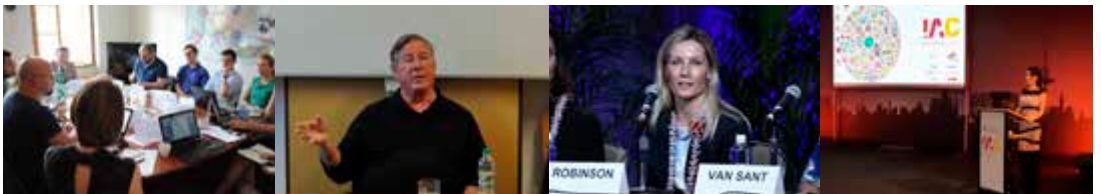




Prague Security  
Studies Institute



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

## MESSAGE FROM PSSI'S CHAIRMAN

Now in its seventeenth year of operation, PSSI has matured into one of the region's leading foreign policy/national security think tanks and the top NGO in the fields of space security and economic and financial warfighting. The Institute's academic program has expanded considerably and now encompasses co-sponsorship of the Czech Republic's first Master's Degree Program in International Security Studies, its long-running NATO Summer School, its indigenous Security Scholars Program, two graduate courses at Charles University and two Ph.D. scholarships in Space Security and Economic & Financial Statecraft, respectively. We are also excited about the prospects for our new Cyber Security Academy.

The Institute has also drilled down on several of the region's most intractable security and economic challenges, including stability and foreign interference in the Western Balkans, aggressive Russian disinformation campaigns and cyber attacks, China's bid to recruit weaker Central/East European states into its orbit using subsidized financing and promises of jobs and national infrastructure, the ongoing Russian hybrid, and outright military, offensive being waged against Ukraine and systemic vulnerabilities within the Czech Republic itself (e.g. election tampering etc.).

By being highly selective and committed to undertaking fewer issue portfolios (but especially well), PSSI has leveraged its resources to maximum effect. In short, we punch well above our weight and are helping define certain important aspects of 21<sup>st</sup> century warfare, particularly in the economic and financial and space domains.

For this and more, we are immensely grateful to our donors, supporters and friends for believing in us as individuals and our skill sets and making possible our accelerating programmatic achievements.



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



CSIS Director of Missile Defense Project Dr. Thomas Karako delivers a guest lecture to Robinson-Martin Security Scholars

## SECURITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

### ROBINSON-MARTIN SECURITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

PSSI launched its Robinson-Martin Security Scholars Program (RMSSP) in February of 2002. RMSSP offers some fifteen highly qualified and motivated students from leading Czech universities the opportunity to participate in a two-semester security studies program at PSSI's offices. Developed after careful evaluation of similar European and American security studies programs, RMSSP covers a broad spectrum of security-related subjects. The program emphasizes small group settings and social gatherings that provide students the opportunity to interact directly with visiting security policy luminaries and lecturers.

The content and sequencing of over twenty lecturers each academic year was originally designed by PSSI's late Executive Director and Co-Founder Oldřich Černý. Mr. Černý himself was a veteran of the Czech security community, serving as former President Václav Havel's National Security Advisor and Director of the Czech Foreign Intelligence Service for almost a decade.

In addition to the lecture series, students are required to write two policy reports on topics covered during the program and also participate in the Institute's numerous conferences and roundtables. Among the lecturers for the 2018 program were Tom Karako, Director of the Missile Defense Project, CSIS; Benedikt Vangeli, Director of the Centre Against Terrorism and Hybrid Threats, Czech Ministry of Interior; Roman Pačka, Head of National Strategy and Policy Unit, National Cyber and Information Security Agency; Jan Urban, Journalist; Jan Paďourek, former Deputy Director-General for Analysis and Foreign Relations, Office of Foreign Relations and Information; Tomáš Kopečný, Director of Defence at Industrial Cooperation Department, Ministry of Defence; Colonel Karel Klinovský, Former Chief of the Foreign Operations and Special Training Institute, Training Command – Military Academy at Vyškov; Jan Marian, CFSP Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Jana Robinson, Space Security Program Director, PSSI; Martin Svárovský, former Deputy Director of the Policy Planning Staff, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Daniel Anýž, Journalist, Aktuálně.cz; Veronika Kuchyňová Šmigolová, Director of the Americas Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Lt. Col. Otakar Foltýn, Staff Officer for the General Staff, Army of the Czech Republic; and Magda Faltová, Director, Association for Integration and Migration.



Participants of the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual PSSI Summer School

## PARTNERSHIP WITH CHARLES UNIVERSITY

Since its inception in 2002, PSSI has been closely collaborating with the prestigious Charles University in Prague. In 2006, PSSI began its efforts with the University to create a new Master's Degree program in International Security Studies, the first of its kind in the Czech Republic. The program began in Czech in 2007 and in 2012 achieved English-language accreditation.

The program offers a range of cutting-edge subjects in the field of security studies and equips students with a solid theoretical background and detailed understanding of some of the critical security challenges of our time. Among these issue areas are energy security, space security, economic and financial warfare, regional conflicts, cyber security, terrorism and WMD proliferation.

Two new courses of study configured by PSSI have been launched in the past few years: "Space Security in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" in the fall semester of 2015 and "Economic Warfare" in the spring semester of 2016. PSSI also continues to coordinate closely with Charles University in organizing lectures with visiting speakers and host workshops on a range of subjects. PSSI's James Q. Whitaker Security Lecture Series was established at the Faculty of Social Sciences at Charles University in 2008 to help anchor this vibrant cooperation.

The primary aim of these lectures is to bring in distinguished guest lecturers from the global economic, security

and foreign policy communities, academia, and the private sector, to share their analytical expertise and first-hand experiences with students. PSSI organized a series of six lectures, in conjunction with Charles University's Institute of Political Studies, and the American Center, in 2018, on the topic of Space Security. The lecturers invited for these gatherings were Dr. Martina Šmuclerová, PSSI Fellow, an international law expert and distinguished lecturer at l'Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po); Prof. Dr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl, Chief Strategy Officer of the European Space Agency (ESA); Dr. Michael Romancov, lecturer in political geography at Charles University and Metropolitan University; Dr. Václav Kobera, Director of Intelligent Transport Systems, Space Activities and R&D and Innovation Department at the Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic; and Victoria Samson, Washington Office Director for the Secure World Foundation.

In addition to these activities, PSSI sponsors an Oldřich Černý Ph.D. scholarship for one full-time student in a doctoral programme in International Relations at Charles University's Institute of Political Studies in the field of Economic and Financial Statecraft. Named for the esteemed Co-Founder and former Executive Director of the Institute, the scholarship covers tuition and living expenses, with the support of Charles University.





Zuzana Papozski from NDI leading a workshop during the Security Academy for Young Politicians

It is the intention of PSSI to assist Charles University in building an ever-growing number of professional E&F analysts and policy-makers trained to understand and counter the subtle and sophisticated form of hybrid warfare and soft power projection by Russia, China and other actual or prospective adversaries.

### PSSI NATO SUMMER SCHOOL

For the fourteenth consecutive year, PSSI, with the support of NATO's Public Diplomacy Division, the U.S. Embassy in Prague and the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organized a summer school session entitled "NATO in the Age of Hybrid Warfare" that was held between July 1–7, 2018, in Orlík, Czech Republic. Each year, our NATO Summer School attracts some 25 highly qualified graduate level students from NATO member states and partner countries to participate in a week-long series of lectures, workshops, and simulations. About a dozen nations are generally represented.

The students participated in lectures in the mornings and workshops in the afternoon, supplemented by a six-day simulation of an international crisis in the Black Sea region. Each group of students represented a different NATO member state or partner country and was tasked with negotiating with the other groups in a strategic manner, in order to advance their overall goals and interests in the region.

The students also had to work with the media platform Slack, thus incorporating lessons of strategic communication and tackling both misinformed and malign disinformation outlets.

The simulation concluded with a mock NATO summit in which the NATO member states negotiated terms of peace, de-escalation or at least stability in the Black Sea. Each day, the summer school hosted up to three lectures from distinguished professors and security practitioners, speaking on topics ranging from NATO's preparedness for hybrid warfare to cybersecurity of the member states, and to newer areas of security including space security, and the economic and financial threat domain.

This prestigious gathering continued a tradition of attracting prominent security policy practitioners such as Rainer Saks, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia; Jan Jireš, Head of Defence Counsellors, Permanent Delegation of the Czech Republic to NATO; Marcin Zaborowski, Senior Associate at Visegrad Insight; Jan Havránek, Policy Adviser at the Policy Planning Unit, Office of the Secretary General, NATO Headquarters; Martin Michelot from EUROPEUM, Institute for European policy; Lt. Col. Otakar Foltýn, Staff Officer for the General Staff, Army of the Czech Republic; Jan Padourek, former Deputy Director-General for Analysis and Foreign Relations of the Office of Foreign



Participants of the Security Academy for Young Politicians

Relations and Information; František Šulc, former Chief of Cabinet and the Chief Adviser at the Czech Ministry of Defence; Pál Dunay, Professor of NATO and European Security Issues; Lilly Muller of the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs; and Pasi Eronen of Foundation For Defense of Democracies.

### SECURITY ACADEMY FOR YOUNG POLITICIANS

In March 2018, PSSI launched its first “Security Academy for Young Politicians.” Participation at the Academy is offered to members of youth organizations of democratic political parties to improve their capabilities in the security field. The program is comprised of a series of lectures and seminars led by distinguished current and former security policy professionals from the Czech Republic and other countries. Among the topics discussed were hybrid threats and ways in which to counter them, cybersecurity, and the activities of Russia and China in the CEE region.

The first program of PSSI's Security Academy for Young Politicians was concluded in April by a workshop on Youth Leadership Development organized in collaboration with the National Democratic Institute (NDI). The workshop was led by Hannah Starman from Yes Europe Lab.

### CYBERSECURITY ACADEMY

In September 2018, PSSI launched a new element of its security scholars program. The Cyber Security Academy was created in cooperation with the National Cyber and Information Security Agency and supported by the U.S. Embassy in Prague, KPMG, the British Embassy in Prague and ČSOB.

During a week-long intensive course, students had the chance to learn more about the newest trends in the field of cybersecurity. Topics covered in lectures and workshops included cybersecurity of critical infrastructure, data-centric security, and cybercrime. Students also had a chance to take a closer look at the functioning of the National Cyber and Information Security Agency during a field trip to the agency's headquarters in Brno.

In the course of the Academy, PSSI also organized a public lecture entitled “Cyber Warfare in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”. David Venable, Vice President of Cyber Security at Masergy Communications, discussed how the development and dissemination of cyber weapons have changed the nature of the modern geopolitical conflict. Venable is a former intelligence collector with the National Security Agency, with extensive experience in Computer Network Exploitation, Information Operations, and Digital Network Intelligence.



PSSI's conference on Non-Standard Economic Behavior of China and Russia in the Czech Republic

## ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL THREAT PROGRAM

The national security dimensions of global economic and financial (E&F) relations are increasingly prevalent in an ever-more interdependent world. Sanctions are more commonplace and varied, as are the measures taken to circumvent them. PSSI has long recognized this reality and launched a program dedicated to educating the security and military communities of allied nations, as well as academia, industry, and non-governmental organizations to identify various modalities of E&F statecraft and warfare on the part of adversaries (notably China and Russia). This program addresses the strategic use by prospective adversaries of their forward-deployed, state-controlled enterprises, and abuses of the legitimate international trading and financial systems to advance their agendas that take place on a daily basis.

PSSI refers to this field as the Economic and Financial Threat Domain, an issue area that is becoming increasingly integrated into the training, planning, readiness and operations of allied militaries and security communities more broadly. It is also a portfolio that is increasingly compelling to security-minded policy-makers as a non-kinetic option for deterrence and crisis

management, in a policy space utterly dominated by the West.

PSSI has invested heavily in producing E&F reports for allied policy-makers on a range of issues. The Institute's experience in this domain dates back to before the Reagan Administration, and includes some four decades of risk management and senior policy-related expertise. PSSI's principals have developed an open-source software tool called IntelTrak, which tracks and visually maps every Russian and Chinese transaction globally on a daily basis (involving state-owned or controlled enterprises). This extensive database now goes back seven years. (<http://www.rwradvisory.com/services/inteltrak/>).

## PROTECTING THE CZECH REPUBLIC FROM RUSSIAN UNCONVENTIONAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL THREATS

The use of economic and financial (E&F) instruments to achieve strategic and tactical goals is a critically important element of Russian hybrid warfare. Often presented as benign, commercial business transactions, Russia's E&F activities are often aimed at gaining control over national infrastructure projects, strategic assets and even entire sectors of a targeted country's economy.

One of PSSI's projects, entitled "Mapping Mechanisms for Protecting the Czech Republic from Non-Standard Economic Behavior of the Russian



PSSI's Chairman and Co-Founder Roger W. Robinson, Jr. delivering a guest lecture to Charles University students taking a class on Economic Warfare

Federation,” identified and analyzed potentially risky economic and financial activities of the Russian Federation in the Czech Republic and neighboring countries. PSSI also evaluated the institutional and legislative mechanisms designed to mitigate these risks. The project was supported by the Open Society Fund Prague.

The aim of the project was to stimulate discussion about the adequacy of these screening mechanisms and, when appropriate, propose ways to strengthen them. As it is useful to look to other countries for models, the Institute surveyed a number of existing screening arrangements. PSSI published four briefing papers, each focusing on individual sectors of the economy, in which Russian state-controlled companies are major players.

The first briefing paper focused on the natural gas sector and provided an overview of the weaponized role of the Russian state company Gazprom and its subsidiaries in the Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, and Slovakia. The second paper dealt with the oil sector and nuclear energy in the region, with a particular emphasis on the activities of Russia’s nuclear giant Rosatom and its subsidiaries. The third paper focused on the role of Russian companies in the banking and engineering sectors and introduced models for foreign investment screening currently being used in Finland and Austria. The final paper considers the defense

industry and introduces mechanisms for foreign investment screening used in Denmark and Great Britain.

In February 2018, the Prague Security Studies Institute held a conference that addressed the non-standard economic behavior of China and Russia in the Czech Republic. During the conference, PSSI introduced a set of recommendations for implementing FDI screening mechanisms in the Czech Republic.

In order to raise greater situational awareness, PSSI began to put out a newsletter to monitor and highlight this often subtle and sophisticated form of power projection. This monitoring also serves the function of following the discussion on strengthening foreign investment mechanisms in the EU and other NATO countries.

### **ECONOMIC WARFARE COURSE AT CHARLES UNIVERSITY**

Launched in 2015, the PSSI-sponsored “Economic Warfare” course at Charles University is designed to introduce students to the economic foundations of national power, the various modalities or strategies to exercise this power to achieve its goals in the international arena, as well as associated vulnerabilities. The course illuminates the interdependencies of today’s globalized economy and the kinds of abuses by malevolent state actors that can take place within the legitimate international trading and financial systems to ad-





A brainstorming meeting with PSSI's project partners within the project „Comparative analysis of the approach towards China: V4+ and One Belt, One Road“

vance agendas inconsistent with democratic principles and values during both war and peacetime (e.g. nation-capturing, economic dislocation, extortion, etc.). It also provides historical context and the ways in which economic warfare as a policy tool has evolved over time.

In 2018, Charles University students taking this class had a chance to attend a guest lecture by PSSI's Chairman and Co-Founder Roger W. Robinson, Jr. who spoke on malevolent Russia and China's activities in the financial and economic domain.

As a former Senior Director of International Economic Affairs at the National Security Council (NSC) in the Reagan administration and the principal architect of the economic and financial strategy for the take-down of the Soviet Union, Mr. Robinson was able to draw interesting parallels between the current situation and the Cold War. He also explained that the CEE region was especially vulnerable because smaller economies allow for a single deal to create a strong authoritarian grip on a strategic sector.

### **COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE APPROACH TOWARDS CHINA: V4+ AND ONE BELT ONE ROAD**

China's "charm offensive" across the Visegrad region and the Balkans in recent years is unprecedented. Despite the difficulty facing these regions in striking a proper balance between potential chal-

lenges and opportunities, improved relations have, nevertheless, begun to develop at a rapid pace through a variety of mechanisms. This unfolding reality has been reflected not only in higher trade volumes and people-to-people exchanges, but also in Chinese investment projects targeting strategic industries.

For China, the Balkans and the Visegrad region represent a gateway to larger European markets. While some stakeholders recommend taking full advantage of opportunities stemming from China's rise, there is a dearth of discussion on the national security implications of increased trade and capital flows. PSSI's new project focusing on China, "Comparative Analysis of the Approach Towards China: V4+ and One Belt One Road," seeks to explore these implications. The project is supported by the International Visegrad Fund. Project partners include Institute of Asian Studies (Slovakia), the HAS Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, the Institute of World Economics (Hungary), the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence (Serbia), and the Centre for International Relations (Poland).



Dr. Jana Robinson participated in a panel discussion on “International Space Cooperation” at Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) Discourse 2.0 organized by India’s Forum for Integrated National Security (FINS) in Goa, India

## 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 and that not enough is being done to protect space-related assets and services. Should access to, and the use of, space be compromised, particularly by the irresponsible and/or malevolent actions of certain space-faring nations, the harm that could be done would likely be both immediate and catastrophic.

## SPACE SECURITY CONFERENCE SERIES

Accordingly, the Institute launched a program in 2010 dedicated solely to space security. In pursuit of a well-rounded understanding of this field, the Institute organizes several events, notably, PSSI’s International Space Security Conference series. To date, four such sizeable gatherings have taken place (two in Europe, one in Japan, and one in the U.S.) that brought together high-level government officials, private sector executives, and NGO policy practitioners as well as other experts from the space communities of Europe, the U.S. and Japan.

## SPACE SECURITY COURSE AT CHARLES UNIVERSITY

This course, since its inception in 2015, seeks to educate Charles University graduate students on the relatively unexplored domain of outer-space, its security considerations, legal standing and legislative aspects, including theoretical and technical perspectives. The course also explores the consequences of irresponsible and disruptive actions of certain space-faring nations. The course encourages students to employ a practical approach, with presentations and guest lectures being an integral part of the proceedings. Guest lecturers have included representatives from the Space Policy Institute from the George Washington University, the EU’s European External Action Service (EEAS), the Aerospace Corporation, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the U.S. Department of Defense, European Space Agency (ESA), the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia and the Czech Republic, and the European Commission.

Notable speakers have included Yukiko Okumura, Associate Expert serving at the Secretariat for the Committee for the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Affairs at the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs; Cenani Al-Ekabi, Research Fellow at the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI); Kai-Uwe Schrogl, Chief Strategy Officer at the European Space Agency (ESA); and Victoria Samson, Washington Office Director for the Secure World Foundation.



Participants of the Cybersecurity Academy on a field trip to the National Cyber and Information Security Agency in Brno

## OTHER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

**In March 2018**, PSSI's Space Security Program Director, Dr. Jana Robinson, took part in the U.S. Strategic Command's (USSTRATCOM) Deterrence and Assurance Academic Alliance 2018 Conference and related tabletop exercise (TTX) at Offutt Air Force Base. The event, entitled "Thinking Outside the Silo: Creative Problem Solving in Deterrence and Assurance", was hosted in Lincoln, Nebraska by the University of Nebraska's College of Law. Consistent with the theme of the event, Dr. Robinson introduced PSSI's concept of economic and financial (E&F) cross-domain responses to space hybrid threats.

**In May 2018**, PSSI convened in Prague a closed roundtable entitled "Responding to Unconventional Threats to Europe's Space Operation." The event discussed challenges related to what we termed "space hybrid operations," that is space-relevant actions/activities that involve ambiguous attribution, temporary and mostly reversible effects, and limited public visibility (e.g. jamming or spoofing, use of low-power lasers, proximity and rendezvous operations, cyber attacks, or economic and financial "space sector capture"). The goal of the roundtable was to establish a framework for discussion concerning space hybrid operations and their knock-on effects; configure key arguments for European civil, commercial and military decision-makers to raise the priority accorded these threats; and review

possible options available in Europe to help integrate these threats into the space security architectures of individual NATO and EU member states in order to strengthen space infrastructure resiliency, deterrence, and responses.

**In July 2018**, PSSI released a space security report, entitled "Europe's Preparedness to Respond to Space Hybrid Operations." The Report focused on the "grey zone" spectrum of counterspace actions/activities. These operations pose a major threat as they are designed to probe gaps in targeted countries' preparedness, readiness, level of allied coordination and response options. They can also serve to fine-tune an adversary's strategy to create asymmetric effects without paying a significant price. The Report also offers recommendations on how to strengthen pre-crisis planning related to this family of issues.

**In August 2018**, PSSI's Space Security Program Director, Dr. Jana Robinson, delivered remarks on the current trends and developments in space security at the first session in Geneva of the UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Further Practical Measures for the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, established pursuant UN General Assembly Resolution 72/250 of December 2017. The presentation reviewed practical obstacles related to the pursuit of arms control in space, including the "grey zone" of temporary, reversible, and less-attributable actions/activities, such as cyber attacks.





Dr. Martina Šmuclerová, PSSI Senior Fellow, at the 69<sup>th</sup> International Astronautical Congress (IAC)

**In September 2018**, PSSI's Space Security Program Director, Dr. Jana Robinson, participated in a panel discussion at the SSA Policy Forum, part of the annual Advanced Maui Optical and Surveillance (AMOS) Technologies Conference. The conference brought together some 830 participants from 22 countries, including civil and military officials, defense contractors and space experts from academia and think tanks. Dr. Robinson talked about the challenges confronting U.S. and allied space security interests stemming from China's and Russia's brand of "space partnership" arrangements. She argued that these partnerships are often driven by a desire to gain influence, or even control, over the nascent space sectors of countries such as Argentina, Belarus, Bolivia, Nigeria, and Pakistan (what PSSI terms "space sector capture").

**In October 2018**, PSSI took part in the 69<sup>th</sup> International Astronautical Congress (IAC) held in Bremen, Germany. The theme of the Congress was "IAC2018 – Involving Everyone." PSSI contributed with a lecture and two papers. Dr. Martina Šmuclerová, PSSI Senior Fellow, delivered a lecture (and an article) at the 61<sup>st</sup> IISL Colloquium on the Law of Outer Space on the topic "Legal Perspectives for the Further Development of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space in Light of Rising Multistakeholderism." Dr. Šmuclerová presented the legal modes

concerning how international space law can be updated and developed with and without the revision of the UN Space Treaties. PSSI also presented a paper entitled "Europe's Management of Space Hybrid Threats" in session D5.4 entitled "Cybersecurity Threats to Space Missions and Countermeasures to Address Them." It argued that to build a resilient space architecture in Europe, hybrid operations, including those stemming from cyber and economic and financial (E&F) predations, need to be integrated into the broader security architectures of NATO and EU member states.

**In October 2018**, PSSI's Space Security Program Director, Dr. Jana Robinson, participated in a panel discussion on "International Space Cooperation" at Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) Discourse 2.0 organized by India's Forum for Integrated National Security (FINS) in Goa, India. The conference included regional participants from some 10 countries. Dr. Robinson discussed the challenges confronting the U.S., Europe, India, Japan and other partners related to space hybrid operations, especially in the economic and financial (E&F) domain. She argued that attention needs to be given to the implications of authoritarian space powers (notably China and Russia) seeking to capture the space sectors of those countries with which they are forging space partnerships, as well as global space security more broadly.





PSSI's Program Manager Jonáš Syrovátka at a discussion about the „Russian Assertiveness at the Borders” organized by the Institute for Politics and Society

## TRANSNATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAM

PSSI's Transnational 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. These challenges, at times, 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 cyberattacks, disinformation campaigns, counterspace activities and hybrid warfare methods which are often driven by subtle economic and financial warfighting.

### DEVELOPMENT OF SERBIAN CAPABILITIES FOR CIVILIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO PEACE OPERATIONS AND CIVILIAN CRISIS MANAGEMENT

In September 2016, PSSI launched an initiative entitled the “Development of the Serbian National Capabilities for Civilian Contributions to Peace Support Operations and Civilian Crisis Management.” The main objective of this project is to enable Serbia to actively and

efficiently contribute to the civilian components of peace operations and crisis management. The project is supported by the Czech Development Agency and the principal project partner on the Serbian side is the ISAC Fund, a think-tank that promotes the transition of Serbia towards the EU and Euro-Atlantic membership. The project's objective is to establish a functioning and sustainable system for sending Serbian non-military experts to international peace operations. It primarily addresses the necessary adjustments needed in Serbia's existing strategic and legal frameworks and the development of an adequate system of coordination, training, recruitment, and deployment of experts.

PSSI is mainly responsible for transferring the Czech experience with its emphasis on sending civilian experts and overseeing the realization of the project. Regarding the establishment of a training center, PSSI will draw on its know-how gained by organizing the Interagency Civilian-Military Training program in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2012.

In May 2017, PSSI along with its Serbian partner, International and Security Affairs Centre (ISAC), hosted a conference, called “Civilians in Multilateral Missions.” At the conference, held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, representatives of various Czech Ministries sought to help



Workshop organized within the framework of the project "Western Balkans at the Crossroads: Assessing Non-Democratic External Influence Activities"

their Serbian counterparts in the practical aspects of increasing their civilian crisis management capabilities.

The culminating event of the project in 2018 was the first Serbian Comprehensive Generic Training on Peace Operations (CGTPO) course which was held from November 26 to December 7. This course represents one of the main preconditions for civilian experts to be approved for enrolling in the competition to conduct multinational operations. The course was held at the Peacekeeping Operations Centre (PKOC) and Multinational Operations Training Centre of the Serbian Armed Forces. To emphasize the importance of the development of such capacities for Serbia, the course was jointly opened by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Ivica Dačić, Minister of European Integration, Jadranka Joksimović, and Minister of Defence, Aleksandar Vulin, in presence of the Chief of General Staff Gen. Milan Mojsilović, Ambassador of the Czech Republic, Tomáš Kuchta, and Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, Ambassador Andrea Orizio, with many other guests and associates.

## **WESTERN BALKANS AT THE CROSSROADS: ASSESSING NON-DEMOCRATIC EXTERNAL INFLUENCE ACTIVITIES**

The Prague Security Studies Institute launched a new project focusing on the Western Balkans. The project seeks to identify, analyze and publicize Russian, Chinese, Turkish, and the Gulf states influence activities and sharp power in the Balkans. Researchers specifically focused on malign foreign influence in five post-Yugoslav and not EU member countries: Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Kosovo. The project is presenting its findings and recommendations to local and international experts, civil society, the media, and the public through thematic briefs, a series of blog posts and case study articles, a comprehensive final report, and a conference. The project team consists of Prague-based Balkan experts and one local researcher from each of the five countries in focus. The project is supported by the National Endowment for Democracy.

On May 29-30, PSSI held a workshop within the framework of the newly launched project. The workshop sought to bring together the project team with other Czech Balkanists as well as experts on Russia, China, and the Gulf states. The first day focused on the Czech experience and the project team discussed the methodology, terminology, and structure of the project outputs. During the second



PSSI's Jonáš Syrovátka and Antoni Wierzejski from the Centre for International Relations during a workshop for future journalists titled "Become a Mythbuster"

day, all participants actively engaged in highly interesting debates regarding foreign powers' influence activities and major vulnerabilities of the Balkan countries.

In August, PSSI published the project's first briefing paper titled "East vs. West." The briefing paper provided background on the project topic and positioned the debate within the political and geostrategic context of today's Western Balkans. The project's second briefing paper came out in September and focused on Russian, Chinese, Turkish and the Gulf states' influence and activities in the political arena of the Western Balkan countries. It mainly focused on foreign powers' activities which aim to achieve political gains by influencing political decision-making and voting patterns in international bodies. It analyzed elite capture, links to important political parties or 'spoilerism.'

In October 2018, PSSI published the project's third briefing paper which covered Russian, Chinese, Turkish, the Gulf states' and Iranian influence in the economic and financial sphere. It focused on FDI and trade relationships, the identification of main investors and forms of dependencies, especially in the energy sector and the control of strategic assets. The project's fourth briefing paper came out in November 2018 and focused on Russian, Chinese, Turkish, the Gulf states' and Iranian influence in the cultural,

academic and religious spheres, areas most often associated with the notion of soft power projection in international relations.





Participants of the Cybersecurity Academy during a workshop held at ČSOB

## UNDERSTANDING RUSSIA'S INFLUENCE ACTIVITIES IN CEE

Since Russia's annexation of Crimea, there has been an alarming volume of evidence of Russian efforts to influence public policy-making in the Czech Republic and other European states, as well as the U.S. Indeed, these efforts have been deployed on a scale not seen since the end of the Cold War. The basic aim of these activities is twofold: to shape public opinion, and to manipulate the political and business environment of the targeted country in a direction that better accommodates the Kremlin's foreign policy objectives. Although Russia engages selectively with Western counterparts on a variety of pressing security challenges, it simultaneously endeavors to fragment and weaken European unity by actively challenging the pro-Western, pro-NATO and pro-EU orientation of certain Central and East European countries.

PSSI is seeking to educate audiences on the perilous consequences of underestimating the Kremlin's ability to penetrate political and business elites, influence decision-making, and gain control of strategic infrastructure across the region. Russia utilizes a broad variety

of influence activities, many of which are discreet and often take place without being systematically monitored or analyzed.

PSSI has actively sought to illuminate this reality by launching several projects, initiatives, and events to advance this underdeveloped area of security policy. The primary objective of these initiatives is to raise public awareness about these hybrid, unconventional tactics employed by the Kremlin and to counter them with robust, creative policy recommendations, and network-building to strengthen cooperation among expert communities, academics, policy-makers and journalists.

## CZECH ELECTIONS IN THE ERA OF DISINFORMATION

This initiative seeks to discern the techniques, modalities, and potency of various disinformation campaigns—pro-Kremlin or otherwise—and their proliferation during the Czech Parliamentary, Presidential, and Senate Elections in 2017-2018. Using a software tool developed by the Beacon Project of the International Republican Institute, the Czech elections were monitored not only for their content, but also for the veracity of the information being spread. Thanks to the software, PSSI was also able to determine the reach and audience of the disinformation narratives. Reports on the Parliamentary, Presidential, and Senate elections and their monitoring can be found on PSSI's website. The





PSSI Washington's Andrew Davenport appeared on a panel on Capitol Hill organized by the Center for a Secure Free Society titled "Hidden Dragon: China's Stealthy Rise in Latin America"

report on the Parliamentary elections was quoted by Freedom House in their Nations in Transit publication.

## INFORMATION WARFARE ON THE INTERNET

Since 2016, PSSI has worked alongside think tanks from Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Moldova, and Ukraine, to gain a better understanding of the pro-Kremlin disinformation campaigns underway across Central and Eastern Europe. This research initiative focuses on monitoring online media outlets and identifying how behavioral patterns are used to manipulate the public's perception of key issues. The goal is to capture and record comparative disinformation strategies tailored to penetrate individual countries participating in the project.

In 2018, PSSI's Jonáš Syrovátka co-authored a paper on "Information Warfare and the Role of Non-Governmental Organizations." The paper was based on ideas and opinions expressed during a panel discussion moderated by Mr. Syrovátka, which was held during the 2018 NGO Market in Prague, Czech Republic. The panel hosted experts from the V4 countries and the United States. The phenomenon of Information Warfare (IW) – sometimes described as disinformation, fake news, or propaganda – has gained significant attention and concern across Western countries in recent

years. NGOs play two important roles in IW – both as victims and instruments of hostile behavior. The text elaborates on the complex role of NGOs in IW. First, it describes the phenomenon of IW and explains its impact on democratic societies. Second, it highlights how NGOs might be affected by these activities and provides general recommendations on how it should be countered. Third, it introduces the situation in the V4 countries and identifies organizations, initiatives, and projects that successfully confront this challenge. The paper was published by Forum 2000 with support from the International Visegrad Fund.

On November 29, 2018, the Prague Security Studies Institute, in cooperation with the Polish think tank, the Centre for International Relations (CIR), organized a workshop for future journalists titled, "Become a Mythbuster." The workshop was co-led by CIR's Antoni Wierzejski and PSSI's Jonáš Syrovátka, who explained the history of disinformation and the ways in which they operate, citing cases from both Poland and the Czech Republic. Students were also given practical recommendations for recognizing disinformation and manipulation. The workshop was organized as a part of the project "Mythbusters", supported by the International Visegrad Fund.

Together with partners from the Centre for International Relations (the main coordinator, Poland), the Centre



PSSI's Chairman and Co-Founder Roger W. Robinson, Jr. delivering a lecture to participants of PSSI Summer School

For Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy (Hungary), and StopFake.org (Ukraine), PSSI engaged in research efforts to produce a guide, which would seek to equip readers to be more vigilant about information found on the Internet through a series of questions and specific case-studies from the four countries. The result was a publication called “The Mythbusters – Guide to Critical Thinking.” The chief aim of the publication is to provide practical examples and offer useful recommendations on how to recognize manipulation in the digital age. It comes at a time when critical thinking has become not only a popular buzzword, but also an indispensable skill in everyday life.

### **PORTRAYAL OF NATO IN THE CZECH MEDIA**

Even though opinion polls show that the Czech Republic’s membership in NATO is perceived positively by the majority of the population, the reality is more complex. For example, polls suggest that many Czechs (especially young people) have only limited knowledge about the responsibilities and goals of this organization. There is also a common misconception that membership in NATO might pull the Czech Republic into war. This lack of understanding and subconscious fear may create fertile ground for disinformation campaigns concerning NATO and even undermining Czech membership in this organization.

The main aim of this project was to map out ways in which NATO is portrayed in Czech media. Special attention was dedicated to the deployment of Czech soldiers to the Baltic states as a part of the NATO Enhanced Forward Presence, as this issue had become a subject of heated political debate in May 2018. The project also provided recommendations suggesting how NATO-related issues could be communicated to the public. These recommendations were based not only on PSSI's research findings, but also on consultations with leading experts in the field who participated in our 2018 NATO Summer School. The data-gathering was conducted using the >versus< media monitoring tool, developed by the Beacon Project of the International Republican Institute.



Dr. Pascal Faucher, Chairman of the EUSST Program, Dr. Jana Robinson, PSSSI Space Security Program Director, and Dr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl, Chief Strategy Officer, ESA during a closed roundtable entitled “Responding to Unconventional Threats to Europe’s Space Operations”

## PSSI WASHINGTON

In the fall of 2006, the Prague Security Studies Institute Washington Inc. (PSSI Washington) 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 enrich the public policy debate on both sides of the Atlantic with respect to the growing economic and financial predations of China and Russia in Europe and beyond. It is also a leading resource in the expanding fields of space security and the economic and financial dimensions of hybrid warfare. Finally, PSSI Washington is committed to helping communicate, explain and predict official U.S. perceptions and policy options concerning key global flashpoints. It convenes periodic, co-sponsored conferences and roundtables in Washington and elsewhere.

## ALUMNI PROGRAM

PSSI’s Alumni Program is designed to connect, support, acknowledge and benefit the growing PSSI “extended family” and to facilitate informational exchanges among over 900 young professionals who have participated in PSSI educational programs. Specifically, these graduates successfully completed one or more of PSSI’s educational initiatives: the Robinson-Martin Security Scholars Program; our co-sponsored Charles University’s Masters Degree Program in International Security Studies; PSSI’s long-running NATO Summer School; our Interagency Civilian-Military Training Program; or our former Energy Security Academy. Our Alumni project is primarily communicated and organized through social media platforms such as Facebook and LinkedIn. The Institute organizes a number of informal alumni events and gatherings annually to facilitate career-related exchanges, and informal interactions among our present students and distinguished alumni.





PSSI's Space Security Program Coordinator Tereza Barbora Kupková at the Arms Control in Outer Space panel at the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Conference in Brussels

## PERFORMANCE IN RANKINGS

The Prague Security Studies Institute was again honoured to be ranked among the top think tanks in the world in 6 categories, according to the latest edition of the “Global Go To Think Tank Index”.

The “Global Go To Think Tank Index” is produced by The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the Lauder Institute of the University of Pennsylvania, which surveys and ranks NGO's around the world. The Index is the result of an international assessment of over 7,500 scholars, public and private donors, policy-makers, and journalists who help rank more than 6,600 think tanks (overall, 8,162 think tanks were encouraged to take part) using a set of 28 criteria developed by the TTCSP.

PSSI is particularly delighted to be ranked #8 in Central/ Eastern Europe and Russia, #63 among the Top Defense and National Security Think Tank), and #61 among the top Foreign Policy and International Affairs Think Tanks.

PSSI was also ranked #104 among think tanks “Worldwide (Non-US)” and #60 among the Best Managed Think Tanks. The Index also ranked PSSI #29 on the list of “Think Tanks to Watch in 2019.”





Dr. Jana Robinson at the SSA Policy Forum, part of the annual Advanced Maui Optical and Surveillance (AMOS) Technologies Conference



Serbian Minister of European Integration, Jadranka Joksimović at the opening of the first Comprehensive Generic Training on Peace Operations (CGTPO) Course



The first Comprehensive Generic Training on Peace Operations (CGTPO) Course in Serbia



Dr. Václav Kobera, Director of Intelligent Transport Systems, Space Activities and R&D and Innovation Department at the Ministry of Transport delivering a guest lecture for the „Space Security in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” MA Course



David Venable, Vice President of Cyber Security at Masergy Communications delivering a public lecture on Cyber Warfare in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



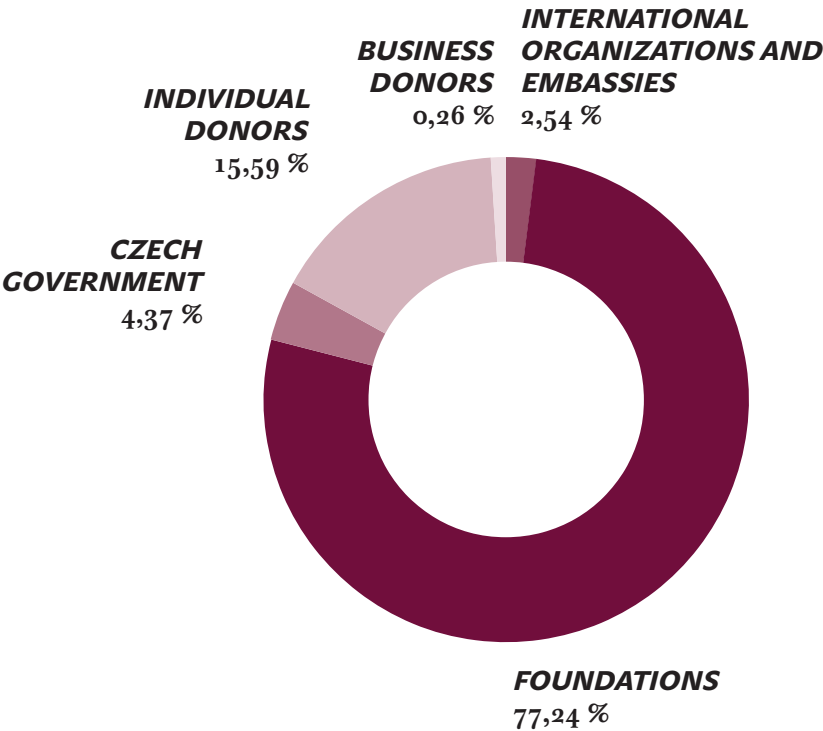
Cybersecurity Academy students during a workshop at the National Cyber and Information Security Agency

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

### FUNDING SOURCES

- Sarah Scaife Foundation
- Daniel Morgan Graduate School
- Diana Davis Spencer Foundation
- National Endowment for Democracy
- Beverly Babb Elliott
- Bawd Foundation
- The William H. Donner Foundation, Inc.
- James Q. Whitaker
- International Visegrad Fund
- Czech Development Agency
- Frank Madsen
- Open Society Foundation
- International Republican Institute
- NATO
- Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- NATO
- US Embassy in Prague
- KPMG
- British Embassy in Prague

## STRUCTURE OF REVENUES





## 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 21<sup>st</sup> century.

To advance its mission, PSSI conducts a broad range of activities under its Security Scholars Program, Space Security Program, Economic & Financial Threat Program, and Transnational Security Program. PSSI concentrates on identifying and analyzing geopolitical flashpoints and emerging threats regionally and globally and to propose sound and achievable policy options to deter and defeat hybrid warfare strategies and other forms of external aggression or extortion. The Institute is highly selective in the issue areas it covers and focuses on less developed, but high value, security portfolios.

### in memoriam

- Václav Havel, *International Advisory Board Member (2002–2011)*
- Oldřich Černý, *Co-Founder and Executive Director (2002–2012)*
- Elie Wiesel, *International Advisory Board Member (2002–2016)*

### international advisory board

- Dennis C. Blair
- R. James Woolsey
- Alexandr Vondra
- Timothy Garton Ash
- Michael Žantovský
- Adam Michnik
- Robert Pfaltzgraff
- H.R.H. Prince Hassan
- Karel Schwarzenberg
- Madeleine Albright
- Petr Kolář
- Jiří Schneider

### executive committee

- James Q. Whitaker
- Curtin Winsor, Jr.
- Jan Ruml
- Brian Kennedy
- Alejandro Chafuen
- C. Richard D'Amato
- Jonna Bianco

### co-founder and chairman

- Roger W. Robinson, Jr.

---

### CONTACT INFO:

Prague Security Studies Institute  
Pohořelec 6, 118 00 Prague 1 Czech Republic  
Tel./fax: +420 233 355 735 [pssi@pssi.cz](mailto:pssi@pssi.cz) [www.pssi.cz](http://www.pssi.cz)  
Queries about PSSI activities and projects can also be directed to  
Petr Lang ([lang@pssi.cz](mailto:lang@pssi.cz)), Program Director.

### Your Support is Appreciated

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

Tax deductible contributions from the US can be made to PSSI through the Institute's tax-exempt partner organization, PSSI Washington, 1002 Wisconsin Ave, Townhouse Levels 3 & 4, Washington, D.C. 20007. E-mail: [davenport@pssiwashington.org](mailto:davenport@pssiwashington.org), tel.: 12023420696

### Bank Account

Our direct PSSI Account is located at the Komerční banka, a.s.  
(Na Příkopě 33, 11407 Prague 1, Czech Republic):  
IBAN CZ7401000000512281850237 BIC/SWIFT Code: KOMBCZPP