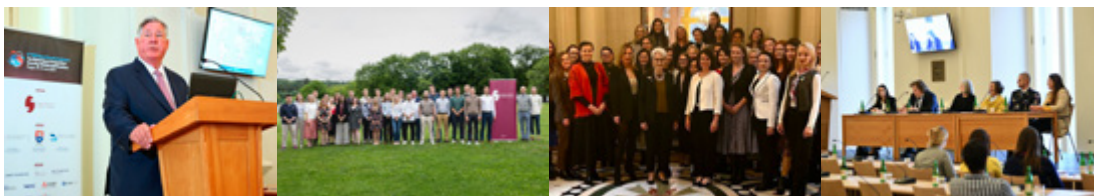




Prague Security
Studies Institute



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

MESSAGE FROM PSSI'S CHAIRMAN

To say that 2022 was an eventful year would be a vast understatement. A war of Russian aggression on the continent of Europe, social upheaval in Iran and China and an escalating North Korea nuclear and missile threat are among the most game-changing developments of the past year. Were there any residual doubts about the wisdom of PSSI's overall mission of training and equipping new generations of security-minded policy practitioners in the Czech Republic and the region, they have presumably been dispelled by these seismic events.

PSSI's award-winning Economic and Financial Statecraft Program, as well as its continued leadership role in the global space security community, were on vivid display in 2022. Our financial policy initiative toward China and Russia regarding the funding of the malevolent activities of their state-controlled enterprises in the U.S. and allied capital markets continue to gain greater acceptance and momentum. Similarly, in the space domain, the Institute's identification and scoping of a perilous "ground-based space race" being pursued by authoritarian space powers at the expense of allied space interests is now – for the first time – on the agendas of policy makers in Europe, the U.S. Japan and elsewhere.

PSSI's prominent contributions to allied deliberations on insidious disinformation campaigns and the integration of the Western Balkans into democratic institutions are likewise well-recognized. On the education and training front, our academic activities continue to thrive, including our NATO Summer School, Cyber Security Academy, two-semester Security Scholars Program, as well as our co-sponsored Master's Degree Program in International Security Studies and two Ph.D. scholarships at Charles University.

As in the past, this carefully crafted, selective approach to the Institute's deployment of resources has proven a sustainable success. This strategy can be summed up in the simple turn of phrase: "Do a few important things exceptionally well." This formula is made possible by the energy, talent, cohesiveness, and personal chemistry of our exceptional staff of young professionals and bright interns, for which we are most grateful. We are likewise most appreciative of our institutional and individual donors and friends, several of which have been by our side for this entire two-decade journey and counting.

Thank you for looking in on us.



Roger W. Robinson, Jr.
PSSI Chairman and Co-Founder



ZACK IN MEMORIAM

2022 for PSSI started with a heavy blow as our highly valued colleague and dear friend, Zack Kramer, tragically and unexpectedly passed away. Zack was known for his indefatigable spirit, kindness, positive energy, can-do attitude, and dedication to our common public policy goals and the cause of freedom. He was a warm and wonderful co-worker and human being who will be terribly missed by all of us.

Zack secured the honor of being the first graduate student to be awarded PSSI's Oldřich Černý Ph.D. Scholarship in the

field of Economic and Financial Statecraft. He was also a valued member of Charles University's academic community, where he taught the Master's Degree course on "Approaches to Modern Conflict" and shared his knowledge and training with numerous students at the Faculty of Social Sciences and beyond.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, other loved ones, and his many friends and colleagues. He will always be remembered fondly as a part of PSSI's extended family, where his legacy will live on.



RMSSA students at alumni weekend gathering held in Jizera Mountains

SECURITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

ROBINSON-MARTIN SECURITY SCHOLARS ACADEMY

The primary goal of the Robinson-Martin Security Scholars Academy (RMSSA) is to build resilience and depth of expertise in the field of national security in the Czech Republic and the region via educating and training future generations of security policy practitioners, especially in less-developed security portfolios such as economic & financial statecraft, space security, cyber security and countering disinformation.

This past year marked the 20th anniversary of this flagship educational undertaking. Consistent with previous years, seventeen carefully-selected students successfully completed a two-semester course on our premises. Before kicking-off the semester, students spent a weekend at a team building event together.

The course consists of a series of lectures and seminars (10 in each semester) in small group settings focused on both traditional and emerging international security issues, featuring such speakers as Rasmus Hindren, specializing in Hybrid Threats at the NATO Center of Excellence in Helsinki, Karel Řehka, Chief of the

General Staff of the Czech Armed Forces and Tomáš Kopečný, Governmental Envoy for the Reconstruction of Ukraine and former Deputy Minister of Defence Czech Deputy Minister of Defense.

In addition to active participation in lectures, students are also required to write a policy brief (one per semester) that analyzes an issue area in the security domain (a choice is made from four different topics). The students are also required to present and defend their proposed strategies. The policy briefs and their presentation in front of their fellow classmates are designed to apply the newly acquired knowledge and experience professional advocacy of security analysis and an implementation strategy. We are proud that after over twenty years of educating future policy practitioners, we can now count among our alumni a number of distinguished senior government officials, including the current Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jan Lipavský; Deputy Chief of Mission of the Czech Embassy to the U.S. and a Former Deputy Minister for Defence Policy and Strategy at the Czech Ministry of Defence Jan Havránek, and Tomáš Kopečný, Governmental Envoy for the Reconstruction of Ukraine and a former Deputy Minister of Defence.

NATO SUMMER SCHOOL

Since its foundation in 2005, the annual NATO Summer School provides an opportunity for highly qualified students and



General Karel Řehka, current Chief of the General Staff of the Military of the Czech Republic, delivering a lecture for the Robinson-Martin Security Scholars Academy

young professionals from NATO and partner countries to participate in lectures, interactive workshops, and a “real world” simulation. In July 2022, PSSI successfully organized its 17th NATO Summer School, entitled “The Evolving Dynamics of the Russian and Chinese Threats”. This week-long course at a campus retreat outside Prague (at Hotel Orlik) facilitated expert lectures in PSSI’s priority policy areas, including cyber security, space security, economic and financial threats, and disinformation. The 2022 NATO Summer School program consisted of 13 lectures and workshops, as well as a week-long crisis simulation, hosting 25 participants from 13 NATO countries.

This year’s speakers included: Petr Luňák, Deputy Head of Engagements Section at Public Diplomacy Division of NATO; Yves Desbiens of the NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence; Václav Bartuška, Czech Ambassador-at-Large for Energy Security; Ladislav Stahl, JIDS NATO; Pál Dunay, Professor at George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies; Luboš Přikryl, Emerging Disruptive Technologies analyst at The Czech National Cyber and Information Security Agency; Tomáš Kopečný, Deputy Minister of Defence; Kristine Berzina of the German Marshall Fund of the United States; Martin Hála, Director of Sinopsis; and Michael Myklín, head of Strategic Information and Analyses Unit at Czech National Cyber and Information Security Agency (NÚKIB).

The 2022 NATO Summer School was supported by NATO Public Diplomacy Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, U.S. Embassy Prague and Embassy of Norway in Prague.

CYBER SECURITY ACADEMY

In September 2022, PSSI organized its fifth Cyber Security Academy (CSA), the newest addition to PSSI’s educational projects, stemming from strong market and government demand for more capable professionals with a background in cyber security. This week-long intensive course is designed for a group of up to 19 graduate students, young professionals, and civil servants from the Czech Republic and Slovakia. It concentrates on the most cutting-edge technical, legal, and institutional aspects of cyber security policy.

Fifteen expert lectures were offered concerning the current cyber threat environment in the Czech Republic, as well as EU/NATO countries more broadly, and the strategies and policies that various government and private actors employ to respond to them. In addition to these lectures, the Academy was concluded with a Tabletop Exercise run by a widely known cyber security company Cybexer Technologies. The event was held under the auspices of our partners, the Czech National Cyber and Information Security Agency (NÚKIB) and supported by the U.S. Embassy in Prague and KPMG.



Participants of 17th NATO Summer School

As in previous years, this year's speakers included senior civil and military government officials, as well as senior experts from the private sector. The students had the opportunity to hear from Jakub Fučík and Tereza Toufarová (both from the Cyber Forces Command of the Czech Armed Forces), David Pikálek (KPMG), Monika Kutějová, Michael Myklín, Luboš Přikryl (experts from the National Cyber and Information Security Agency), Kristina Soukupová (DefSec Innovation Hub), and Adéla Klečková whose research focuses on cyber activism, and several others.

Students were also invited to attend an invitation-only reception celebrating the cooperation in cyber security between the Czech Republic and the UK, hosted by the British Ambassador to the Czech Republic Nick Archer. In attendance were some of the foremost cyber security experts in Prague and beyond.

PSSI ALUMNI NETWORK

PSSI is proud of its extensive alumni network, which currently connects more than 1000 graduates of our various educational programs. Apart from sharing relevant information in the field, our alumni network is a valuable source of job or internship offers, ongoing projects, or calls to engage in research activities. In addition to our educational activities, lectures and discussions, our Alumni can also stay involved through our Alumni Brief, an online publication.

A number of these security experts, scholars, and colleagues are now valued members of not only the Czech, but also the wider Euro-Atlantic security community. Among our distinguished alumni are the Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jan Lipavský; Jan Šnidauf, Director of Foreign Policy Analysis and Planning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Luboš Veselý, Special Envoy for Russia Policy Coordination at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Markéta Gregorová, Member of the European Parliament; Executive Director of the Czech Taiwanese Business Chamber Alice Rezková; Tomáš Šindelář, Political and Security Committee representative at Permanent Delegation of the CZ to NATO; Coordination and Cooperation Officer at EU Advisory Mission to Ukraine, Ondřej Vosátka, Czech Ambassador to the UN and former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Ex-deputy Minister of Interior & Defence, Jakub Kulháněk, and the Director of the American Center Vít Nejedlo.

PARTNERSHIP WITH CHARLES UNIVERSITY

Since its inception in 2002, PSSI has operated in close coordination with Charles University. In 2006, PSSI initiated and helped finance a new – first of its kind in the Czech Republic – Master's Degree Program in International Security Studies. The program achieved English-language accreditation in 2012.



Adéla Klečková, expert on cyber warfare and cyber activism, during 2022 Cyber Security Academy

In addition to the educational activities conducted through the Master's Degree Program, PSSI organizes lectures in collaboration with Charles University. Their aim is to bring together academics and senior security policy practitioners, exposing students to the inner workings of national security policy-making.

PSSI is also involved in the doctoral studies offered by Charles University. The International Relations Program at Charles University's Institute of Political Studies offers a Ph.D. in Economic and Finance (E&F) Statecraft. As part of this institutional collaboration, PSSI provides a four-year Oldřich Černý Ph.D. Scholarship for one full-time student since 2018. The scholarship also offers an opportunity to work on various projects with PSSI in the field of E&F Statecraft. Since 2019, PSSI also provides a four-year William P. Clark Space Security Scholarship. Our first scholarship recipient is scheduled to complete his doctoral studies in 2023.

COOPERATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL MASTER PROGRAM IN SECURITY, INTELLIGENCE AND STRATEGIC STUDIES

In line with our mission to educate and train new generations of security-minded students and young professionals, the Institute has established a relationship with the Erasmus Mundus International Master Program facil-

itated by the University of Glasgow, Dublin City University, University of Trento, and Charles University. As part of this partnership, highly motivated students of the International Master's Degree in Security, Intelligence & Strategic Studies are offered internships at PSSI.

In 2022, PSSI's Economic and Financial Statecraft team welcomed Elias Sköld to assist with our research on economic and financial statecraft. Upon joining the team, Elias has become an integral player in the program, including helping organize lectures, expert roundtables, and closed discussions as well as drafting publications. Also in 2022 the Space Security Program welcomed Nicolas Bruetsch, who participated in the preparation of PSSI's sixth high-level Space Security Conference held in Prague in June 2022 and other research and educational activities of the program.

PSSI EVENTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

The 20-year anniversary of the first Czech experts joining civilian missions of international governmental organizations was marked in 2022. In recognition of this milestone, a half-day conference was organized by PSSI and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on November 1, 2022. This event brought together civilian experts working in EU missions in Ukraine, Iraq, and Somalia. The aim of the conference was to publicly acknowledge the long-stand-



Panel of experts during a conference on Czech civilian missions

ing work of Czech civilian experts, to strengthen the Czech Republic's involvement in civilian missions within the framework of the EU Common Security and Defence Policy, and, most importantly, to share information and experiences that could contribute to greater involvement of Czech NGO experts from various fields. Those interested in working in EU civilian missions were informed about how and where new opportunities are advertised, the practical aspects of the selection procedure, how to prepare for missions and the missions themselves.

In November 2022, PSSI organized, in collaboration with the American Embassy in Prague and the American Center, a closed meeting of professionals working in international relations, human rights, and related fields. The meeting featured an informal discussion with Hong Kong dissident Samuel Chu and was moderated by our Project Coordinator, Lenka Meluzínová.

Celebrating the legacy of Madeleine Albright, a Czechoslovakia-born former U.S. Secretary of State (the first woman to ever hold this position), the U.S. Embassy in Prague held a closed debate for women working in foreign policy with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy R. Sherman, in which our Project Coordinators Lenka Meluzínová and Kristína Sikoraiová participated.

Broadening the scope of our educational activities, PSSI held a closed meeting

for students from Minnesota's St. Olaf College as part of their study program focusing on media and democracy. They received a briefing on PSSI's activities and ongoing research, and took part in a lecture on the most pressing issues in countering disinformation, presented by our Project Manager, Kristína Šefčíková.



Celebrating the legacy of Madeleine Albright, former U.S. Secretary of State, with the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy R. Sherman

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL STATECRAFT PROGRAM

The Economic & Financial Statecraft Program seeks to illuminate the growing risks associated with economic and financial interdependence with authoritarian regimes and the predatory, non-market practices of such regimes. A number of the Institute's activities have involved original, cutting-edge research that has shown to have the potential to materially strengthen transatlantic security cooperation. Our flagship initiative is tracking and monitoring the presence of Chinese companies – including sanctioned “bad actors” – in the European and American capital markets. It was this original work that resulted in PSSI being recognized by the UK's prestigious *Prospect Magazine* as the world's leading NGO in the field of International Economic and Financial Affairs in 2021.

A second illustration of our work is the Institute's commentary, entitled “Response of the Prague Security Studies Institute to the European Commission's Call for Feedback on 'Effectively Banning Products Produced, Extracted or Harvested with Forced Labor'” that has been published on November 27, 2022 on the European Commission's website.

As the European Commission has recently proposed legislation to ensure products made with forced labor are banned from entering the European common market, PSSI has sought to identify the serious gaps and omissions regarding this prospective legislative proposal with respect to China – the world's largest offender – to create a more robust, thorough, and just forced labor ban.

First, PSSI has urged the Commission to expand the scope of the proposed ban to include not only forced labor products, but also the “bad actor” companies responsible for these human rights abuses. Second, PSSI noted with alarm the lack of any mention of capital markets prohibitions in the proposal and is stressing the importance of shutting down capital markets access for offending companies that could otherwise be tapped to fund such heinous labor practices – a tragic reality which PSSI can empirically prove is underway today involving dozens of Chinese companies with a presence in European and U.S. capital markets.

PSSI has also collaborated with the UK's Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) and its Centre for Financial Crime and Security Studies on a project focused on the dangers for democracy of illicit financial flows entitled the European Sanctions and Illicit Finance Monitoring and Analysis Network (Euro SIFMANet) project.



PSSI's Director of Operations Boris Kalisky and founding Director of the Centre for Financial Crime and Security Studies Tom Keatinge during an expert roundtable aimed at European Sanctions and Illicit Finance

Specifically, PSSI hosted a lecture, delivered by Tom Keating, Founding Director of the Centre for Financial Crime and Security Studies, who spoke about the importance of viewing finance as a critical intelligence tool, the status of financial sanctions implementation against Russia and reasons why western democracies must pay closer attention to the financing of political parties and individual politicians.

A second event, within the Euro SIFMANet project, was a PSSI-hosted, closed roundtable focused on illicit finance and issues related to the uneven implementation of sanctions against Russia. The participants in the roundtable were representatives of the principal stakeholders engaged in disciplining sanction regimes in the Czech government and the private sector, including the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Financial Analytical Unit, the Czech National Bank, the commercial banking representatives, academics, and NGOs. RUSI subsequently published a report entitled “Euro SIFMANet: European Sanctions and Illicit Finance Monitoring and Analysis Network – Prague Report”.

Dr. Vilém Semerák, Researcher at the Economics Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences, delivered a PSSI-supported guest lecture at the American Center in October 2022, entitled “EU-

China and US-China Trade Relations: Is there a Chance for Strategic Autonomy in the Age of Weaponization of Trade Dependencies?”. The lecture focused on strategies that can be implemented in tackling trade dependencies.

In December, Ms. Didi Kirsten Tatlow, Senior Reporter for International Affairs at Newsweek, delivered an online guest lecture entitled, “What You Need to Know About China-in-Europe – Economic Ties, Covert Activities, Technology Transfer and More”. The lecture, moderated by our Project Coordinator Lenka Meluzínová, discussed China-EU economic relations, Chinese influence and covert operations in Europe, and Chinese technology acquisition via espionage.

Over the past year, PSSI has also authored several *PSSI Perspectives* to help raise awareness and understanding of specific economic and financial (E&F) threats. They included pieces entitled, Response of the Prague Security Studies Institute to the European Commission’s Call for Feedback on “Effectively Banning Products Produced, Extracted or Harvested with Forced Labor” (referenced above); Banks, Special Interests, and Communist Comrades: the International Investment Bank’s Modus Operandi in Central-Eastern Europe, and The Impact of the International Investment Bank in the Czech Republic.

Finally, PSSI’s Chairman engaged in numerous private discussions with senior



PSSI's Chairman and Co-Founder Roger W. Robinson, Jr. during the 6th PSSI Space Security Conference in Prague entitled "The Global Space Competition: Security, Markets and Sanctions"

Czech and other European and NATO officials regarding actual and prospective economic and financial sanctions associated with Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine, particularly those effective measures that remain on the table for potential use. He likewise appeared on major U.S. broadcast television network, Fox Business, addressing economic and financial issues related to China, and delivered several lectures, including at Hillsdale College on November 7, 2022.

SPACE SECURITY PROGRAM

PSSI believes that the security and sustainability of the space environment are essential to the day-to-day lives of Earth's inhabitants. Perhaps not surprisingly, in the contest between authoritarian versus democratic space powers, there is increasing competition for international space partnerships and commercial space markets. To probe this and other downside risks in the space domain, the Institute launched a program in 2010 dedicated solely to space security – the first such program in Europe.

Since its inception in 2010, the Space Security Program has emphasized the connectivity among global space commerce, security/deterrence-related considerations, and proper space governance. It continues to monitor the state-led, non-market economic and financial operations of China and Russia through continuous open-source research, including their "space sector capture" activities, often implemented over an extended period and on an incremental basis.



PSSI's Managing Director Dr. Jana Robinson and Conference's Special Guest, Yasuyuki Kasai, Director General of the National Space Policy Secretariat, Japan Prime Minister's Cabinet Office

SPACE SECURITY CONFERENCE SERIES

PSSI's Space Security Conference series is the most visible initiative of this program. To date, six such international gatherings have taken place (four in the Czech Republic, one in Japan, and one in the U.S.) that brought together high-level government officials, private sector executives, NGO and former policy practitioners, as well as other experts from the space communities in Europe, the U.S., and Japan. The seventh conference is planned to be convened in June 2024 in Prague.

On June 19–21, 2022, the Prague Security Studies Institute convened its sixth PSSI Space Security Conference in Prague. The gathering was entitled “The Global Space Competition: Security, Markets and Sanctions” and has built on the previous event in 2019 that focused on the issue of strengthening international space partnerships. The speakers sought to address how the imposition of sanctions on space companies can affect the risk calculus associated with space-related cooperation or partnering arrangements, as well as global governance.

As in the past, the conference was held under the auspices of the Czech Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, and Transport, and attended by over 200 high-level speakers and participants from NATO and EU countries and Japan. Senior civil and military officials included Jan Lipavsky, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the

Czech Republic, Yasuyuki Kasai, Director General of the National Space Policy Secretariat at the Cabinet Office of Japan's Prime Minister, Tomas Kopecky, Deputy Czech Defence Minister for Industrial Cooperation, Carine Claeys, Special Envoy for Space at the European External Action Service, Rodrigo da Costa, Executive Director of the EU Agency for Space Programme (EUSPA) and other senior officials, from the U.S. State and Defense Departments, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the European Space Agency, and private and non-governmental sector.

The event also presented, for the first time, a special panel of space commanders of the major allies. They included: Lt. Gen. John E. Shaw, Deputy Commander of the U.S. Space Command, Maj Gen. Michel Friedling, Commander of the French Space Command, Maj. Gen. Traut, Chief of Space Operations Command at the German Ministry of Defence, and Air Commodore Mark Flewin, the Head of Operations, Plans, and Training of the UK Space Command.

In collaboration with SpaceWatch Global, a well-known space media outlet in Europe, PSSI prepared a post-conference radio mini-series that ran between September–December 2022 and involved interviews with select experts on topics including counterspace threats, a sustainable space economy, the future of Europe's space competitiveness, and others.



Speakers of the 6th PSSI Space Security Conference in Prague entitled "The Global Space Competition: Security, Markets and Sanctions"

In the five released episodes, the SpaceWatch.Global editors provided interviews consecutively with John Huth, the Defense Intelligence Officer for Space and Counter Space, Defense Intelligence Agency of the USA; Major General Michael Traut, Director of the National Air Operation and Chief of Space Operations Command for the German Ministry of Defense; Paul Graziani, Chief Executive Officer at COMSPOC Corp; Major General Michel Friedling, Commander of the French Space Command; and Kevin O'Connell, former Director of the Office of Space Commerce at the U.S. Department of Commerce and Founder and CEO of Space Economy Rising LLC.

SPACE SECURITY COURSE AT CHARLES UNIVERSITY

The course, established and sponsored by PSSI since 2015, is a collaborative undertaking with Charles University and is structured within the University's Master's Degree in International Security Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences. The course is designed to explore the security dimensions of space from policy, regulatory, and technical perspectives. Two to three special guest lectures or panel discussions are part of this course and offer students the opportunity to interact with distinguished policy practitioners who manage various aspects of space security.

The 2022 guest lecturers included Todd Harrison, Director of Defense Budget Analysis and Director of the Aerospace Security Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Dr. Christina Giannopapa, Head of the Office of the Executive Director, European Union Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA), Kevin O'Connell, former Director of the Office of Space Commerce, U.S. Department of Commerce, and Founder and CEO of Space Economy Rising LLC., Hermann Ludwig Moeller, Director, European Space Policy Institute (ESPI), and Václav Havlíček, Business Manager, TRL Space & Space Cluster. The latter three speakers were invited for an October 2022 roundtable discussion entitled "*The Private Sector Role in the New Global Space Race*".

OTHER PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES

In January 2022, PSSI released a public report, entitled "Strategic Competition for International Space Partnerships and Key Principles for a Sustainable Space Economy" to spotlight current patterns of Chinese and Russian space-related behavior. In October 2022, PSSI *Perspective* entitled "The Importance of Public-Private Sector Space Partnerships for the Czech Republic", was published, the Institute's contribution to the Czech EU Council Presidency space-related deliberations.



Speakers of the Special Session "Allied Space Commands Cooperation" composed of Maj. Gen. Michael Traut, the Chief of the German Space Operations Command, Maj. Gen. Michel Friedling, the Commander of the French Space Command, Air Commodore Mark Flewin, the Head of Operations, Plans, and Training of the UK Space Command, and Lt. Gen. John E. Shaw, the Deputy Commander of the U.S. Space Command. The panel was moderated by John P. Stopher, the Senior Fellow at PSSI.

PSSI also prepared an internal report for the Japan Embassy in Prague, focusing on space security in the Indo-Pacific.

As part of the Space Security Program outreach, Dr. Robinson contributed to a number of events, including a guest appearance on the Space Café WebTalk on May 9, 2022, focusing on the economic and financial dimensions of space security. She also presented key themes and research findings that emerged from PSSI's sixth Space Security Conference at the International Astronautical Congress's (IAC) IAF Space Security Committee Meeting in Paris. Moreover, she co-chaired the technical session E 3.4., entitled "*Assuring a Safe, Secure and Sustainable Environment for Space Activities*" at the 2022 IAC.

On November 29, 2022, Dr. Robinson contributed to the 2022 GlobState Conference, held under the auspices of the Chief of the General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces. The event discussed Central and East European perspectives on the future security environment and battlespace as well as how best to shape future warfare and military strategies. Her presentation focused on "Configuring Space Strategies in an Asymmetric Risk Environment". Also, in November 2022, Dr. Robinson became a Member of the Scientific Board of the "Ad Astra" journal. The journal is published by a non-governmental organization, the Polish Metropolitan Institute, in consortium with

other partners, the University of Gdansk and the Kwiatkowski University in Gdynia.

On March 2, 2022, the PSSI organized a closed hybrid (in-person in Prague and online) roundtable of 60 European, U.S., and Japanese experts. The roundtable focused on Russian and Chinese investments and activities in the space sector in the Indo-Pacific region. The event was attended by senior experts, including Dr. Yuka Kobayashi, Dr. Namrata Goswami, and Dr. Kazuto Suzuki, Dr. Martin Hála, Dr. Takeshi Hosoda, Dr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl, and Dr. Klára Jurčová.

Following the closed roundtable, PSSI held an all-female public panel discussion concerning the space partnership dynamic in the Indo-Pacific region and challenges for Europe stemming from the economic & financial statecraft of Russia and China in the region (often involving lop-sided, non-market contractual and financing terms, disadvantaging the recipient country). The three distinguished speakers included: Yuka Koshino, Research Fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS); Rajeswari Rajagopalan, Director of the Center for Security, Strategy, and Technology (CSST) at the Observer Research Foundation; Jolanda Van Eijndthoven, Head of Unit, International Affairs and Communication, Directorate General for Defense Industry and Space at European Commission. The panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Jana Sehnálková, a senior lecturer at the



The Private Sector Role in the New Global Space Race, roundtable discussion

Department of North American Studies at Charles University.

On November 11–12, 2022, PSSI's Space Security Program Project Coordinator, Kristína Sikoraiová, participated in the fifth edition of the Paris Peace Forum in Paris, France, monitoring the new Net Zero Space initiative of the Forum. On November 14, 2022, PSSI's Space Security Program Project Coordinator, Patrik Martinek, moderated a session on Responsible Behavior in Outer Space with Beyza Unal, Matija Recelj, and Dr. Rajeswari Rajagopalan at the 2022 EU Nonproliferation and Disarmament Conference (EUNPDC) Conference. The main focus was on regulatory and governance gaps in the space domain.

PSSI likewise actively contributed to a number of space-related events organized as part of the 2022 Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU. In October 2022, the PSSI Space Security team presented the above-referenced Perspective entitled "Importance of Public-Private Sector Space Partnerships for the Czech Republic" at the exhibition entitled Space Activities in the Czech Republic, which was organized by the Czech MP Barbora Urbanová as a foreshadowing event for the European Space Week.

On November 29, 2022, PSSI's Space Security Program Project Coordinator, František Avrat, addressed the intersection between remote sensing and international security as part of a panel discussion

focused on earth observation at the Czech Copernicus User Forum 2022 organized by Czech Environmental Informational Agency (CENIA) and Ministry of Transportation, and Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic. The event was hosted during Czech Space Week 2022.

On November 30, 2022, our Space Security Program Project Coordinators, Kristína Sikoraiová and František Avrat, moderated a seminar entitled *"Defending European Interests in Space."* The seminar was organized by the Ministries of Defence and Transportation of the Czech Republic in partnership with the Prague Security Studies Institute. The event was part of the Czech EU Presidency series of conferences and seminars focused on the space domain and sought to connect all major European space stakeholders from the Czech Republic, EU member states, DG DEFIS, EEAS, EUSPA, EDA, ESA, and NATO.



PSSI's Project Manager Kristína Šeříková presenting our research on disinformation in Warsaw with ISANS and Visegrad Insight

REGIONAL SECURITY PROGRAM

The Regional Security Program seeks to identify and analyze emerging foreign policy and security-related issues that will increasingly affect and influence the transatlantic security policy community. At times, these challenges exceed the scope of the traditional political-military agenda that effectively dominated the public policy space in the previous century. Less visible, unconventional methods of warfare are gaining traction among adversaries, including sophisticated cyber attacks, disinformation campaigns, counterspace activities, and hybrid warfare methods, which are often driven by economic and financial warfighting priorities.

DISINFORMATION

As part of its Regional Security Program, PSSI researchers focus on the topics of disinformation, strategic communication, and foreign malign influence. The Program's activities include monitoring the online debate on various current topics and the spread of disinformation in the Czech information space. Besides identifying disinformation campaigns, their channels, and (super)spreaders, the Program provides

policy recommendations on countering disinformation and improving strategic communication of certain topics with the overall mission of upholding democratic values and media transparency.

Our researchers have concentrated on a so-called “gray zone” that has emerged in the media outlets of Central/Eastern Europe, which tries to influence public opinion and pre-election political campaigns through hyper-partisan, often anonymous, and even extremist political communication, utilizing conspiracy theories and ignoring the standards of ethical journalism. PSSI's media research in the Czech Republic has, therefore, scrutinized the Czech political campaign communication to map and reveal the Czech “gray zone” media ecosystem, its role in “dirty campaigns,” and the war-related rhetoric which eventuated later in 2022.

The outcomes were presented in the publication entitled “From Anti-Vaccination to Kremlin's Proxy - Hidden Malign Domestic and Foreign “Grey Zone” Media Influence in the Czech Republic”. This report unearthed two layers of the local disinformation scene and its role in spreading pro-Kremlin narratives. PSSI also explored the topic of journalistic practices and integrity in the clash with alternative media in its analysis of the Pandora Papers case in the Czech information space.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine was widely “medialized” by both



PSSI's Project Coordinator Petr Jan Vinš presenting the Czech results of the Ukraine War Disinfo Working Group

mainstream as well as alternative media outlets, including websites spreading disinformation. Following the start of the Russian aggression, a number of unprecedented steps were taken to fight the spread of disinformation, which has become a top concern for policy decision-makers as well as the public. Accordingly, we launched a project called “New Propaganda and Disinformation Challenges for Visegrad/EaP States in the Changing Environment”. Its goal was to study the evolving disinformation narratives targeting Central and Eastern European countries.

The research reviewed the major disinformation narratives in each of the project countries, including the Czech Republic, and changes in the disinformation sources. Within this project, we explored how Czech pro-Russian media reacted to the new Czech government, the onset of the Russian invasion, and the Bucha massacre. Concerning the Russian invasion, we also zeroed in on inauthentic online behavior, this time focusing on online comment sections.

Since June 2022, PSSI has been part of an international consortium called the Ukraine War Disinfo Working Group which is comprised of thirteen organizations from Central and Eastern European under the leadership of the Open Information Partnership. It engages in regular weekly monitoring and quantitative and qualitative evaluation

of disinformation narratives related to Ukraine. As part of this research, a report entitled, “Disinformation Narratives about the War in Ukraine in the Czech Republic and Central Europe” was published, which offered the key findings of this monitoring and recommendations for safeguarding strategic communication. The findings were also presented at a public discussion with representatives of the Office of the Government, Ministry of Defence and Foreign Affairs, and the NGO sector.

PSSI also teamed up with IRI's Beacon Project to provide insights on the media environment in the Czech Republic and Slovakia for their Hostile Narrative Brief: War in Ukraine. This initiative has been analyzing online media in several countries to track key narratives that have the potential to erode allied support for Ukraine. Specifically, these analyses focus on the topics of refugees, sanctions, NATO, and energy security. Besides narratives, they explore the target audiences, potential impact, and the risk posed by these hostile narratives.

Another strand of work of our disinformation team focuses on the European Green Deal and climate as one of the emergent disinformation targets and scapegoats of Eurosceptic messaging. PSSI explored how this policy is addressed by Czech media known for spreading disinformation, and co-organized a panel discussion with the Representation of the European Commission in the Czech



Seminar on disinformation and brand safety co-organized with the British Chamber of Commerce

Republic, which included representatives of the Office of the Government, European Commission, and the NGO sector.

The public debate around the Green Deal acquired a new dimension due to the unprovoked Russian aggression against Ukraine and the related issue of energy dependence and diversification. PSSI, in cooperation with partners from International Republican Institute's Beacon Project, monitored the Czech debate concerning the European Green Deal until the end of 2022. The monitoring covered political messaging about the Green Deal as well as disinformation narratives and their penetration into the mainstream media. It was complemented by regular analysis of the strategic communication of state institutions and stakeholders with a green agenda and their efforts to counter Green Deal-related disinformation.

PSSI also continued its activities in the field of disinformation and brand safety, focusing on the role of the private sector in countering disinformation. The aim of our project is to prevent companies from unwittingly helping fund disinformation websites through advertising revenues and support non-advertising on such websites as an ethical standard of business. PSSI teamed up with two Czech initiatives in this effort — NELEŽ (GET REAL) and Fair Advertising – and co-organized seminars with embassies and chambers of commerce for their networks of private

companies, targeted at PR and marketing experts and advertisers who oversee brand communication in the online space.

Finally, on the occasion of the Czech presidential elections, which took place in January 2023, PSSI has teamed up with fact-checkers from Demagog.cz and HlídacíPes.org for a project "Czech Elections in the Era of Disinformation: 2023 Presidential Elections". The goal of this initiative was to monitor the public online debate about the presidential elections and individual candidates. It subsequently sought to verify, or "fact-check", information and enhance awareness of manipulative statements and disinformation on this topic.

THE WESTERN BALKANS

In February 2022, PSSI began work on its third project in the series of regional security monitoring projects of the Western Balkans region entitled "The Western Balkans at the Crossroads: Democratic Backsliding and External Actors' Influence". This project identifies and analyzes the influence of selected non-European external actors (Russia, China, Turkey, and the Gulf States) in the Western Balkans and Croatia and explains how these actors have contributed to the stability or instability of the region, with specific focus on democratic backsliding.

One of the goals of this project is to debunk popular myths related to the rise



PSSI Regional Security Program's Western Balkans team workshop, Prague 2022

of nationalism, political and religious populism, and historical revisionism. It also seeks to identify disinformation campaigns, corruption of political decision-makers, and highlight economic and financial activities which have fueled the rise of extremist and radical tendencies in the Western Balkans and Croatia.

PSSI Regional Security Program's Western Balkans (WB) team includes renowned political science experts from the region and the Czech Republic. In 2022, two meetings were convened (one virtual and one in person). The in-person, two-day workshop took place in Prague in October 2022 after our researchers had generated a sufficient amount of preliminary data. Participants included the Director of the Foreign Policy Analysis and Planning Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic (MFA), Jan Šnidauf, and the Head of the Western Balkans Unit, Southern and Southeastern Europe Department at MFA, Igor Procházka.

Moreover, PSSI's Western Balkans team had an opportunity to co-organize, with the Institutes of History and Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences, an international conference titled, Bosnia and Herzegovina: Post-Colonial and Post-Conflict Heritage of a European State. Through this project a privileged relationship was forged between our Western Balkans team and H.E. Mrs. Martina Mlinarević, Ambassador to Bosnia

and Herzegovina in Prague. The Embassy has since invited PSSI's participation in several noteworthy events.

Additionally, the WB team members attended various strategic discussions and talks with foreign policy experts, including a meeting with the Adriatic and Balkans Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, Mr. Andrea Cascone in April, a session with Miodrag Vlahović the former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro in June and with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina Bisera Turković.



International conference Bosnia and Herzegovina: Post-Colonial and Post-Conflict Heritage of a European State, Prague 2022

PSSI WASHINGTON

In the fall of 2006, PSSI Washington Inc. was established in Washington, DC. Its primary mission is to strengthen U.S. understanding of the security challenges facing Central and Eastern Europe and other post-communist states and pursue groundbreaking initiatives in the economic & financial, and space domains. PSSI Washington's China/Russia Capital Markets Transparency Initiative, for example, is the leading NGO work program in this field worldwide. This partner organization of PSSI Prague has gained a good deal of stature in the United States and is a leading source of research and data on China's expanding presence in America's capital markets and that of Russia as well. It is likewise a hub of PSSI's Space Security Program and convenes periodic, co-sponsored conferences and roundtables in this and other fields in Washington and elsewhere.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

FUNDING SOURCES

Prague Security Studies Institute 2022 Donors

GOVERNMENTS/INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- Embassy of the United States in Prague
- NATO Public Diplomacy Division
- Embassy of Japan in the Czech Republic
- British Embassy Prague
- Open Information Partnership

CZECH GOVERNMENT:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

FOUNDATIONS AND NGOs:

- Atlas Network
- Bawd Foundation
- Diana Davis Spencer Foundation
- Drei Schwestern Foundation
- European Media and Information Fund
- Fondation Pour La Recherche Stratégique
- Fundacja Prospect
- GLOBSEC
- International Republican Institute's Beacon Project
- National Endowment for Democracy
- Political Capital Szolgaltato
- Res Publica Foundation
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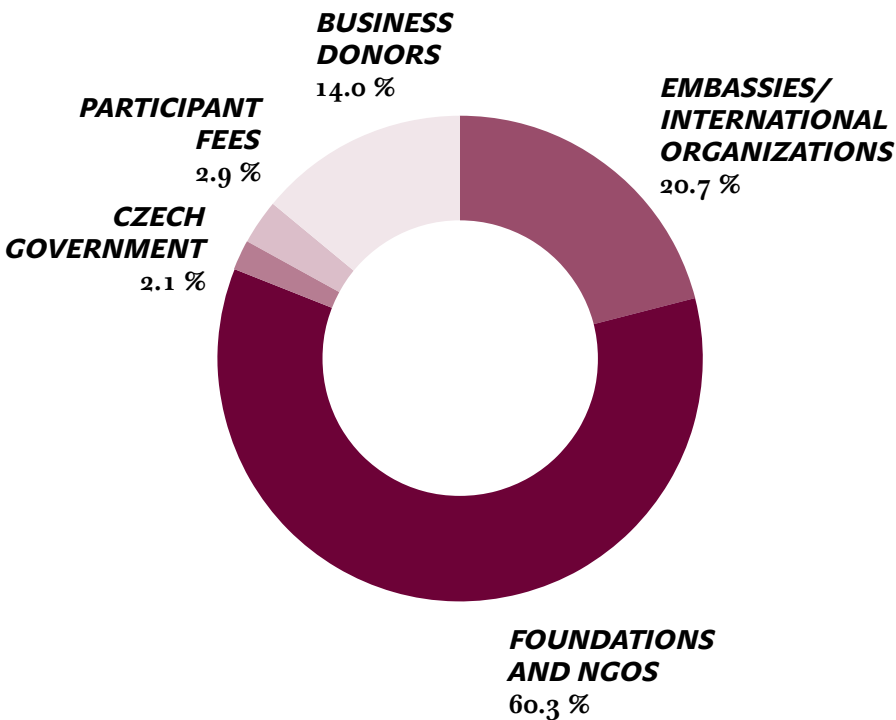
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FEES

- Participation Fees (CSA, RMSSA, NATO Summer School)

STRUCTURE OF REVENUES



2022 PUBLICATIONS

- [The Impact of the International Investment Bank in the Czech Republic](#)
- [PSSI Perspective #15: Pandora Papers - novinářská praxe a integrita ve střetu s alternativními médii](#)
- [Strategic Competition for International Space Partnerships and Key Principles for a Sustainable Global Space Economy](#)
- [PSSI Perspective #16 - The New Czech Government in Pro-Kremlin Media: A Case Study of Sputnik CZ](#)
- [PSSI Perspective #17 - The Case for Investment Bans Against 2014-Sanctioned Russian Companies and Sovereign Bonds](#)
- [Zelená dohoda pro Evropu na české dezinformační scéně](#)
- [Banks, Special Interests, and Communist Comrades: the International Investment Bank's Modus Operandi in Central-Eastern Europe](#)
- [Disinformation and Brand Safety: The Approach of the Czech Private Sector](#)
- [PSSI Perspective #18 - The Onset of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine Through the Eyes of Pro-Kremlin Media: A Case Study of Sputnik CZ](#)
- [The Russia-Ukraine War in Social Media: Inauthentic online behavior in the V4 concerning Russia's war against Ukraine](#)
- [From Anti-Vaccination to Kremlin's Proxy](#)
- [PSSI Perspective #19 - Bucha Massacre Narrated Through the Eyes of Pro-Kremlin Media: A Case Study of Sputnik CZ](#)
- [PSSI Perspectives #20 - Proměna antivakcinačních hnutí v zástupce Kremlu](#)
- [European Green Deal on Czech Facebook June 2022](#)
- [PSSI Perspective #21: Dragan Bursać Discusses the Current Security Situation in the Western Balkans](#)
- [PSSI Perspective #22: The Importance of Public-Private Sector Space Partnerships for the Czech Republic](#)
- [European Green Deal on Czech Facebook: Lessons Learned for Strategic Communication](#)
- [České volby v éře dezinformací: Prezidentské volby 2023 \(představení projektu\)](#)
- [Response of the Prague Security Studies Institute to the European Commission's Call for Feedback on "Effectively Banning Products Produced, Extracted or Harvested with Forced Labor"](#)
- [Dezinformační narativy o válce na Ukrajině v ČR a ve střední Evropě](#)
- [České prezidentské volby v online prostoru: říjen 2022](#)
- [The European Green Deal as a Scapegoat: The Green Deal in the Czech Online Information Space](#)
- [České prezidentské volby v online prostoru: listopad 2022](#)

2022 EVENTS

- **January 21, 2022**
Pandora Papers: novinářská praxe a integrita ve střetu s alternativními médii
- **February 7, 2022**
Jak může Česká republika reagovat na ruskou agresi vůči Ukrajině?
- **February 24, 2022**
Zelená dohoda pro Evropu na české dezinformační scéně: současná situace a doporučení pro budoucnost
- **March 2, 2022**
European - Indo-Pacific Partnership in Space Security: Economic and Financial Dimensions
- **March 9, 2022**
The Economic and Financial Dimensions of Russia's War Against Ukraine
- **March 17, 2022**
The Czech EU Presidency and the Western Balkans: What can we expect in light of the war in Ukraine?
- **April 25, 2022**
Threats to Space Systems and Protection of Space Assets (online guest lecture)
- **June 19–21, 2022**
6th PSSI Space Security Conference: The Global Space Competition: Security, Markets and Sanctions
- **July 3–8, 2022**
17th NATO Summer School: The Evolving Dynamics of the Russian and Chinese Threats
- **August 29, 2022**
Debata: Energetická bezpečnost po Rusko-ukrajinské válce
- **September 19–23, 2022**
Cyber Security Academy 2022
- **October 24, 2022**
The Private Sector Role in the New Global Space Race
- **October 26, 2022**
EU-China and US-China Trade Relations: Is there a Chance for Strategic Autonomy in the Age of Weaponization of Trade Dependencies?
- **November 1, 2022**
Conference: 20 years of Czech Experts in International Civilian Missions
- **November 10, 2022**
Bosnia and Herzegovina: Post-Colonial and Post-Conflict Heritage of a European State
- **November 15, 2022**
Informal Meeting with Hong Kong Disident Samuel Chu
- **November 23, 2022**
Lecture by Tom Keatinge, RUSI/CFCS titled National Security Aspects of Illicit Finance
- **November 25, 2022**
RUSI Roundtable: European Sanctions and Illicit Finance
- **November 25, 2022**
Dezinformace o válce na Ukrajině a strategická komunikace
- **December 7, 2022**
What You Need to Know About China-in-Europe – Economic Ties, Covert Activities, Technology Transfer and More

ABOUT PSSI

THE PRAGUE SECURITY STUDIES INSTITUTE (PSSI) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization established in early 2002 to advance the building of just, secure, democratic, free-market societies in the Czech Republic and other post-communist states. PSSI's mission is to educate and train an ever-growing number of informed and security-minded policy practitioners dedicated to the development and protection of democratic values, principles, and institutions. PSSI offers programs that help meet the critical requirements associated with equipping new generations of young leaders to manage the complex, security-related challenges of the 21st century.

To advance its mission, PSSI conducts a broad range of activities under its Security Scholars Program, Space Security Program, Economic & Financial Statecraft Program, and Regional Security Program. PSSI concentrates on identifying and analyzing underdeveloped economic and financial (E&F) threats, particularly those posed by China and Russia. First among them is the growing presence of Chinese and Russian corporate “bad actors” in the U.S. and allied capital markets. We also focus on what we term “the ground-based space race” playing out in the economic and financial domain. In short, the Institute is highly selective concerning the issue areas it covers.

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or Boris Kalisky (kalisky@pssi.cz), Director of Operations.

Your Support is Appreciated

As the Institute is expanding its activities and regional outreach, we would welcome your support in these efforts.

PSSI's Bank Account

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Tax deductible contributions from the U.S. can be made to PSSI through the Institute's tax-exempt partner organization, PSSI Washington.

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