



Vertretung in Deutschland

Europäischer Austausch
European Exchange



EU-RUSSIA CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

Public discussion

17th December 2014, 19.00 – 21.00

Between Propaganda and Counter-Propaganda: The Danger of Disinformation in Europe

Venue:

European Commission Representation in Germany
Unter den Linden 78, 10117 Berlin

The continued escalation of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis has opened a second front in form of a new information war. The Russian leadership has set up a highly efficient propaganda campaign reaching out not only to its own society and Russian speaking people in Ukraine and other former Soviet republics, but also to European citizens.

Moscow has successfully established the international news channel “RT” to promote its own interpretation of political developments abroad. The Kremlin-controlled media landscape in Russia has turned out to be difficult to penetrate for independent information services. As a result, millions of Russians lack access to reliable and diverse information. At the same time, the Russian media-campaign reaches out to Russian speaking minorities in Ukraine and the Baltic states where a limited number of Russian language media outlets makes official Russian media still attractive. In Ukraine journalists and media-organizations strongly oppose the planned creation of a Ukrainian information ministry as an inappropriate institution.

The new media conflict develops at a time when traditional Western media (“the fourth estate”) are undergoing a period of financial crisis and structural transformation. Existing business models in European media are rapidly overturned; new technology is pushing unprecedented changes. Large segments of society have lost confidence towards quality journalism and news-rooms are confronted with a wave of criticism about their reporting. This volatile media environment has created uncertainties and led to a growing loss of trust in European societies making it easier for propaganda and disinformation to gain ground. With the start of “RT Deutsch” in Berlin, “Russia Today” entered the German media scene.

The European Exchange and EU-Russia Civil Society Forum have invited leading media experts from Ukraine, Russia and the EU to discuss the fundamental differences between journalism and propaganda and ways to counter disinformation in Europe.

19.00 Welcoming

Stefanie Schiffer, Executive Director of European Exchange (Berlin)

19.05 Keynote: Disinformation challenges and EU action taken so far

Reinhard Hönighaus, Spokesman of the European Commission in Germany (Berlin)

19.15 Panel discussion

Ann-Dorit Boy, Political Editor, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (Frankfurt)

Yevhen Hlibovytskyy, Co-Founder of Media Freedom Initiative (Kiev)

Peter Pomerantsev, documentary producer and author (London)

Ivan Rodionov, Editor in Chief, Ruptly and RT Deutsch (Berlin)

Maria Stepanova, Journalist, Colta.ru (Moscow)

Moderator:

Tamina Kutscher, Editor, Network for Reporting on Eastern Europe n-ost (Berlin)

21.00 Reception

Working languages will be Russian and English (translation will be provided)

Please, confirm your attendance until December 15th 2014 per email to:
assistenz@kiev-dialogue.org

Kindly supported by



In partnership with

