Disinformation policies and cybersecurity
[moderated by Asya Metodieva]

Threats to cyber security, including disinformation, are the most real scenario of hybrid warfare waged by foreign malign actors. The threat affects the operation of the most critical systems providing services to the economy and citizens. The narratives used for disinformation are already having a negative impact on countries in the region. They need to become more involved in creating policies to regulate online platforms. Authoritarian powers' willingness to increase their involvement in disinformation in the region is evident.

- The issue of cyber security is crucially important for the countries of the Three Seas Initiative, precisely because of the geopolitical context.

- The authorities of the countries in the region spend a lot of time discussing the issue, developing policies and implementing technologically advanced projects

- However, there are big differences in the preparation of some countries to be a solid partner. Hence the strong need for solidarity between the countries.

- This solidarity is also important for a coherent and concerted response to threats from certain countries and technologies. If it is to be a success, the members of the Initiative must act unanimously in the context of foreign policy or energy issues either.

- The countries of the region should be more closely involved in the EU's work under the *European Action Plan for Democracy*. It is important to strengthen the power of democracy within the EU, as well as to implement effective measures against external political interference.

Advertising, illegal content, and platform responsibility
[moderated by Albin Sybera]

The online platform market has a huge impact on national economies. Especially those whose markets are small and lack independent connections to other economies. The influence of platforms is also visible in the media and political markets. Their activities - often in unregulated areas - are rarely subject to the scrutiny of democratic institutions. Thanks to the work of the European Union, this may change. Citizens can gain effective legislation that brings more balance to the platform-society relationship.

- The Digital Services Act is intended to bring more transparency to the operation of online platforms.

- The new regulations will also have an impact on the region's SME market because of the planned change in the advertising model.

- The Digital Services Act is generating considerable discussion. On the one hand, there are stakeholders that criticise excessive regulation, while on the other hand, others claim that the DSA is only a half-measure.

- The countries of the Initiative should be more involved in this process, because of their good relations with the American market, which feels the threat of regulations, but also because of the influence this market has on the economies of the countries of the region.

- A well-balanced DSA also means greater resistance to disinformation and external interference in EU and CEE politics.

Innovation, competitiveness and competition in the digital market
[moderated by Anna Kuczyńska]

The Digital Market Act will not only have an impact on the current model of the digital economy, but will also pave the way for economic development in the near future. The regulation of digital markets will also affect competition law, the permissible degree of interference by public institutions in digital economy models and the possibilities for a real assertion of digital sovereignty. Both at the EU level and in the CEE region.

- Countries in the region are only now beginning to face the expansive model of digital markets. The impact of dominant market players is not yet fully visible.

- This is the right time to introduce regulations to protect markets and domestic entrepreneurs

- It is in the interest of the countries in the region to adopt these regulations as soon as possible.

- At the same time, these countries must ensure that regulatory obligations for business do not turn out to be beneficial for companies, which could threaten the European market.

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Privacy and Transatlantic data transfers
[moderated by Krzysztof Izdebski]

The coming months will have a huge impact on the development of relations between the European Union and the United States. The pretext is the protection of European users' privacy, but the effect may be to change economic models that are precisely based on data. Including personal data. Europeans have learned quite effectively what privacy means and that it must be protected. It remains to be seen whether this European sensitivity can be successfully translated into a transatlantic data transfer model.

- The European Union is taking the systemic protection of personal data very seriously.

- The GDPR has revolutionised the legal framework for privacy protection and raised awareness not only among Europeans

- But the tension between the EU and the US in this area didn't come primarily from fear of business using data, but from governments abusing their powers.

- Nevertheless, privacy will be one of the most important factors in the development of the digital economy. A new model for online privacy is just being finalised in the EU.

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Safe and trustworthy AI
[moderated by Aleksandra Przegalińska]

The development of artificial intelligence as an important technology affecting markets and countries is still to come. But it is already apparent that in addition to the positive aspects, the negative ones are not only possible, but we already have examples of how they work. They can lead to discrimination, distort the services offered by the state, or lead to significant privacy violations. On the other hand, countries in the region unanimously declare that they are keen to develop these technologies because they see in them the potential for economic growth. With the work of the EU on the relevant regulation, there is an excellent opportunity to actively find a good balance between ethical and trustworthy and innovative artificial intelligence.

- Countries in the region have a unique opportunity to have good regulation before artificial intelligence technology is more widely deployed.

- Noticeable in the European debate is the support of the Region's governments for ethical and trusted artificial intelligence.

- But this support must be followed by concrete action. The countries of the region need to prove that support for ethical artificial intelligence is not just high-flown buzzwords, but a practical part of implementing strategies and policies.

- Countries in the region should use their technological potential to jointly test different models of artificial intelligence (e.g. facial recognition).