OSCE-wide Expert Workshop

Freedom of Expression on the Internet and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism (VERLT)

7-8 September 2016,
Sarajevo, Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina

*Jointly organized by OSCE Transnational Threats Department,
the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and
Herzegovina with the support of the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina*

DRAFT AGENDA

Day 1: Wednesday, 7 September

08.45 – 09.30   **REGISTRATION OF PARTICPANTS**

09.30 – 10.15   **OPENING SESSION**

Moderator: Frane Maroević, Director RFoM

Welcoming remarks
- Dragan Mektić, Minister of Security, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Dunja Mijatović, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
- Jonathan Moore, Ambassador, Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

10.15 – 11.15   **SESSION I**

Freedom of Expression on the Internet and Countering VERLT: Current Trends, Challenges and Opportunities

This session serves to frame the overall discussions at the workshop by highlighting current trends, legal implications, policy challenges, and lessons learned in addressing VERLT. The panel will explore opportunities for better co-operation between law enforcement agencies, intelligence services, media, and civil society while at the same time promoting a better understanding of the different roles and interests among stakeholders.

Moderator: Kate Coyer, Director, Center for Media, Data and Society, Central European University

Speakers:
- Susan Benesh, Faculty Associate of the Berkman Centre for Internet and Society, Harvard University, United States

- Mario Janeček, Counterterrorism Advisor, Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bureau member of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER)
- Ben Wagner, Director, Centre for Internet and Human Rights, Germany
- Øyvind Strømmen, Author and Freelance Journalist, Managing Editor of Hate Speech International, Norway

11.15 – 11.45   **COFFEE BREAK**

11.45 – 12.30   **SESSION I (cont'd)**

Freedom of expression on the Internet and countering VERLT: Current trends, challenges and opportunities

Discussion with participants

12.30 – 14.00   **LUNCH**

14.00 – 15.30   **SESSION II**

Policing Violent Extremist Content on the Internet – How Do We Secure a Human Rights Compliant Approach?

This session will scrutinize state policies and practices related to blocking, filtering, and removal of online content as well as policies of social media networks and other intermediaries in policing content online based on their terms of services. Discussions will also explore the difficult relationship between intermediaries and governments in content regulation online.

- *How do we avoid criminalization of "extremist views"? What actions should be taken on national and international level to address the lack of definitions and conceptual shortcomings of terms such as "extremism", "terrorism", and "radicalization"?*
- *How could intermediaries' take-down policies and practices be more transparent and accountable?*
- *How can intermediaries cooperate with law enforcement agencies, and how should they deal with requests coming from State authorities?*
- *How should intermediaries in general be protected from pressures coming from States?*

Moderator: Enrico Boninsegna, Human Rights Officer, ODIHR

Speakers:
- Andrew Smith, Legal Officer, Article 19, United Kingdom
- Alexandria Walden, Counsel, Government Relations, Google
- Marko Forss, Sergeant, Virtual Community Policing Group, Helsinki Police Department, Finland
- Alexander Verhovsky, Director, SOVA Centre for Information and Analysis, Russian Federation

Discussion with participants

15.30 – 16.00	**COFFEE BREAK**

16.00 – 17.30	**SESSION III**

Counter-Speech and Counter-Narratives – Freedom of Expression as a Tool to Counter VERLT

This session will discuss how governments and the media can better facilitate and co-operate with civil society in producing credible counter-speech and counter-narratives as a faster, more flexible, and responsive way to counter VERLT. As a follow-up to the previous session, the discussions will in particular address how social media networks and other intermediaries can engage in a more pro-active and efficient strategy by using their capabilities in communicating against violent extremism.

- *How can freedom of expression and the use of new technologies advance efforts to counter VERLT on the Internet?*
- *How can governments cooperate with intermediaries in researching, identifying and promoting credible counter-speech?*
- *Should, and if so, how can intermediaries use algorithms and profiling to promote counter-speech?*
- *How do we advance co-operation between Internet service providers, private sector, and community users?*

Moderator: Alexander Ritzmann, Senior Research Fellow, Brandenburgisches Institut für Gesellschaft und Sicherheit gGmbH (BIGS)/ RAN Centre of Excellence network)

Speakers:
- Gabriella Cseh, Head of CEE Policy, Facebook
- Henry Tuck, Policy and Research Manager, Institute for Strategic Dialogue, United Kingdom
- Tim Receveur, Director, Peacetech LAB, United States
- Arzu Geybulla, Freelance Journalist, Azerbaijan/Turkey

Discussion with participants

17.30	**RECEPTION**
	An official conference reception will be hosted by RFOM, TNTD, and OSCE Mission to BiH at the Golf Restaurant

Day 2: Thursday, 8 September

9.30 – 11.00	**SESSION IV**

Use of Surveillance to Counter VERLT – Challenges and Opportunities to Safeguard Online Freedom

This session will discuss the use of surveillance and other investigatory powers related to interception of communications and its impact on freedom of expression, privacy, and other human rights online. The discussions will take stock of which democratic safeguards are necessary in order to provide a clear and transparent

legal basis for the State authorities' right to obtain and use information deriving from electronic communications to counter VERLT.

- *How do we safeguard the Internet as an open and free space for communications when surveillance measures are adopted?*
- *How can law enforcement agencies be better equipped to ensure human rights compliant approaches?*
- *How do we enhance co-operation between law enforcement, intelligence services, and journalists in promoting better understanding and co-operation?*
- *Why are online anonymity and encryption tools crucial for free speech online? What are their risks, and how should the risks be eliminated?*

Moderator: Mattias Sundholm, UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)

Speakers:
- David Kaye, UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression - Video address
- Sharri Clark, Foreign Affairs Officer, Bureau of CT and CVE, U.S. Department of State
- Lucie Krahulcova, Policy Associate, Access Now, Brussels office, Belgium
- Niels Lestrade, Project Leader, Dutch Internet Referral Unit

Discussion with participants

10.30 – 11.00   **COFFEE BREAK**

11.00 – 12.00   **SESSION IV (cont'd)**

Use of Surveillance to Counter VERLT – Challenges and Opportunities to Safeguard Online Freedom

Discussion with participants

12.00 – 13.00   **CLOSING SESSION**

Moderators: Sessions 1-4

- Sum-up of sessions and focus on possible recommendations.

Closing remarks
Jonathan Moore, Ambassador, Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

13.00 – 14.00   **LUNCH**