



Prague Security
Studies Institute



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

MESSAGE FROM PSSI'S CHAIRMAN

Our Prague Security Studies Institute has had an eventful 15th year in operation. The Institute continues to be the leading think tank in the Czech Republic and among the top ten in the region (i.e. Central and Eastern Europe, and Russia), according to the University of Pennsylvania's 2016 annual survey of some 6,500 public policy groups worldwide.

Our Economic and Financial Threat Program has attracted significant attention among transatlantic policy-makers. Particularly our efforts to illuminate and define the desired capabilities of security-minded screening mechanisms for Chinese and Russian foreign direct investment (FDI) activities in the Czech Republic and the region more broadly. It is also the first such think tank program to pursue the establishment of such a screening mechanism for the U.S. and allied capital markets (as opposed to a concentration solely on trade).

In the space domain, PSSI has maintained a leading role in crafting creative new avenues to strengthen global space security and enhance transatlantic deterrence against counterspace predations – particularly those of China and Russia – including activities below the threshold traditionally requiring military or political responses. Our Transnational Security Program was particularly active in 2017 in Ukraine, Serbia and the Visegrad 4 countries in democracy building and countering malevolent behavior by certain regional powers.

On the academic side of the house, PSSI plans to launch two named Ph.D. scholarships over the next eighteen months in partnership with Charles University in Prague – one in the field of economic and financial warfare and the second in the space security portfolio. The scholarships will cover tuition and living expenses for two four-year Ph.D. candidates who would otherwise not be in position to pursue advanced degree work.

These are but a sampling of the Institute's educational and security policy activities, honed by a decade and a half of public policy experience. As in the past, we are immensely grateful for the support of our individual and institutional donors and the many friends of PSSI that have given of their time, talents, and energy.



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



Pavel Fischer, former Czech Ambassador to France and Presidential candidate, in a conversation with 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 with 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 2017 program were Pavel Fischer, former director of the STEM Institute for Public Opinion Survey and Analysis, and recent Presidential candidate; Brigadier General Ivo Střecha, of the Czech Military; Jan Král, Head of European Policies Coordination Department of the Government of the Czech Republic; Tomáš Szunyog, Director, Security Policy Department, Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Tom Karako, Director of the Missile Defense Project, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS); Mark Galeotti, Senior Researcher at the Institute of International Relations (IIR) in Prague; Václav Bartuška, Ambassador-At-Large for Energy Security, Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Benedikt Vangeli, Director of the Centre Against Terrorism and Hybrid Threats, Czech Ministry of Interior.

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 joint efforts with the University to create a new Masters 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.

New courses of study configured by PSSI were launched in the past few years: “Space Security in the 21st 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. In November 2017, PSSI organized a series of three lectures, in cooperation Charles University’s Institute of Political Studies, and the American Centre, discussing the EU’s space security policy. Among the lecturers were Dr. Martina Šmuclerová, an international law expert and formerly Czech delegate to the United Nations, the European Union, and the European Space Agency, and a distinguished lecturer at l’Institut d’Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po); Yukiko Okamura, an expert in Space Law and Policy, working for the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs; and Cenana al-Ekabi, a Research Fellow at the European Space Policy Institute in Vienna, Austria.

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 this 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 thirteenth consecutive year, PSSI, with the support of NATO’s Public Diplomacy Division 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 on July 9–15, 2017 in Měřín, Czech Republic. Each year, our NATO Summer School attracts some 25 highly qualified graduate level students from over a dozen 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. The agenda included topics such as strategic communication, NATO as a topic in national elections, Russian disinformation and cyberwarfare, economic and financial warfare, and space security.

This prestigious gathering continued a tradition of attracting prominent security policy practitioners such as: Jānis Kažociņš, National Security Adviser to the President of Latvia, and Secretary to the National Security Council of Latvia; Petr Luňák, Head of Engagement for NATO’s Public Diplomacy Division; Jan Havránek, Defence Counsellor for the Czech Delegation to NATO; Brian Whitmore, a Senior Russia Analyst for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty; Daniel Bagge, Director of Cyber Security Policies Department at the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC); Martin Michelot from EUROPEUM, Institute for European policy; Lilly Muller of the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs; and Jiří Schneider, former First Deputy Foreign Minister of the Czech Republic and currently the Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Central Europe.



Summer School students during a week-long crisis simulation of the Black Sea region

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL THREAT PROGRAM

The national security dimensions of global economic and financial (E&F) relations are increasingly prevalent in a progressively 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 academics, industry representatives, and non-governmental organizations to identify various modalities of E&F statecraft and warfare by 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 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 domain 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 some six years. (www.rwradvisory.com/services/inteltrak).

COMPARING THE CZECH AND POLISH APPROACHES TO CHINA

Given the rapid expansion of Chinese investments in the Visegrad States, PSSI decided in August 2017 to launch a new project, in partnership with the Centre for International Relations (CSM) and with the support of the Czech-Polish Forum at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, with the goal of shedding light on the development of Sino-Czech and Sino-Polish economic relations. Our research efforts highlighted similar patterns of behavior by Chinese state-owned enterprises in seeking to secure critical infrastructure projects and oth-



Yukiko Okumura from U.N. Office for Outer Space Affairs, a guest lecturer for the “Space Security in the 21st Century” MA Course

er strategic economic assets. PSSI benefited from numerous conversations with diplomats, high-level government officials, and representatives of academia and the think-tank community which were reflected in the project’s findings.

The project was capped by a publication of a comprehensive study titled “Comparing the Czech and Polish Approaches to China: Assessing both Challenges and Opportunities from a Security-Minded Perspective.” Moreover, both PSSI and CIR prepared a series of blogs focusing on the specifics of Czech-Chinese and Polish-Chinese economic relations.

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 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 three 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.



International conference "Space Security: Issues for the New U.S. Administration"

ECONOMIC WARFARE COURSE AT CHARLES UNIVERSITY

Launched in 2015, the PSSI-co-sponsored "Economic Warfare" course at Charles University is designed to introduce students to the economic foundations of a nation's 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 advance agendas inconsistent with democratic principles and values during both war and peacetime (e.g. nation-capturing, economic dislocation, extortion etc.). It also provides an historical context and the ways in which economic warfare as a policy tool has evolved over time.

SPACE SECURITY PROGRAM

Space infrastructure is essential for the proper functioning of U.S. and European societies, economies, and security architectures. Should access to, and use of, space be compromised, particularly by deliberate actions of other actors, the damage could be detrimental to our day-to-day lives. Accordingly, PSSI's Space Security Program, launched in 2010, has been especially active in identifying key risks and threats to space activities and creative deterrence and response options for decision-makers. A centerpiece of the program is its Space Security Conference Series that has focused on strengthening space security through partnerships. The program likewise embodies an academic dimension in the form of an academic course entitled "Space Security in the 21st Century" under the auspices of Charles University's Master's Degree Program in International Security Studies, co-sponsored by PSSI.

SPACE SECURITY CONFERENCE SERIES

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



PSSI's Space Security Program Director, Jana Robinson and Todd Harrison, Director of Aerospace Security Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies at the international conference "Space Security: Issues for the New U.S. Administration."

place (two in Europe, one in Japan, and one in the U.S.) that brought together high-level government, private sector executives, and NGO policy practitioners as well as other experts from the space communities of Europe, the U.S. and Japan.

The first event, entitled, "Space Security through the Transatlantic Partnership" was held in June 2011 in Prague. The conference was jointly organized with the European Space Policy Institute (the European Space Agency's sole think tank). In October 2013, PSSI convened its second conference in Tokyo under the auspices and sponsorship of the Prime Minister's Office of National Space Policy, entitled, "Strengthening Space Security through a Trilateral U.S. – Europe – Japan Partnership."

PSSI held the third conference, entitled "Advancing the Trilateral Europe-U.S.-Japan Space Security Partnership," in collaboration with the Secure World Foundation in Prague on June 5–7, 2016. The event, attended by more than one hundred experts from Europe, the U.S. and Japan, sought to address the intersection of space security and terrestrial geopolitics. It emphasized that the security of this domain stands equal with other urgent national and international security concerns. The conference report is available on our website.

The fourth gathering in Washington, DC, entitled "Space Security: Issues for the New U.S. Administration," was

held March 21–22, 2017, and was co-organized with the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). The event, attended by over 200 participants, explored some of the most prominent risks currently facing the Trump Administration with regard to the outer space domain, including: the implications of growing threats to a safe and secure space environment, escalation and deterrence dynamics in space, and the readiness of allied forces for conflicts that extend into the space domain.

The featured speakers and agenda are available on PSSI's website, but included senior representatives from the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), the U.S. Air Force Space Command, La Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique (FRS), the European Space Agency (EAS), the United States Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM), the Secure World Foundation (SWF), the Space Policy Institute from George Washington University, as well as high-level officials from the US, Japanese, and French governments. The Institute plans to continue this valuable Conference Series in the period ahead.

SPACE SECURITY COURSE AT CHARLES UNIVERSITY

This course, since its inception in 2015, seeks to educate Charles University graduate students on the relatively underdeveloped space security portfolio including its



PSSI's Chairman and Co-founder, Roger W. Robinson, Jr., delivering opening remarks at the international conference "Space Security: Issues for the New U.S. Administration"

legal and legislative aspects. 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 of the George Washington University, the EU's European External Action Service (EEAS), Aerospace Corporation, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the U.S. Department of Defence, Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia and the Czech Republic; and the European Commission.

Notable speakers have included, Peter Pindják from the UN Department of the Slovak Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs; Agnieszka Lukaszczyk, an Officer at the Space Data for Societal Challenges and Growth Unit at the European Commission's (EC) Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROWTH); and Martina Šmuclerová, a Czech Foreign Ministry diplomat, who is a international space law expert and senior lecturer at Institut d'études politiques de Paris.

ENERGY SECURITY PROGRAM

PSSI has long been concerned about the Kremlin's predations in the energy sectors of Central and East European countries, and the undue level of gas dependency on Russia of a number of these post-communist states. The Nord Stream 2 pipeline project is just one of several examples of Moscow seeking to reverse the progress being made to reduce such inordinate European gas dependencies, as mandated by the EU's Third Energy Package. Russia's annexation of what some have estimated to be as much as \$1 trillion USD in Crimean offshore oil and gas reserves, is another emerging dilemma that the Institute is carefully studying and reporting on.

ENERGY SECURITY ACADEMY

PSSI's Energy Security Academy was established in 2012 in cooperation with Masaryk University in Brno. This highly selective and rigorous course aims to provide an elite group of seventeen students, both Czech and international, with a comprehensive introduction to this emerging portfolio in security studies. In 2017, the course entitled, "Innovative Technologies Advancing Energy Security" was con-



C. Robert Kehler, Gen (USAF, ret.) Former Commander, U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) and Thomas Karako, Senior Fellow and Director, Missile Defense Project, Center for Strategic and International Studies at the international conference "Space Security: Issues for the New U.S. Administration."

vened from February 13–17, 2017. Lecture topics included energy efficiency, smart grids, energy storage, electromobility, nuclear energy and renewable sources of energy. At present, Masaryk University is the only Czech University offering a graduate degree program in energy security. The program launched its English-language curriculum in September 2014. PSSI plans to continue partnering with Masaryk University as it expands its educational offerings.

Notable lecturers included: Filip Černocho and Lukáš Lehotský, Lecturers on Energy Security Studies at the Masaryk University; Tomáš Ivančík, of Dassault Systèmes; Václav Trejbal from the Confederation of Industry; Václav Janoušek from the ČEZ Group; former Minister of the Environment Martin Bursík; Václav Bartuška, Ambassador-At-Large for Energy Security at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Sonja Munnix from the Netherlands Enterprise Agency; and Milan Smrž, President of Eurosolar Czech Republic.

THE ENERGY MARKET IN CENTRAL EUROPE

On January 17, 2017, PSSI took part in an expert seminar in Bratislava focusing on energy security in the Visegrad region. Entitled "Energy Market in Central Europe – New Opportunities, New Challenges," the seminar was led by the Jagiellonian Club in participation with

PSSI. The seminar consisted of two panels covering energy security-related issues, such as the stance of V4 countries towards gas cooperation in the EU and with Russia. Participants included experts from the Polish Jagiellonian Club, the European University Institute, the Slovak Globsec Policy Institute, and the Századvég Foundation from Hungary.

In addition, PSSI hosted a lecture by Ilya Zaslavskiy, a research expert at the Free Russia Foundation. The event examined the challenges posed by Nord Stream II to the political, energy and security interests of the EU and its nearby neighbors.



Students of PSSI's Energy Security Academy 2017

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 and capabilities of the traditional political-military agenda that effectively dominated 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 often driven by a sizeable economic and financial component.

CIVIL SOCIETY AS AN IMPORTANT PARTNER OF THE POLICE AND CITIZENS

This project is supported by the Czech Ministry of the Interior and is dedicated to improving the interactions between the population and law enforcement by enhancing community policing, confronting the issue of human trafficking, and supporting Ukrainian police reform.

Several visits to Ukraine took place within the framework of the project.

Between May 22 and June 3, 2017, PSSI's experts participated in a trip to Lviv, Ternopil, and Chortkiv. The main themes were the prevention of human trafficking and community policing. The delegation also introduced crime mapping and held several roundtables discussing its potential uses.

Among the Czech experts in the delegation were Markéta Hronková from La Strada (expert on human trafficking), Ondřej Skalník from Otevřená společnost (an expert on crime mapping) and Soňa Svobodová from the Police Presidium (an expert on community policing).

In August, a delegation traveled to Odessa and Chornomorsk. The main issues addressed during the visit were child protection (especially in the context of human trafficking and child pornography), community policing, and the role of security forces in providing social services.

A mission to the Zakarpattya region took place between October 30 and November 3, 2017. The main focus of the mission was also child protection and identification of the victims of sexual as well as domestic violence. Situations in which the children themselves become the perpetrators of crimes were also addressed.

A visit by a Ukrainian NGO and academic delegation to the Czech Republic took place in November 2017. The central topic of the visit was sharing experiences concerning cooperation among non-government organizations and police. The



Conclusion of one of the workshops conducted in Ukraine in the framework of the "Civil Society as an Important Partner of the Police and Citizens" project

delegation visited the Municipal Police in Brno, the Criminal Police Office and the Police Presidium in Prague, as well as the Social and Rehabilitation Center in Klichov. A presentation of social non-governmental projects also took place. An important part of the visit was a roundtable at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Prague.

FIFTEEN YEARS OF CZECH PRESENCE IN CIVILIAN MISSIONS

In June 2017, PSSI joined forces with the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the first involvement of the Czech Republic in civilian missions of the EU and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, OSCE. The project provided an overview of Czech involvement in these missions in this period, to create awareness about their positive impact and attract new expert participants. The main event of this project, a one-day conference, was held at the MFA in Prague on June 19, 2017. Among the speakers were Kenneth Deane (Civilian Operations Commander, European External Action Service, EEAS), Claes Hjelmer (Talent Management Section, OSCE), Petr Gajdušek (State Secretary, Czech MFA), and Jaroslava Novotná (former EULEX Head of the Executive Section).

The initiative stemmed from the MFA's readiness to support a higher level of involvement of the Czech Republic in

tackling crisis situations in both Europe's proximal and more distant neighborhoods. Within the framework of this project, PSSI has built on its multi-year experience training Czech civilian experts within its Interagency Civilian-Military Training Program.

COOPERATION BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENTS IN EAP COUNTRIES

On June 7, 2017, PSSI hosted a series of workshops and lectures in Kharkiv, Ukraine, which discussed the state of civil societies and their cooperation with the public sector in Ukraine, and other East European states, such as Georgia, and Moldova. The project was supported by the The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum. The roundtables and workshops addressed the nature of the challenges of civil societies in these states and how they can be overcome, via building a healthy and dynamic democracy.

Among the speakers were: Anna Bulakh, from the International Center for Defense and Security; Veronika Divišová from Sourcefabric; Andrius Romanovskis, from META Advisory; Natasha Kurdiukova of Nakipelo and Kharkiv Crises Infocenter; Danu Marin, from the Foreign Policy Association; and Ketevan Emukhvari of the Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies. For more information, see PSSI's published report.



Participants of the conference "Fifteen Years of Czech Presence in Civilian Missions."

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 ISAC Fund, a Serbian 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 will primarily address necessary adjustments of 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 system for deploying civilian experts and for overseeing the realization of the project. Regarding the establishment of a training centre, PSSI will draw on its know-how gained through organizing the Interagency Civilian-Military Training program in

cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2012.

On May 16–17, 2017, PSSI alongside 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 their Serbian counterparts in the practical aspects of increasing their civilian crisis management capabilities.



One of the workshops organized in Kharkiv, Ukraine as a part of the “Cooperation between Civil Society and Governments in EAP Countries” project

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 within 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 endeavours to fragment and weaken European unity by actively challenging the 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 and energy transmission 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.

RAISING AWARENESS PROGRAM

This project, supported by the National Endowment for Democracy, aimed to increase awareness of the ever-increasing Russian soft power threat in Central Europe, mainly focusing on the V4 nations of Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, and Hungary. PSSI, along with its regional partners — the Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy (CEID) in Hungary, the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (SFPA) of Slovakia, and the Centre for International Relations Foundation (CIR) in Poland — performed research on Russian economic and financial leverage, political and cultural manipulation, and disinformation tools.



Czech officials addressing their Serbian counterparts during the conference “Civilians in Multilateral Missions.”

This project highlighted the variety of ways in which Russia has been seeking to disrupt democratic transitions in Central Europe, and draw comparisons between Russia’s strategies for each V4 country. Such research resulted in several video interviews with experts, including: Ivana Smoleňová and Petr Lang from PSSI; Dušan Fischer and Alexander Duleba from SFPa; Andras Deak and Daniel Bartha from CEID; and Antoni Wierzejski and Andrzej Turkowski from CIR. Other activities included several events organized in capitals and cities throughout the V4 region.

Designed to illuminate the Kremlin’s ploys and tactics, and compare different approaches it employed for each country, speakers concentrated on cultural front organizations, the malevolent activities of the Russian embassies in the V4, and Russian media and propaganda. This research and partnership culminated in a final publication, “United We Stand, Divided We Fall: the Kremlin’s Leverage in the Visegrad Countries,” which was presented and discussed at a roundtable in Prague, in November 2017.

CZECH ELECTIONS IN THE ERA OF DISINFORMATION

This initiative sought to discern the techniques, modalities, and potency of various disinformation campaigns — pro-Kremlin or otherwise —

and their proliferation during the Czech Parliamentary and Presidential 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 both the Parliamentary and Presidential Elections and their monitoring can be found on PSSI’s website.

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 2017, PSSI contributed to the publication “Information Warfare in the Internet: Countering Pro-Kremlin Disinformation in the CEE



Petr Kolář, former Czech Ambassador to Russia and US (left) at the roundtable "United We Stand, Divided We Fall: the Kremlin's Leverage in the Visegrad Countries."

Countries," which offers various policy recommendations. They included: teaching children to distinguish fake news from fact-based news; naming and shaming the authors of disinformation stories; regular meetings between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior and Defence with journalists to expose disinformation strategies used against these and other government offices; and raising public awareness via the public media about pro-Kremlin disinformation techniques.

The report was prepared by six think tanks representing the Czech Republic (Prague Security Studies Institute), Hungary (Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy), Moldova (Asociatia Presei Independente), Poland (Centre for International Relations), Slovakia (Slovak Foreign Policy Association), and Ukraine (Stopfake.org Ukraine) within a project framework which was in part financed by the International Visegrad Fund, and led by the Centre for International Relations.

In May, 2017, PSSI's Ivana Smoleňová was among the speakers at the prestigious Lennart Meri Conference in Tallin, Estonia. The panel "Warfare in the Information Space" was moderated by Edward Lucas, Senior Vice-President of the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA) and senior editor at The Economist. Among the other panelists were: Keir Giles, Associate Fellow, Russia and Eurasia Programme, Chatham House;

Gerhard Conrad, Director of the EU's Intelligence and Situation Centre; and Taimar Peterkop, Director-General of the Information System Authority, Estonia.

ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE V4 AND RUSSIA: BEFORE AND AFTER UKRAINE

The Russian annexation of Crimea and its involvement in the war in Eastern Ukraine, which increased tensions between the West and Russia, represented a major shift in relations and had a significant impact on the mutual economic ties and cooperation between the Visegrad countries and Russia.

In light of these circumstances, PSSI aimed, together with partners from the Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy (CEID), the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (SFPA), and the Centre for Polish-Russian Dialogue and Understanding (CPRDiP), to launch a comprehensive research project on the state of economic relations between Russia and the individual Visegrad countries.

Four roundtables were organized in the V4 capitals in the course of the project. The roundtables gathered researchers from the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary who presented their findings to local policymakers, journalists and other guests. This event presented an opportunity for the exchange of views concerning Russian activities in V4 states.



Regional experts taking part in one of the roundtables of the “Economic Relations between V4 and Russia: before and after Ukraine” project.

Among the subjects were the impact of sanctions on the V4 economies, the narratives of propaganda outlets, and counter-measures that should be adopted.

A series of blogs produced by the project partners were published, including a final publication, entitled “Harsh Expectations Versus a Modest Reality: Economic Relations Between the Visegrad Countries and Russia Surrounding the Ukrainian Crisis.” It analyzed the current situation, shed light on the development of economic relations between the individual Visegrad countries and Russia prior to the conflict in Ukraine, and highlighted changes and continuities following the imposition of the sanctions regime.

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 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 alumni events and gatherings annually to facilitate career-related exchanges and informal interactions among our present students and distinguished alumni.



PSSI Summer School Students

PSSI WASHINGTON

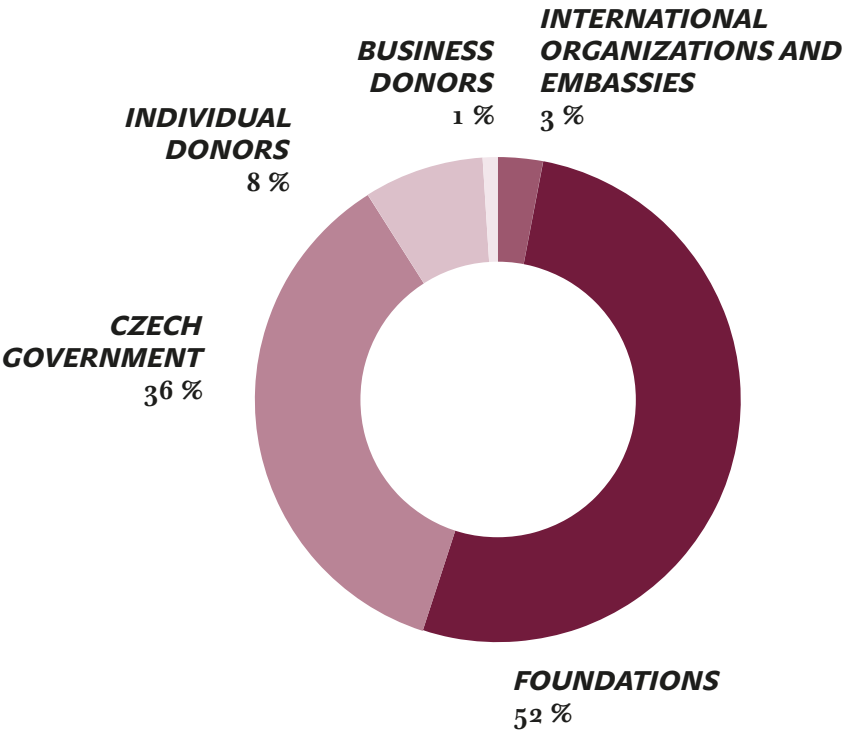
In the fall of 2006, the Prague Security Studies Institute Washington (PSSI Washington) was established in Washington, DC. Its primary mission is to strengthen American understanding of the security challenges facing Central and Eastern Europe, and other post-communist states and enrich the public policy 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 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, D.C. and elsewhere.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

FUNDING SOURCES

- Sarah Scaife Foundation
- Diana Davis Spencer Foundation
- Donner Foundation
- Bawd Foundation
- National Endowment for Democracy
- Czech Ministry of Interior
- James Q. Whitaker
- Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Czech Development Agency
- Open Society Foundation
- Frank Madsen
- Foundation for Strategic Research
- Eastern Partnership fo Civil Society Forum
- Harris Corporation
- Jackson Family
- European Space Agency
- US Embassy in Prague
- Airbus
- International Visegrad Fund
- Embassy of the Nerherlands

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 21st century.

To advance its mission, PSSI conducts a broad range of activities under its Security Scholars Program, Space Security Program, Economic & Financial Threat Program, Energy Security 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 www.pssi.cz
Queries about PSSI activities and projects can also be directed to
Petr Lang (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, 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