication Department in Lithuania in order to gain better insights on their work and results. Through training, trainees had the opportunity to learn both psychological aspect of propaganda and critical thinking.



THESSALONIKI, GREECE

This training was attended by 5 members of our team who met with the various representatives of the *Integrity Initiative clusters* from around the world and discussed with their hosts the current situation concerning disinformation during elections, referendums etc. The goal of the training was to gain more insights on main disinformation narratives coming from different parts of the world, with the idea of analyzing it and finding common patterns and elements of these narratives.



PODGORICA, MONTENEGRO

Fourth training was a follow up on the one held in Lithuania, in order to find out more about the topics elaborated in Vilnius. This one took place in our new DFC facilities (Montenegro) and was held by the trainers from the *Institute for Statecraft* and *DFRLab* from the Atlantic Council of US. The program was divided into 2 sections: 1) propaganda analysis and psychology of influence and 2) open source investigation methods.



GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, GERMANY

Fifth training, attended by five members of our team, was organized by the *George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies*, exclusively for the DFC team. The team gained better understanding of the cyber space overall, connections between cyberspace and military, as well as of the dangers lurking on the internet. On the other hand, they had the opportunity to hear more on the disinformation, experiences and lessons in recognizing and countering malign narratives from GLOBSEC and GCMC teams. Lastly, the goal of this training was to brainstorm on future programs and initiatives between our two organizations.

Capacity building

Last year, the Atlantic Council of Montenegro took a part in the Government's professional training program, taking three persons out of which one got the permanent job. The following year, it will continue in the same manner, giving the opportunity for more persons than the year before due to the expansion of their business.

Besides, the Atlantic Council became a member of the working group for the Chapter 31 – Foreign, security and defense policy, of the EU negotiating chapters, with their representative Azra Karastanović, contributing in that sense to the further Montenegro's integration to the EU.

Plan of activities

The Atlantic Council of Montenegro has a long list of activities and projects that are to be implemented in 2019. The Atlantic Council of Montenegro will continue to implement projects aimed at promoting Euro-Atlantic activities in Montenegro, as well as project related to disinformation and fake news trend, alongside with the youth activities which have been very well accepted in the previous year. Bearing in mind the various activities planned for this year, here we list only the most important ones.

TO BE SECURE FORUM (2BS FORUM)

The 2BS Forum is a constructive element of the most important meeting of influential international and Montenegrin representatives, who discuss essential questions of international security and security in SEE.

With its aim to encourage significant discussion regarding the most important dilemmas in the field of international security, in 2019 the 2BS Forum will address some of the major challenges of

the decade. Besides already dominant topics of modern challenges, risks and threats, this year's 2BS Forum will also address the issue of ever-increasing disinformation and fake news trend through thorough discussions and analyses.

As being said, the main focus of the 9th 2BS Forum will be on global security, the future of the Western Balkans integration and fight against media and other types of disinformation.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS (ICMCIS 2019)

The ICMCIS is a unique international conference with 20-year tradition in military communications and information systems. The previous name of the conference was: Military Communications and Information Systems Conference (MCC).

The main goal of the conference is to establish a tenable forum for useful contacts and exchange of ideas on development and implementation

of advanced information and communications technologies into military systems. The conference gives an excellent opportunity to discuss different points of view and share experiences. The 20th ICMCIS is organized in Budva, the center of Montenegrin coast, by Atlantic Council of Montenegro, with the full support of the Institute for Security and Montenegrin Ministry of Defense.

WINTER SECURITY CONFERENCE

This year, the Atlantic Council of Montenegro in partnership with the Atlantic Treaty Association and with the support of the US Mission to NATO and the US Embassy in Podgorica, plans to organize the Winter Security Conference which will be of a larger scale and as significant as the 2BS Forum is. This fourth Conference will be held in

winter time in 2019 and will address several key issues relevant to regional and international security in order to advance NATO's role in SEE. It was organized in 2016 for the first time and the Atlantic Council of Montenegro plans to continue to organize it annually and to establish it as a traditional event.

THE "MAGAZINE" PUBLICATION

Following the establishment of a new center within the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, the Digital Forensic Center, the new publication – Newsletter – was introduced. Magazine was published for the first time in October 2018 and

will continue in the same manner in 2019. It is an independent, interdisciplinary and international magazine dealing with security issues in a broader sense, following the current topics on global, regional and national levels.



123456789101112131415161718192021222324252627282930313233343536373839404142434445464748495051525354555657585960616263646566676869707172737475767778798081828384858687888990919293949596979899100

123456789101112131415161718192021222324252627282930313233343536373839404142434445464748495051525354555657585960616263646566676869707172737475767778798081828384858687888990919293949596979899100

123456789101112131415161718192021222324252627282930313233343536373839404142434445464748495051525354555657585960616263646566676869707172737475767778798081828384858687888990919293949596979899100