



Prague Security
Studies Institute

in memoriam

Václav Havel,
*International Advisory
Board Member
(2002–2011)*

Oldřich Černý,
*Co-Founder and
Executive Director
(2002–2012)*

international advisory board

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PRESS RELEASE

Prague Security Studies Institute (PSSI) contributed to “The Mythbusters – Guide to Critical Thinking”

The Prague Security Studies Institute (PSSI), together with [Centre for International Relations](#) (Poland), which coordinated the project “Mythbusters”, [Centre For Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy](#) (Hungary), and [StopFake.org](#) (Ukraine), contributed to [“The Mythbusters – Guide to Critical Thinking”](#). This project was supported by the [International Visegrad Fund](#).

Today's digital age offers plentiful information of various quality. In this respect important role is played by the Internet and especially social media, which on the one hand make communication quicker and enable current events to be followed at a fast pace, on the other hand, however, it has become a tool to spread half-truths, conspiracy theories, disinformation and effectively sow distrust in our leaders and institutions that form the basic pillars of democracy. Given this phenomenon critical thinking has become not only a popular buzzword, but also an indispensable skill that allow us to navigate ourselves in everyday life. *“Bearing in mind the changing media landscape, accompanied by the amount of information of various quality that can be found on the Internet, this guide presents an invaluable set of advices in order to be able to make more informed decisions about the kind of information we nowadays may consume”* notes PSSI's Program Manager Jonáš Syrovátka.

This guide provides a series of examples of manipulative techniques used in practice from four participating countries. It attempts to suggest guiding questions

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and specific recommendations which will allow the reader to be more vigilant when it comes to the kind of information we consume over the course of the day. For example, one should be aware of web projects that seek to imitate a popular news site, authors of articles lacking a proven track record, or emotional headlines supported by exclamations marks. The use of visual manipulation has also become relatively commonplace, therefore special attention shall be devoted to details in pictures and whether they correspond with the context (place, time, language). The video from the workshop presenting the main findings of the Guide is available on the [PSSI's Youtube channel](#).

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