



Embassy
of the Republic of Poland
in Sofia

Central and South Eastern Europe After Four Years of War: New Trends and Old Patterns in Foreign Influence, Resilience-Building and Regional Cooperation

International Conference

Grand Hotel Sofia, Triaditza 2 Hall

10 am – 5 pm, 27 October 2026

9:30-10:00 *Registration and coffee*

10:00-10:10 *Opening: Institute for Global Analytics and Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Sofia*

10:10-10:45 *Keynote Address: The View from Poland and Central Europe. Key Priorities, Visions and Partnerships in the Context of Russia's War.*

- **Dr. Krzysztof Olendzki**, Ambassador in Department for Strategic Communications and Countering Foreign Disinformation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland
- **Dr. Andrzej Sadecki**, Head of Central European Department at the Centre for Eastern Studies in Warsaw
- Moderator: **Dr. Rumena Filipova**, Chairperson and Founder at the Institute for Global Analytics

10:45-12:00 *Panel 1: Beyond Defense. Russia's Media, Cognitive and Cultural Influence Strategies.*

- **Professor Alina Bârgăoanu**, Communication Scholar at the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration in Bucharest
- **Dmitri Teperik**, Director of the National Centre of Defence & Security Awareness (NCDSA), Estonia
- **Dr. Tom Hashimoto**, Associate Professor at Vilnius University and Vistula University in Warsaw
- **Dr. Agnieszka Lipińska**, Head of the Center for Disinformation Analysis at the Research and Academic Computer Network – State Research Institute in Warsaw
- Moderator: **Dr. Rumena Filipova**, Chairperson and Founder at the Institute for Global Analytics

12:00-12:15 *Coffee break*



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12:15-13:15 *Highlight session: Russia in Global Politics. Regime Dynamics, Foreign Policy Outlooks and Interactions with other Powers.*

- **Dr. Thomas O'Donnell**, Energy Sector and Geopolitical Strategist, Founder of GlobalBarrel.com
- Moderator: **Dr. Stoyan Panov**, Senior Analyst at the Institute for Global Analytics

13:15-14:15 *Lunch break*

14:15-15:30 *Panel 2: Russia's Amplifier? China's Role in Central and South Eastern Europe.*

- **Matej Šimalčík**, Executive Director, Central European Institute of Asian Studies, Slovakia
- **Ferenc Németh**, Senior Research Fellow and Program Coordinator at the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs
- **Sasha Chhabra**, Chairman of the Taiwan International Center, Taipei
- Moderator: **Barbara Bačová**, Analyst at the Institute for Global Analytics

15:30-16:45 *Panel 3: The State of Regional Cooperation. Threat Perceptions, Resilience Capacities and Moving Forward Together.*

- **Dr. Solvita Denisa-Liepniece**, Assistant Professor at the Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences, Latvia
- **Elene Kintsurashvili**, Senior Program Coordinator (Transatlantic Security Team) at the German Marshall Fund of the United States in Warsaw
- **Dr. Małgorzata Samojedny**, Founder of the Opportunity Institute for Foreign Affairs, Poland
- **Mira Suchowiejko-Opolska**, Expert in the Strategic Communication Section, Department for Strategic Communications and Countering Foreign Disinformation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland
- Moderator: **Dr. Rumena Filipova**, Chairperson and Founder at the Institute for Global Analytics

16:45-17:00 *Closing*

