CCDCOE

WMGIC
GLOBAL INNOVATION CHALLENGE

WILLIAM & MARY
CHARTERED 1693

2024
WMGIC X NATO
COUNTERING DISINFORMATION CHALLENGE

G. Hage, T. Lawrence, S. LoBue, E. Marcus, P. Pernik, S. Workinger (Eds.)

NATO COOPERATIVE CYBER DEFENCE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

The NATO CCDCOE is a NATO-accredited knowledge hub offering a unique interdisciplinary approach to the most relevant issues in cyber defence. The heart of the CCDCOE is a diverse group of international experts from the military, government, academia and industry, currently representing 39 nations. The CCDCOE maintains its position as an internationally recognised cyber defence hub, a premier source of subject-matter expertise and a fundamental resource in the strategic, legal, operational and technical aspects of cyber defence. The Centre offers thought leadership on the cutting edge of all aspects of cyber defence and provides a 360-degree view of the sector. The Centre encourages and supports the process of mainstreaming cybersecurity into NATO and national governance and capability, within its closely connected focus areas of technology, strategy, operations and law. The Tallinn Manual, prepared at the invitation of the CCDCOE, is the most comprehensive guide for policy advisers and legal experts on how international law applies to cyber operations carried out between and against states and non-state actors.

Since 2010, the Centre has organised Locked Shields, the biggest and most complex technical live-fire cyber defence challenge in the world. Each year, Locked Shields allows cybersecurity experts to enhance their skills in defending national IT systems and critical infrastructure under real-time attacks. The focus is on realistic scenarios, cutting-edge technologies and simulating the entire complexity of a massive cyber incident, including strategic decision-making and legal and communication aspects. The CCDCOE hosts the International Conference on Cyber Conflict, CyCon, a unique annual event in Tallinn, bringing together key experts and decisionmakers from the global cyber defence community. The conference, which has taken place in Tallinn since 2009, attracts more than 600 participants each spring. The CCDCOE is responsible for identifying and coordinating education and training solutions in the field of cyber defence operations for all NATO bodies across the Alliance. NATO-accredited centres of excellence are not part of the NATO Command Structure.

WILLIAM & MARY

William & Mary, in Williamsburg, Virginia, carries on an educational tradition that traces back more than three centuries. As the second-oldest institution of higher education in the United States, William & Mary was founded by King William III and Queen Mary II of England as an American overseas campus representing the British Crown. Known as the alma mater of globally renowned historical figures such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe and John Marshall, William & Mary today is a leading force for international education and training ground for international specialists around the world. William & Mary boats more than 40 undergraduate programs and more than 40 graduate and professional degree programs, attracting students from 50 states and more than 60 foreign countries.

WILLIAM & MARY WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

The mission of the William & Mary Whole of Government Center of Excellence is to train a new generation of future leaders who have hands-on, practical experience working across the different organisational cultures. These leaders must harmonise to facilitate true interagency collaboration— long before finding themselves forced to deal with such issues during a foreign deployment or national emergency. The work of the Center is primarily focused on training, education, and research related to interagency collaboration, complex national security challenges, and other public policy problems for mid-career policy professionals and military officers. The Center also brings together leaders from all levels of government and the military for symposia, discussions, and projects to promote creative, collaborative solutions to emerging issues.

WILLIAM & MARY GLOBAL INNOVATION CHALLENGE

The William & Mary Global Innovation Challenge (WMGIC) encourages and facilitates interdisciplinary collaboration and applied learning opportunities among students, policymakers, practitioners, and researchers by bringing innovative and sustainable perspectives to solve complex global issues. Established in 2017, WMGIC provides undergraduate students worldwide a platform for open collaboration and discussion with peers, faculty, and knowledgeable professionals to analyse and create sustainable and scalable solutions to challenges ranging from international and sustainable development to cybersecurity. The competition increases students' knowledge of and experience with the case study, design thinking, holistic sustainability, innovative processes, and policy entrepreneurship. Teams of three to five work with mentors and present proposals to industry judges. Top teams are chosen as finalists, give public presentations, and receive cash prizes. WMGIC is a recognised student organisation at William & Mary and featured by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, International Conference on Sustainable Development, and NATO Allied Command Transformation. WMGIC has received support from the Whole of Government Center of Excellence and the Reves Center for International Studies at William & Mary. To learn more about this Challenge or engage with us, contact wgc@wm.edu.

Disclaimer

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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

The NATO Alliance and Partner Nations confront a diverse range of challenges to international security, stability, and peace from a variety of sources. Many of these threats go unnoticed, invisible but prevalent throughout the world. Disinformation has risked the safety of individuals, nations, and the international community, spreading rapidly and largely unrecognized. As such, preventing its proliferation and mitigating its effects requires the efforts of individuals from all spheres of society to utilize their diverse tools and experiences.

NATO Headquarters has again partnered with William & Mary's Global Innovation Challenge (WMGIC) for the third year in a row, challenging undergraduate students from across the Alliance and Partner Nations to tackle the issue of disinformation in seven unique fields.

The WMGIC x NATO Countering Disinformation Challenge 2024 brought undergraduate students, academics, and industry professionals together to develop innovative solutions to pressing disinformation challenges. Organized into a record breaking 17 streams, teams confronted disinformation in Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Russia-Ukraine War, Public Health, Sexism and Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Terrorism, and Human Rights. Over the course of seven hours, teams devised solutions, advised by expert mentors in their selected topic. Each team then presented their solutions to a panel of judges who rated their proposals on the following criteria: feasibility and effectiveness, creativity, privacy, sustainability, and fiscal pragmatism. The list of distinguished mentors and judges is contained here within.

Seventeen winning teams were selected based on their innovative, tangible, and sustainable recommendations to NATO HQ. However, as all teams demonstrated their ability to offer creative and practical advice to NATO HQ, every team's pitch is contained in this publication. Their solutions show promise for the next generation of problem solvers and may prove applicable in current projects against disinformation. Therefore, we ask that if you include any team's solution in your work you attribute it to the team that produced it. We feel their solutions are worthy of publication, and are excited by the influence they may have on real-world approaches to disinformation.

We would like to thank our principle supporters, William & Mary DisInfo Lab, the Whole of Government Center of Excellence (WGC), and the Reves Center for International Studies.

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Shradha Dinesh	Brennen Michael	Sophie Workinger
Dorothy Gao	Terra Stearns	George Hage
Aaraj Vij	Kiran Rachamallu	

FOREWORD

In an age defined by the rapid flow of information, the power of truth has never been more critical — or more contested. Today, foreign state and non-state actors use information manipulation and interference as a tool to manipulate perceptions, divide societies, and undermine trust in institutions.

Information threats are intentional, harmful, manipulative and coordinated activities–including information manipulation and interference by foreign actors and disinformation spread through traditional and social media. Information threats may constitute a national security threat. The urgency to pre-empt and counter these information threats is not just a governmental responsibility but a call to action for all segments of society, from civil institutions to individuals.

The 2024 William & Mary Global Information Challenge epitomizes this collective effort, bringing together the brightest young minds to confront one of the most pressing challenges of our time: the peril of disinformation. Through collaboration and ingenuity, the students participating in this challenge have crafted solutions that, even within the constraints of limited time, reflect creativity, resilience, and a profound commitment to addressing this existential threat to democratic societies.

The ideas within this booklet are a testament to the power of youth-driven innovation. They represent not only a response to the immediate dangers posed by disinformation but also a foundation upon which more comprehensive strategies can be built. As Russia's aggression against Ukraine demonstrates, information threats are not just a by-product of conflict but a calculated weapon aimed at destabilizing societies. Countering this threat requires a multifaceted, whole-of-society approach that prioritizes education, proactive engagement, and a shared commitment to resilience.

To the participants of WMGIC and young people everywhere: your role in this battle cannot be overstated. We are at a pivotal moment in history where your voice, your ideas, and your actions can shape the trajectory of our collective future. Educate yourselves and those around you. Make it harder for those who manipulate information for their own gains, information we critically rely upon in our daily lives to take the right decisions. Your efforts are vital in safeguarding not only your communities but also the principles of freedom and democracy.

On behalf of all those invested in this mission, I extend my gratitude and admiration to the WMGIC participants for their dedication and creativity. Your work is inspiring and reminds us all that the solutions to our most complex problems often lie in the hands of those bold enough to tackle them head-on. I encourage you to continue this journey, to seek opportunities in organizations such as NATO, and to remain unwavering in your commitment to facts, truth and security. The challenges are immense, but so is the potential of your generation.

Together, we can build a more informed, resilient, and united society.

Marie-Doha Besancenot
Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy, NATO HQ

PART I:
PATRICIPANTS AND PARTNERS

116 TEAMS

FROM 130+ UNIVERSITIES

400+ STUDENTS

FROM 30 COUNTRIES

PARTICIPATING UNIVERSITIES

American College of Greece (Greece)
American University (United States of America)
Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University (Türkiye)
Ankara University (Türkiye)
Ataturk University (Türkiye)
Bandırma Onyedi Eylül University (Türkiye)
Bates College (United States of America)
Bilkent University (Türkiye)
Boğaziçi University (Türkiye)
Bursa Uludağ University (Türkiye)
California State University Maritime Academy (United States of America)
Catholic University of the Sacred Heart (Italy)
Charles University (Czechia)
Colegiul Național Roman Vodă (Romania)
College of Europe (Belgium)
Corvinus University of Budapest (Hungary)
Çukurova University (Türkiye)
Dokuz Eylül University (Türkiye)
Epoka University (Albania)
Eskisehir Technical University (Türkiye)
George Mason University (United States of America)
George Washington University (United States of America)
Georgia Gwinnett College (United States of America)
Georgia Institute of Technology (United States of America)
Hacettepe University (Türkiye)
Hamilton College (United States of America)
Hampden-Syndey College (United States of America)
Harran University (Türkiye)
I. K. Karpenko-Karyi Kyiv National University of Theatre, Cinema and
Television (Ukraine)
İbn Haldun University (Türkiye)
İstanbul Medipol University (Türkiye)
İstinye Üniversitesi (Türkiye)
Izmir University Of Economics (Türkiye)
Jagiellonian University (Poland)
James Madison University (United States of America)
Kadir Has University (Türkiye)
Karazin Kharkiv National University (Ukraine)
King's College London (United Kingdom)

PARTICIPATING UNIVERSITIES

Kolegji Universitar Qiriazi (Albania)
KU Leuven (Belgium)
Leiden University (Netherlands)
Ludovika University of Public Service (Hungary)
Maastricht University (Netherlands)
Mälardalen University (Sweden)
Manisa Celal Bayar University (Türkiye)
Marmara University (Türkiye)
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (United States of America)
Mersin University (Türkiye)
Middle East Technical University (Türkiye)
Moldova State University (Moldova)
Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania)
National & Kapodistrian University of Athens (Greece)
National School of Cognitique (France)
National University "Odesa Law Academy" (Ukraine)
National University of Bioresources and Nature Management (Ukraine)
National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (Ukraine)
Norwich University (United States of America)
Ondokuz Mayıs University (Türkiye)
Özyeğin University (Türkiye)
Pamukkale University (Türkiye)
Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences (Greece)
Purdue University (United States of America)
Sabanci University (Türkiye)
Saint Joseph's University (United States of America)
San Jose State University (United States of America)
Sapienza University (Spain)
Sciences Po Bordeaux (France)
Sciences Po Paris (France)
Smith College (United States of America)
Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski (Bulgaria)
Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje (North Macedonia)
State University of Moldova (Moldova)
Stockton University (United States of America)
Swedish Defence University (Sweden)
Tallinn University (Estonia)
Tallinn University of Technology (Estonia)

PARTICIPATING UNIVERSITIES

Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (Ukraine)
TED University (Türkiye)
Texas Southmost College (United States of America)
The American College of Greece (Greece)
TOBB University of Economics and Technology (Türkiye)
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University of Łódź (Poland)
University of Macedonia (Greece)
University of Namur (Belgium)
University of New York Tirana (Albania)
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (United States of America)
University of Northern Georgia (United States of America)
University of Padua (Italy)
University of Pavia (Italy)
University of Pittsburgh (United States of America)
University of Silesia in Katowice (Poland)
University of St. Thomas (United States of America)
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University of Tartu (Estonia)
University of Texas at Austin (United States of America)
University of the People (Croatia and North Macedonia)
University of Trento (Italy)
University of Verona (Italy)
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PART II:
AGENDA AND CASE STUDY

WMGIC x NATO Disinformation Challenge Event Schedule
1 November 2024

8:00–8:30 a.m. EST   **Opening Ceremony**

Marie-Doha Besancenot
Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy, NATO

Dylan Gurl
Global Innovation Challenge (WMGIC)

Emily Tchorz
Global Innovation Challenge (WMGIC)

Sofia LoBue
Global Innovation Challenge (WMGIC)

Sarah Wozniak
DisinfoLab

Elizabeth Marcus
Global Innovation Challenge (WMGIC)

Keynote Address - Ambassador Douglas E. Lute (ret.)
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army, Retired,
Former U.S. Ambassador to NATO

8:30–11:00 a.m. EST   **Mentoring Session**
The livestream will be paused during this time period and will resume for the closing ceremony. Participants, judges, and mentors should refer to the event packet for the appropriate links.

11:05 a.m. EST   **Proposal Submission Deadline**

11:20–12:40 p.m. EST   **Teams Deliver Presentations**
The livestream will be paused during this time period and will resume for the Closing Ceremony. Participants, judges, and mentors should refer to the event packet for the appropriate links.

12:40–1:00 p.m. EST   **Judging**
The livestream will be paused and will resume for the Closing Ceremony.

1:15–2:00 p.m. EST   **Closing Ceremony**
Elisabeth Nielsen
Global Innovation Challenge (WMGIC)

Dr. Teresa Longo
Associate Provost for International Affairs,
Executive Director of the Reves Center for International Studies, William & Mary

George Hage
Global Innovation Challenge (WMGIC)

CASE DOCUMENT FOR UNDERGRADUATE TEAMS, MENTORS, AND JUDGES

OVERVIEW

The WMGIC x NATO HQ Countering Disinformation Challenge consists of six unique case topics. Each stream outlines a disinformation topic and challenge statement that you will seek to answer within the competition parameters and from the vantage point and resources of NATO.

Teams will meet with two different mentors for 15 minutes each following the opening ceremony. Mentors are academic, industry, and NATO professionals with a wealth of knowledge and experience. Draw on their expertise and ask them questions as you see fit. Remember, your time with them is limited, so take advantage of it.

Solutions will be presented by each team via a three-minute verbal presentation and evaluated by a panel of professional judges from within the field of disinformation. Presentations will be judged by criteria listed within the case document. One winning team will be chosen from each of the streams to give a three-minute presentation at the closing ceremony and recieve a cash prize. Winning teams are invited to produce a one-page infographic about their solutions. Additionally, competitors have the opportunity for their solutions to be published following the competition. Throughout the competition, all participants are encouraged to network with judges and mentors.

CASE DOCUMENT FOR UNDERGRADUATE TEAMS, MENTORS, AND JUDGES

RULES AND PARAMETERS

Teams must design a plan of action that:

A) NATO could use considering its capability and administrative constraints, and

B) has the goal of project consultation and implementation within a calendar year (12 months), and

C) should be at least feasible beyond the first year, and preferably scalable. Plans of action should be something that NATO can take forward.

The cases introduced below will contain background information, but additional preparatory research is permitted and recommended.

Teams may not enlist the assistance of anyone on the WMGIC team, judging panel, faculty advisors, friends, or from any contact whose ideas are not publicly available (i.e., published online), other than their assigned team mentors.

Teams have from the beginning of mentoring sessions (8:30 am EST) to the deadline (11:00 am EST) to work on their project and create all deliverables.

CASE DOCUMENT FOR UNDERGRADUATE TEAMS, MENTORS, AND JUDGES

DELIVERABLES

Submit a five-slide maximum PowerPoint/PDF slide deck including a slide with a 150-word project summary. Please submit the presentation by 11:05 am EST.

Present a three-minute (maximum) PowerPoint presentation to the judges, including action item(s), outputs, potential NATO HQ implementation, and the 150-word project summary slide.

Participate in a three-minute Q&A session with the judging panel.

The winners of each stream will present their three-minute pitch in front of high-level guests, other teams, and spectators during the Closing Ceremony. This should be the exact same presentation given previously to the judges. After the competition, winners are invited to produce a one-page infographic about their solutions that may be used in the post event book and by NATO.

WMGIC'S SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO BEST UTILIZE MENTORING TIME

As part of the WMGIC x NATO HQ Countering Disinformation Challenge, you will meet with two mentors for 15 minutes each. These mentors are experts in the field of national security and disinformation and can help you gain context into the real world. Mentors are there to enhance your project, give you context into the real world, and utilize their expertise to help you. Being prepared for mentors and effectively utilizing their guidance and knowledge can help turn a project from great to exceptional.

CASE DOCUMENT FOR UNDERGRADUATE TEAMS, MENTORS, AND JUDGES

WMGIC'S SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO BEST UTILISE MENTORING TIME

Once you receive the event packet, please take a look at the names of your mentors. Their positions and biographies are all on our website, so take some time to look over this information so you know their areas of expertise and how they can best help you. You have a limited time with mentors, so you do not want to spend more time than necessary having the mentors giving you their background.

On the day of the competition, a few minutes before your mentor enters the room, communicate with your teammates to form a list of questions that you may have, things that you are worried about, or how mentors can use their expertise to help you. It can also be helpful to ask mentors about how they can use their expertise to help you. We recommend that you spend no more than five minutes summarizing your approach. You should spend the bulk of your time asking questions and getting input on specific areas of your project.

If you are stuck on how to kickstart the conversation, the WMGIC team has come up with a list of potential questions to ask mentors.

- After listening to our idea, are we on the right track?
- We have a few ideas, can you help us narrow down which one we should focus on?
- We are stuck on [x], can you help us brainstorm a solution?
- How can we best tell our story and articulate why our idea is the best?
- What are some holes in our project or things we have not considered?
- Are there any parts of our project that are unrealistic in the real world?

If you believe that your time is better spent talking amongst your teammates internally or working on your outputs, you can ask the mentor to listen in and have them interrupt when necessary. If you truly believe that having a mentor in the room is not of added value, you can kindly tell them that while you appreciate their time, they can head back to the main zoom room while you research, write, or plan amongst your team.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Feasibility & Effectiveness: (1-5)
Is it a potentially effective solution to address the problem? Does the plan follow the rules and regulations of the competition (i.e., budget, scope)? Does the project have performance metrics and evaluation incorporated into its plan?

Creativity: (1-5)
Do solutions show strategic thinking that utilizes resources in inventive ways? To what extent is the solution differentiated from traditional approaches? Or how does it build off traditional approaches for that matter? What are the unique technologies that drive this approach?

Privacy: (1-5)
How can you keep the privacy of online, in particular social media, users while still analyzing public-contributed content? How will you address the privacy and/or safety concerns of the public when it comes to the actions of nefarious actors online in these situations? Does the project comply with existing privacy laws in NATO countries? How does the project protect the right to freedom of speech?

Sustainability: (1-5)
Does this project have sufficient capabilities to continue into the future if it cannot fully meet its objectives on its base performance period? Does the solution have the potential for future growth?

Fiscal Pragmatism: (1-5)
What is the cost-benefit analysis of the project? Does it make responsible use of funding? Will projections show its economic viability? Does the project have any return value? How do costs project out beyond the first year?

INTRODUCTION TO DISINFORMATION

Disinformation is the "deliberate creation and dissemination of false and/or manipulated information with the intent to deceive and/or mislead." Disinformation exacerbates nearly every domestic and global challenge, from election security to climate change. Its global spread can have profound consequences, including inflamed social conflict and unrest, distrust of the media and/or government, the spread of discredited science/medicine (e.g., the use of ivermectin to treat COVID-19), and the undermining of democratic elections.

NATO recognizes the urgency of countering disinformation, and the Alliance has taken substantial steps to do so over the last decade. In the 2018 Brussels Summit Declaration, the 2019 London Declaration, and the 2022 Strategic Concept, the Alliance has recognized the need to develop strategic responses to disinformation campaigns that seek to undermine international norms. The 2023 Vilnius Summit Communique strongly recognizes the need to counter disinformation. NATO has prioritized countering disinformation through a variety of means including proactive communications, "pre-bunking," and debunking, such that the Alliance can inform civilians of misleading information before it proliferates online. However, the challenge of developing comprehensive and coordinated responses to disinformation persists for NATO.

The case documents below offer overviews of some of the most pressing issues implicated by disinformation. These documents are an introduction for teams to begin their research and solution development —not a comprehensive report on the subject matter.

DISINFORMATION STREAM OPTIONS

Artificial Intelligence (AI)
Clean Energy
Climate Security
Human Rights
Public Health
Russia-Ukraine War
Sexism and Gender-Based Violence
Terrorism

PART III:
WINNING PITCHES

ALPHA STREAM: Clean Energy
TEAM NAME: TEAM OF PRO BONO

AUTHOR NAMES: Muhammed Furkan Arık, Zehra Nur Arık, Aleyna Oruçoğlu

AFFILIATIONS: Ibn Haldun University (Türkiye)

SUMMARY: One of NATO's primary goals is crisis prevention and management. Clean energy is crucial due to its potential impact on future security and health, especially as climate change may create "climate refugees" moving from affected regions, posing a security threat to NATO countries. Today, national defense must encompass not only land, air, and sea but also the cyber domain. Disinformation on clean energy directly affects over 1 billion people in NATO states, and NATO's policies aim to encourage solutions, although not mandatory. NATO's strategy against disinformation includes three steps: identifying false information, revealing its sources, and responding effectively with AI. However, AI's misuse for spreading disinformation complicates these efforts. NATO's stance encourages countries to legislate supportive measures, creating a reinforcing cycle to strengthen policies. Legislative actions should ensure fast and balanced interventions that protect freedom of expression and privacy. Initiatives like AI-assisted decision support systems, e-patrols, and partnerships with media, industry, and international organizations will enhance information accuracy and security across member states.

BRAVO STREAM: Public Health
TEAM NAME: COGNITIVE DEFENDERS

AUTHOR NAMES: Sanjay Damodaran, Mishayla Harve

AFFILIATIONS: Georgia Institute of Technology (United States of America)

SUMMARY: Cognitive Defenders propose improving media and health literacy by implementing "casual" peer-reviewed posts and designing informational ads that make scientific information accessible and employing artificial intelligence and algorithmic checks to limit the reach of users spreading disinformation. These approaches build on existing tools and methods rather than introducing completely new systems, focusing instead on enhancing and refining current strategies to counteract the harmful spread of health-related disinformation on social media.

CHARLIE STREAM: Sexism & Gender-Based Violence

TEAM NAME: ZSEM MODEL UN CLUB

AUTHOR NAMES: Paolo Cicarelli, Laura Kaurin, Artemiy Teplov, Ana Zelenika

AFFILIATIONS: Zagreb School of Economics and Management (Croatia)

SUMMARY: ZSEM Model UN Club recommend a Human-in-the-Loop system for expert review of complex cases. In the long term, they aim to empower younger generations through education, instilling awareness and promoting democratic values with the help of transparent AI tools.

DELTA STREAM: Sexism & Gender-Based Violence

TEAM NAME: IRC OF BERKELEY

AUTHOR NAMES: Katy Ghaleh, Noah Hite, Mokshi Patel, Jasel Steinmetz, James Walsh

AFFILIATIONS: University of California Berkeley (United States of America)

SUMMARY: IRC of Berkeley will create a digital deepfake pornography detection platform. This platform will use AI technology to develop markers to detect deepfake porn content for removal, in conjunction with increased user-based reporting. Their goal is to provide this resource for free to local networks to proliferate deepfake enforcement on the local level.

ECHO STREAM: Terrorism

TEAM NAME: YOUTH COUNCIL OF ROME

AUTHOR NAMES: Livia di Carpegna, Chiara Merlin, Gaia Sabellico

AFFILIATIONS: Youth Council of Rome - Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (Italy) and Sapienza University of Rome (Italy)

SUMMARY:
Youth Council of Rome believe NATO and its partners can counter Taliban disinformation through a coordinated, three-part strategy that emphasizes women's involvement and human security. First, establishing a Real-Time Monitoring and Analysis Network would leverage AI to identify and respond swiftly to radical narratives. Second, NATO should promote engaging, localized counter-narrative campaigns. And third, they should support independent journalists and media outlets.

FOXTROT STREAM: Terrorism

TEAM NAME: THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE CLUB

AUTHOR NAMES: Magdalena Anceska, Djanisa Ndoj, George Piperigos-Grammatikas, Maria-Eleni Vallonasi

AFFILIATIONS: The American College of Greece (Greece)

SUMMARY: The Atlantic Alliance Club propose the creation of a game, where players are located into virtual Afghanistan shaped by Taliban controlled narratives. As the players progress through missions and dismantle the false narratives, the environment will transform by revealing the hidden truths.

GOLF STREAM: Terrorism

TEAM NAME: NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

AUTHOR NAMES: Zakarias Sjöberg Dahlén, Alexander Ekdahl, Theodor Ranhem, Rasmus Samuelsson

AFFILIATIONS: Stockholm School of Economics (Sweden)

SUMMARY:
New Kids on the Block recommend a two-prong approach where they provide a platform and incentivize citizen journalists to securely and anonymously contribute to a transparent view of the Taliban regime, while also disseminating these stories to NATO countries and the rest of the world. To reach the disgruntled Afghan population, they will leverage relationships between exile journalists and remaining journalism cells, to help NATO provide both a secure channel, credibility and a guarantee that their stories don't disappear in the noise.

HOTEL STREAM: Human Rights
TEAM NAME: VENI, VIDI, VICI

AUTHOR NAMES: Azizbek Abduganiev, Maharram Akbarov, Firdavs, Shreyoshi Pal

AFFILIATIONS: Vistula University (Poland)

SUMMARY: Veni, Vidi, Vici propose using Verifly, an advanced AI tool dedicated to detecting and countering disinformation specifically targeting human rights, which is often used to obscure abuses, manipulate public opinion, and destabilize societies. Verifly operates at four levels: it monitors global disinformation campaigns for NATO, flags harmful content on social media while respecting free speech, empowers users with an on-demand fact-checking tool, and provides regulatory bodies with data-driven insights to guide policy.

INDIA STREAM: Human Rights
TEAM NAME: HAMPDEN-SYDNEY LEAGUE

AUTHOR NAMES: Hampton Brannon, Harrison Brooks, Roland Brown

AFFILIATIONS: Hampden-Sydney College (United States of America)

SUMMARY: Hampden-Sydney League proposes a committee whose sole purpose is to combat disinformation through the procurement of curriculums that would effectively handle disinformation and misinformation in NATO countries. This will include courses on media literacy, misinformation and disinformation, and how that can negatively affect social relations, common understanding, and critical thinking in society, targeted for youth in the education system.

JULIETT STREAM: Human Rights
TEAM NAME: METU FPIRS #2

AUTHOR NAMES: Yerkenaz Baizhigit, Tuğba Barlak, Burak Eren Ceyhan, Ömer Meriç Yaşar

AFFILIATIONS: Middle East Technical University (Türkiye)

SUMMARY: METU FPIRS #2 recommends NATO social media should post daily content to get ahead of disinformation in an impartial, gender-oriented and futuristic approach. This content should be interactive, one for each day of the week.

KILO STREAM: Russia-Ukraine War
TEAM NAME: TEAM 20

AUTHOR NAMES: Bartosz Gladzik, Nikola Lewicka, Anna-Elise Peerlings, Giuseppe Madeo Salvatore

AFFILIATIONS: Leiden University (Netherlands), University of Warsaw (Poland), University of Silesia in Katowice (Poland), and University of Bologna (Italy)

SUMMARY:
To counter Russia's disinformation about the war in Ukraine, Team 20 recommend expanding NATO's presence in (social) media. They want to make NATO channels more approachable by providing information in member state's language(s) and cultural context.

LIMA STREAM: Russia-Ukraine War
TEAM NAME: HAWKEYES

AUTHOR NAMES: Emma Anderson, Delaney Eden, Maia Rivera

AFFILIATIONS: University of Iowa (United States of America)

SUMMARY:
Hawkeyes recommend providing a subscription to higher education institutions across NATO member states to Ground News. This is a Canadian based aggregator that pulls from 50,000 major news publications and sources globally. This will be compiled into one central location and each article will be given a credibility and factuality check by 3 different independent monitoring organizations.

MIKE STREAM: Russia-Ukraine War
TEAM NAME: INFO GUARDIAN

AUTHOR NAMES: Başar Börüban, Görkem Dirican, Mısılı Nafıssa, Çağla Orhan, Oğuz Alp Özgerek

AFFILIATIONS: Mersin University (Türkiye)

SUMMARY: INFO GUARDIAN proposes the creation of a game that will feature 5 key tips from NATO for combating disinformation, integrated into the characters and storyline. At the beginning and during key transitions, the player will encounter misinformation used by Russia to legitimize its unjust invasion of Ukraine. By the end of the game, players will be more informed and better equipped to recognize and counteract disinformation.

NOVEMBER STREAM: Russia-Ukraine War
TEAM NAME: ALEPH

AUTHOR NAMES: Benjamin Campbell-James, Andrea Thomas Ciccaglione, Michele Mauri, Alicia García Romano,

AFFILIATIONS: Univeristà Bocconi (Italy)

SUMMARY: Aleph recommends creating a North Atlantic Anti-Disinformation Agency (NAADA) to fund civil society organizations, standardize guidelines on disinformation, and monitor the effect of strategies.

OSCAR STREAM: Russia-Ukraine War

TEAM NAME: GREECINFORMATION

AUTHOR NAMES: Sotirios Anastasopoulos, Ilias Ganelis, Evangelia-Eleni Karageorgi, Paris Patsis

AFFILIATIONS: Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences (Greece)

SUMMARY: GREECINFORMATION proposes a "Bold Statement" action plan to ameliorate NATO's capacity in supporting the Ukrainian efforts towards disinformation countering. The action plan is consisted by two instruments: the development of a Bot-detecting Algorithm with the capacity to detect, analyze and report the behavior of Russian-led bots that spread disinformation in social media. And cyber-infrastructure that aims to enhance Ukraine's digital resilience, in cooperation with the agencies of the EU.

PAPA STREAM: Artificial Intelligence

TEAM NAME: TEAM 6

AUTHOR NAMES: Grayson Qian, Fabienne Golle

AFFILIATIONS: Epoka University (Albania), Tallinn University of Technology (Estonia)

SUMMARY: Team 6 advises the creation of a NATO-led simulation exercise on countering disinformation by AI. This annual exercise is designed to counter AI-driven disinformation by enhancing detection, verification, and response capabilities across member states. By simulating an AI-powered influence campaign, it trains participants in identifying and neutralizing deepfakes, synthetic text, and manipulated media in real time.

QUEBEC STREAM: Artificial Intelligence

TEAM NAME: CLEAR SIGNAL

AUTHOR NAMES: Enzo Battaglia, Theodore Gercken, Cat Hopman

AFFILIATIONS: Hamilton College (United States of America) and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (United States of America)

SUMMARY: Clear Signal suggest the development of a robust detection system to counter deepfakes by leveraging two types of technologies that are well-suited to oppose the two most common threat models. Using these tools, NATO can integrate development between member states and establish a centralized counteroffensive media program.

PART IV: OTHER PITCHES

ALPHA STREAM: Clean Energy

TEAM NAME: The Feds

AUTHOR NAMES: Ella Bradford, Brady Howell, Riley McCain, Bhavik Menon, Stacy Varghese

AFFILIATIONS: University of Texas at Austin (United States of America)

SUMMARY: This proposal introduces a cost-effective, impactful approach to countering solar energy disinformation across NATO nations via social media. By targeting diverse demographics by age and industry, it effectively reaches communities most vulnerable to misinformation with credible, customized content. The three-phase rollout leverages AI, developed through the free Kaggle platform, combined with proven outreach strategies for high-impact results. In the Pre-Beta phase, the project analyzes the misinformation landscape to identify at-risk groups and hotspots. The 16–24 week Beta phase launches targeted campaigns in high-misinformation areas, recruiting influencers with large followings or respected technical backgrounds, while establishing regional NATO groups (e.g., Americas, Western Europe) to create more efficiently tailored content. In the Post-Beta phase, results are analyzed to refine strategies for global rollout. Multi-platform engagement across Instagram, Facebook, etc. will build a concrete foundation for accurate messaging, enhancing public understanding of solar energy through engagement, reach, perception shifts, and misinformation correction.

TEAM NAME: Lying is Wrong

AUTHOR NAMES: Sohan Patel, Andrew Phaneuf, Shiva Rajbhandari,

AFFILIATIONS: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (United States of America)

SUMMARY: The Clean Energy Truths Initiative (CETI) includes the "Clean Energy Ambassadors Club," where university students mentor middle and high school students, engaging them in myth-busting activities and challenges that promote hands-on learning, such as creating solar-powered gadgets. CETI aims to counter clean energy disinformation by fostering interest in renewable energy among university students while emphasizing the emotional appeal of a sustainable future for children. Privacy and sustainability will be prioritized through transparent, eco-friendly materials and community engagement sessions for parents. Summer workshops led by professionals will deepen students' understanding of clean energy. Additionally, the best projects will receive scholarships to encourage further education in the field. CETI will measure success through attendance, knowledge assessments, and long-term curriculum adoption, creating a scalable model that equips young people with facts over misinformation. With an estimated pilot budget of €30,000—€10,000 for each of three countries (Germany, Canada, and Estonia)—CETI will partner with energy companies and universities to integrate accurate information into school curricula.

TEAM NAME: FINKI-ers

AUTHOR NAMES: Marija Cekovska, Sofija Miladinoska, Bruno Ristovski, Kristijan Stefanov, Sara Todosova

AFFILIATIONS: Ondokuz Mayıs University (Türkiye) and University of the People (Croatia and North Macedonia)

SUMMARY: As we all know we live in an age where the information travels fast across the internet. We all know that some of this information is not relevant and that is spread in different ways across the internet so this is a significant challenge to public health. We know that in many countries people do not have basic knowledge of what a misinformation is. So our goal is to build an app that will have machine learning algorithm that with check and repost only verified articles. Also we plan to have a chat bot on our app that will use the knowledge that will be train on to respond to the users about the questions about the general public health. The app will be build with python programing language. We will contact professionals and use data from valid government sources like the World Health Organization.

TEAM NAME: Gators Chomp Misinformation

AUTHOR NAMES: Hannah McCartney, Daniela Hoyos, Dana Jinete

AFFILIATIONS: University of Florida (United States of America)

SUMMARY: Our program aims to support NATO and its partners in countering disinformation during the next global health crisis through training and educating community health workers and public health interns in member countries. This training will be conducted online via Zoom by NATO officials and discuss Mpox risk factors, treatment options, and interactive exercises to recognize disinformation. By providing community health workers and public health interns with the necessary understanding and tools to counteract disinformation, they will be able to spread their knowledge of Mpox to their own communities. Health workers will be able to use their relationship and trust with the community to properly inform citizens on Mpox facts, and public health interns will provide additional information online about detecting disinformation in-person and in the media. Program effectiveness will then be measured through pre- and post- workshop surveys on the knowledge of Mpox and self-efficacy to recognize and counter disinformation.

TEAM NAME: NATO Lonestars

AUTHOR NAMES: Alexander Corley, Vennela Mallampati, Anusha Narway, Rujala Nepal

AFFILIATIONS: University of Texas at Austin (United States of America)

SUMMARY: The problem with public health-related disinformation here isn't a lack of information – the problem here is a lack of trust between citizens and governmental institutions. Thus, to combat public health-related disinformation, we propose a two-pronged approach: First, incorporating identification of disinformation niches using open-source intelligence to discern what specific kinds of disinformation are being promoted online.

Second, creating national disinformation units within each NATO member country. Such disinformation units would utilize both their findings from the AI research and a comprehensive understanding of historical mistrust with the government by certain groups to build ad campaigns, both through traditional media and social media.

Performance metrics like vaccination rates and surveys will be used to assess the effectiveness of this proposal and determine further growth.

TEAM NAME: Team 14

AUTHOR NAMES: Estela Neuman, Martin Popovski, Alper Özal,

AFFILIATIONS: Ondokuz Mayıs University (Türkiye) and University of the People (Croatia and North Macedonia)

SUMMARY: NATO Sponsoring clubs that will host and organize weekly/monthly open discussions on various topics with different professionals in their respected field. And introducing NATO day in every member country. Every 4th of April, educational institutions will host a PE class led by a military instructor from their national army that will give proper healthy exercises and diet plans to the students and pupils of the free world that are approved by their military. These clubs grow and eventually become training and educational organizations that will have memberships and give martial arts, physical and educational classes to kids, teenagers and adults (the perfect compromise between mandatory service and its opposition). The leaders of these clubs will have annual meeting in various NATO member state capitals and get general instructions from senior members and professionals.

The clubs will cooperate closely on a regional level (Baltic, Balkan, Iberian region etc.) The clubs will cooperate closely on a regional level (e.g. Baltic, Balkan, Iberian region, etc.) and will build strong community resilience against enemy narratives and disinformation.

BRAVO STREAM: Public Health
TEAM NAME: Abyss-4

AUTHOR NAMES: Devin Bae, Neil Tendian, Jay Patnaik, Mateo Torres-Cohen

AFFILIATIONS: American University (United States of America), University of California Berkeley (United States of America), University of California San Diego (United States of America), and San Jose State University (United States of America)

SUMMARY: The idea of public-health related disinformation can be treated as a meta-isomorphism with the phenomena of disinformation treated epidemiologically (i.e. that ideas can be treated as game-theoretic pathogens and combatted with analogously similar strategies to combat epidemiological spread. One can divide these strategies into 2 strata: 1) "Ideological Antibodies" (inoculating positive narratives. 2) "Containment", sequestering negative narratives. using topological network analysis: it is possible to identify groups and particular node/sections of interest, specifying precision in a broad-effectivity but low intensity manner—to avoid instigating the Streisand effect and evoked psychological resistance—a particularly lucid suggestion might be something as simple as "invisible verification", like not making the post tick mark blue. Further, bot-networks have shown feasibility in determining and manipulating attractor dynamics in localizing points of desired sequestration. In this way, although disinformation cannot ever truly be exterminated, sequestering them in neutralizing virulency may be productively sufficient.

CHARLIE STREAM: Sexism & Gender-Based Violence
TEAM NAME: UNAV – Disinformation Fighters

AUTHOR NAMES: Alexander Petkoff, Simona Vateva, Doroteya Yankova

AFFILIATIONS: Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski (Bulgaria)

SUMMARY: Tackling disinformation regarding sexism and gender-based violence by short-term and long-term decisions is vital. Short-term strategies will include the development of AI software which effectively filters harmful content on social media platforms. Long-term decisions will bring together state institutions and civil society in common initiatives which will help the youth develop disinformation-recognising capabilities. These strategies will de-weaponize disinformation because they will aid in shaping societal values in such a way that people won't be susceptible to disinformation tactics any longer.

TEAM NAME: Dynamic Divas

AUTHOR NAMES: Raluca Ilina, Paula Iovescu, Dariana Iovicescu, Rafaela Liber, Andreea Racaru

AFFILIATIONS: West University of Timișoara (Romania)

SUMMARY: NATO can leverage AI, in partnership with human analysts, to monitor and combat gender-based disinformation on social media platforms. AI detects subtle gendered slurs, hashtags, and harmful language patterns, providing real-time alerts for immediate intervention. By adjusting algorithms on popular platforms like TikTok and Instagram, NATO can introduce features that notify viewers of misinformation, offering fact-based corrections. Although social media often spreads harmful narratives, it also offers powerful solutions through active engagement.

By partnering with NGOs like Amnesty International, ICRW, and Plan International, NATO can implement educational campaigns across its member states, focusing on digital literacy, gender equality, and critical thinking. Collaborating with schools and universities, NATO can support programmes that teach students to recognise and resist sexist disinformation and online harassment, emphasising the real-world impact of these behaviours. Together, NATO and its NGO partners can create a safer, more informed online environment while building long-term societal resilience against sexism and gender-based violence.

TEAM NAME: Independed Lithuania

AUTHOR NAMES: Karina Kazarian

AFFILIATIONS: Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania)

SUMMARY: My presentation is about gender equality in Lithuania. In order to combat built in stereotypes and prejudices, education must start at a very young age. It is impossible to change the patriarchal thinking of society by law alone. Educating boys with a discriminatory attitude against girls develops a corresponding attitude for life. If in childhood boys hears that girls are weaker or shy, then this is exactly the portrait of a woman formed in his consciousness.

TEAM NAME: Team 15

AUTHOR NAMES: Deniz Çiloğlu, Daniela Rodriguez, Zeliha Elif Yazar

AFFILIATIONS: Istanbul Medipol University (Türkiye) and Saint Joseph's University (United States of America)

SUMMARY: Women and girls are targeted by multiple forms of sexual and gender based violince. We see that foreign states and non-state factors organise a manipulative attack on the media especially by targeting women, order to undermine democracy.These activities, which are labeled as disinformation push, not only women but also men and other masa of society to unite in a consensus. I think that a Press and Media Inspection Board should be set up consisting of men and women of different ages. Official news agencies and media organs of the countries should be listed and reviewed. Expressions that could instigate social gender inequality should be removed and new correct forms of it should be used.

DELTA STREAM: Sexism & Gender-Based Violence

TEAM NAME: Modern Haldunians

AUTHOR NAMES: Hatice Didar Akyıldız , Meryem Karinçu, Mehmet Kara, Ganna Omar-Kilic, Mücahit Yıldırım

AFFILIATIONS: İbn Haldun University (Türkiye)

SUMMARY: When it comes to countering disinformation, raising awareness serves as a form of long term protection of potential victims. A more educated civil society is better posed to take on the challenges wrought on by disinformation campaigns. Our solution thus focuses on the design of a curated educational curriculum in media literacy, lobbied for by NATO representatives in their respective countries and integrated into secondary education. In addition, educational material can be distributed to local NGOs who are already on the ground working to address similar problems. Finally, social media is a potent tool to reach wide audiences—and so an effort to combat disinformation by exposing its telltale signs through a social media campaign may pose a great setback to said disinformation. Collaboration with women who have a large degree of social following (and thus more likely to be targeted statistically), may serve to strengthen the aforementioned campaign.

TEAM NAME: TeamSurrey

AUTHOR NAMES: Noshi Ali, Molly Carton, Samreen Sarkaria, James Mitchell

AFFILIATIONS: University of Surrey (UK)

SUMMARY: A comprehensive digital literacy campaign focused on Sexism and Gender based violence that focuses on Recognizing Disinformation and Ways to Tackle it. Developed through an extensive research process including universities to evaluate different platforms and teaching methods including utilizing big databases such as UN Women, UNICEF, EU DisinfoLab, etc. to have a good understanding of what disinformation can look like. Creating a curriculum that can be implemented into universities and used by companies to educate and resist gender-based disinformation online. Starting as a pilot project to then be evaluated for improvement through a feedback system to ensure that it is kept up to date and sustainable for the future. Working with regional experts and making the curriculum modular can ensure adaptation within other nations and regions for maximum impact. AI responses for students to analyse whether it is reliable or not to improve their online literacy and teaching gender disinformation. Funded through government grants and private partnerships that recognise the importance of this issue and its implications. To provide incentives for universities to adopt this programme and for students to take part for extra credentials and accreditation by NATO.

TEAM NAME: UNG Nighthawks Team A

AUTHOR NAMES: Levi Doyal, Collin Maas, Austin Miller, Geeson Senat

AFFILIATIONS: University of Northern Georgia (United States of America)

SUMMARY: To implement a new punishment of hardware banning on social media, utilizing previously created and maintained infrastructure. The goal is to call upon NATO nations to collaborate with social media to begin utilizing Hardware IP banning. The upside of this would force a monetary punishment on bad actors and would further deter aggressive action online.

TEAM NAME: UNG Nighthawks Team B

AUTHOR NAMES: Lindsey Covarrubias, Gabrielle Henriques, Claudia Marban, Chad Wright

AFFILIATIONS: University of Northern Georgia (United States of America)

SUMMARY: NATO recognizes the threat that sexism and gender-based disinformation pose to the collective strength of the alliance and the citizens it is charged with protecting. Content encouraging sexism and gender-based violence has proliferated across social media platforms in recent years. According to the Economist Intelligence Unit, 38 percent of women have experienced online violence while using social media. This has a deleterious effect on public discourse and social cohesion. Numerous solutions have been proposed to counter online hate speech and gender-based discrimination, such as Germany's Network Enforcement Act (NetzDG).

One of the main ways Gender Based Violence occurs on dating apps. Dating apps are unsafe because they allow predators to gain access to women. To combat this, we suggest that dating apps implement an encrypted protected digital ID to ensure the user's privacy.

We are proposing a complete policy framework for NATO member states to counter gender-based disinformation and violence. This must begin by establishing common definitions and standards regarding gender-based disinformation and violence. We propose creating an online information monitoring task force within NATO's Women, Peace, and Security Unit. The primary purpose of this task force will be to collect data regarding social media activity to provide a complete picture of the information to policymakers within NATO and its member states.

ECHO STREAM: Terrorism

TEAM NAME: JMU Peace Club

AUTHOR NAMES: Nickolas Goold, Carson Koch, Grace Mensch, Max Powers

AFFILIATIONS: James Madison University (United States of America)

SUMMARY: Our solution tackles misinformation in Taliban controlled Afghanistan via an SMS information delivery system. This system, which we have called the "NATO SMS Free Information Initiative", provides citizens with access to independent and truthful information regarding the Taliban regime and the outside world. This initiative relies on systems like VPNs to protect citizens who access information, safeguarding their locations and IP addresses from Taliban eyes. This cost-effective, low-maintenance solution will help transmit information through even the most basic of cell phones, as internet is not necessary to receive SMS communication.

TEAM NAME: Madison Institute for Defense

AUTHOR NAMES: Genivieve Bauisoto, Emma Love, Bella Santos, Timothy Tarter

AFFILIATIONS: James Madison University (United States of America)

SUMMARY: The NATO alliance should utilize its network of member states and partners to begin a public diplomacy program in regions susceptible to disinformation from the Taliban. Working with NATO's public diplomacy department, embassies of NATO members should partner with local universities and NGOs to host Security and Democracy Tournaments for high-school and college students. Programs should be targeted towards countries that either have a substantial Afghan diaspora or large Muslim populations. These countries can be NATO members or outside of the alliance where NATO or individual NATO members have a presence. Additionally, a NATO Youth for Change (YFC) program will be created, in which conference participants can apply to become youth ambassadors for the alliance in their local communities.

TEAM NAME: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

AUTHOR NAMES: Ishaan Gupta, Aditya Jain, Mihir Sharma

AFFILIATIONS: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (United States of America)

SUMMARY: Effectively countering Taliban disinformation requires unique approaches for both the international and domestic setting. To successfully combat the group's external influence, NATO must "fight fire with fire". Utilizing an aggressive approach to reject misinformation spread by Taliban officials would not only allow direct contact to those who are viewing Taliban-generated content, but also provide an avenue for virality and attention to the issue. Supporting NATO responses with independent evidence would further the credibility of this tactic, and an ending note on the danger of disinformation would prevent further spread through word-of-mouth. The domestic challenge should be addressed through an "information flood", employing physical media and radio to challenge Taliban propaganda and maintain privacy of Afghani civilians. Directly infiltrating common sources of media in Afghanistan makes these actions helpful in reaching the larger Afghani population. Through these efforts, we can combat the Taliban's disinformation, weakening its efforts and improving many lives.

TEAM NAME: Virginia Tech Hokies

AUTHOR NAMES: Kalli Dinos, Zoe Fenner, Haleigh Horan, Noor Salama, Ella Wolfe

AFFILIATIONS: Virginia Tech University (United States of America)

SUMMARY: We are proposing the creation of an app called Fact or Fiction that educates its users on how to recognize and combat disinformation spread by the Taliban. NATO countries will come together to create a basic outline for the app. Then, each country will take the skeleton of the app and make it culturally relevant to their populations. University students in each country will work to make the app functional in their respective language and culture. The app will offer training modules with different levels, a public forum open for anonymous user discussion, and eventually the ability to earn a NATO certificate in identifying disinformation. The app will be offered in a variety of languages, have both audio and text features and include relevant content depending on location. Its primary focus is to debunk Taliban disinformation and strengthen media literacy in NATO states. The Taliban manipulates its messaging to effectively target specific audiences, based off location, religion and language. Fact or Fiction will effectively counter this disinformation through a culturally relevant platform with user-individualized content.

FOXTROT STREAM: Terrorism

TEAM NAME: BlueTR

AUTHOR NAMES: Alper Uğur Acar, Berkan Çiçek, Abdullah Gönç, Ali Emre Sürek

AFFILIATIONS: Manisa Celal Bayar University (Türkiye)

SUMMARY: Countering Taliban, disinformation targeted at Muslim and non-muslim communities requires a multi-layered approach with AI and platforms. Through NLP and image analysis, can quickly detect disinformation. identify deep-fake, recognize bot activity early on. AI can create RT counter-messaging tailored to local languages and cultures, ensuring accurate information reaches communities for specially 30+ age community. Developing effective counter-narratives and collaborating with trusted local leaders and authorities is crucial for informing communities. Specially for refugees from Afghanistan.

Disinformation is a form of proxy and hybrid warfare. As NATO and partner countries, we should utilize memes and short videos to counter disinformation, turning them into tools of counter-propaganda. Unfortunately, the 9/11 attacks have become a meme. We encourage people to counter this with internet culture. Without the support of the online community, NATO cannot achieve its goals. Using memes for Gen Z and shorts to shape positive opinions for everyone is essential.

TEAM NAME: Mr. and Miss Information

AUTHOR NAMES: Max Bonnet, Caitlin Lamfers, Edoardo Santi, Ruben van Dongen

AFFILIATIONS: Leiden University (Netherlands)

SUMMARY: To fight disinformation in Afghanistan and the rest of the world, our first proposal would be to set up a two-way education establishment in NATO member countries. This way, we would be able to teach Afghan languages and culture, enhancing communication between NATO allies and the Afghan community. We would create an intense educational course set up by NATO, where experts, like veterans, teach about the languages and different cultures. We will also teach Afghans how to inform their communities about disinformation and how to counter it. Knowledge is the first step to solving the problem; to fight the propaganda spread by the Taliban, we need to know how to reach the communities. Our second proposal would focus on the people living in Afghanistan. We would set up a radio channel that reaches Afghan households to share information from a non–Taliban perspective. This way, Afghans would learn more about the situation in Afghanistan and the rest of the world without Taliban interference.

TEAM NAME: Team 1

AUTHOR NAMES: Aurora Cavallini, Mehmet Gök, Magdalena Petrunić, Atice Zulfi

AFFILIATIONS: Eskisehir Technical University (Türkiye), University of Connecticut (United States of America), University of Padua (Italy), and University of Zagreb (Croatia)

SUMMARY: The problem of disinformation spread by the Taliban has become a global security problem. Our proposals so that NATO members can fight against it are: holding a NATO summit where the way of life of people under Taliban rule will be explained - reality vs. what they show on social networks. Also, one of our proposals is to work with journalists, especially independent journalists in the region who will be able to convey accurate and truthful information to the rest of the world. NATO members could also finance them so that journalists can do their reporting as well as possible. In addition, NATO members could organize refugee campaigns to talk to refugees, to listen to their stories and the truth about the Taliban regime and the real life of people in Afghanistan. This could refute the false statements of the Taliban. Finally, NATO members could use artificial intelligence on social networks to detect and remove fake news and disinformation.

TEAM NAME: Team 3

AUTHOR NAMES: Omar Abdelrahman, Aybüke Kılıç, Anna Palvus, Rodrigo

AFFILIATIONS: Dokuz Eylül University (Türkiye), Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain), and University of Texas at Austin (United States of America)

SUMMARY: The Taliban uses a variety of disinformation tactics to control the narrative. Since the fall of the Afghan government, Taliban disinformation activity on social media platforms has skyrocketed. There is an urgent need for a counter-disinformation strategy that reaches Afghans at home and abroad. For the short term, NATO must work with Facebook to ban problematic Taliban-affiliated accounts and utilize the community notes feature on Twitter to flag accounts that spread disinformation. For the long term, NATO should invest in short-wave radio to counter the Taliban's information control by promoting short-wave radio stations as an alternative news source for Afghans. NATO could also set up a short-wave radio station staffed by Afghans to counter the Taliban narrative. NATO should support activists in exile. Using long and short-term methods to counter disinformation ensures that NATO meets the urgent need to act using easy-to-implement strategies and long-term methods that require more time but will yield better results.

GOLF STREAM: Terrorism

TEAM NAME: Groupe Lafayette

AUTHOR NAMES: Augustin Achard, Adam Volker, Maude Weitmann

AFFILIATIONS: Université de Lorraine (France)

SUMMARY: The resolution includes an independent body to produce daily reports on the situation in Afghanistan. It will also enable the creation of a pop up which activates upon certain keywords on social media to prevent Taliban's disinformation. In order to keep operating costs acceptable and work with STRATCOM, also a cooperation with national journalists. And have private partnerships. It's a win-win scenario where platforms are not over-regulated which benefits the platform's competitiveness. As a symbolic democratic gesture, the resolution will be discussed in Latvia.

The core of NATO is democracy, this implies that each state might not ratify this treaty but some countries could be willing to create a special task force using AI in order to keep the human grip on disinformation. This plan can promote an underestimated NATO's institution, the STRATCOM, and help it become a major player in international information regulation. This leads to the preservation of state sovereignty.

TEAM NAME: Team 10

AUTHOR NAMES: Eleonora Bruschi, Nicolas Garrote Martinez, Carnot Nateo

AFFILIATIONS: Ankara University (Türkiye), Ludovika University of Public Service (Hungary), University of Namur (Belgium), and University of Trento (Italy)

SUMMARY: The crux of the issue in combating disinformation relating to terrorism, is the lack of reliable information that states and organisations have in order to combat it. This stems from a conflict of interest between NATO-organisation and NATO-countries, between states where terrorists have effectively assumed control, as they would not want to share intelligence with these bodies that could damage their reputation.

To solve this, we propose that NATO should spearhead, using Turkey and if necessary other regional allies as an anchor, regional security organizations in areas affected by heavy terrorism. These organisations would act similarly to the EU, working as trade and security unions. These would be funded and staffed partially by NATO, and would have governing bodies that oversaw the occurrences in member states.

We submit that this would result in more transparency regarding the actions of certain states like Afghanistan, supplying reliable information concerning the treatment of civilians in its territory.

TEAM NAME: Team 16

AUTHOR NAMES: Andrea, Holly Dickinson, Mehmet, Mehmet Ali Tekin, Olivia Gearson

AFFILIATIONS: Izmir University Of Economics (Türkiye), King's College London (United Kingdom), Smith College (United States of America), TOBB University of Economics and Technology (Türkiye), and Utrecht University (Netherlands)

SUMMARY: We aim at implementing readily available policies, while keeping in mind a multi-timeframe approach. Short-term goals include (a) launching a campaign to raise awareness about Taliban disinformation, and engaging influencers to amplify the message. Hosting charity events, such as the "Voices Unseen" photography gallery, will fundraise for independent journalism while showcasing active resistance.

Medium-term goals involve: (b) partnering with social media to develop banners reminding viewers to "check multiple sources of information while consuming political content", to appeal to most libertarian platforms. (c) focusing on the youth - educating intermediaries (e.g., football coaches) in detecting and tackling the spread of misinformation.

Long-term goals focus on establishing (d) scholarships for the next generation of Afghan journalists and building a professional class committed to independent reporting. By creating a sustainable ecosystem of informed citizens, we can empower communities to resist disinformation and uphold democratic principles.

TEAM NAME: United Students of Bordeaux

AUTHOR NAMES: Nohaila Chaiq, Julien Debidour Lazzarini, Delord Julia, Kaba Fatoumata, Elina Kugler

AFFILIATIONS: National School of Cognitique (France) and Sciences Po Bordeaux (France)

SUMMARY: Provide rehabilitation programs for indoctrinated minors and support for host families and provide special protections for at-risk children lacking legal guardians

HOTEL STREAM: Human Rights

TEAM NAME: BKT

AUTHOR NAMES: Bohdan Kontsur, Roman Lysenko, Mariia Verbytska

AFFILIATIONS: National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (Ukraine) and University of Warsaw (Poland)

SUMMARY: Our team has devised an idea to enhance the debunking of disinformation with new approaches. Our method is aimed at encouraging more people to get information on countering misinformation, and we hope to widen the audience by engaging publicly known persons in the process. The idea goes as follows: the fact-checking community in a country starts a project, where once a month it collaborates with a celebrity. In a case we devised as a 'starting point', in Poland, such examples of organisation and celebrities could be the Demagog fact-checking organisation and Robert Lewandowski, Andrzej Seweryn et al. After the successful launch, the idea is to be scaled to other countries in Europe and beyond, bringing together the organisations and celebrities who will reach to wide audience and educate them on disinformation attempts.

TEAM NAME: LinGua Serve

AUTHOR NAMES: Erisa Hysi, Hasan Xhanaj

AFFILIATIONS: University of St. Thomas (United States of America) and University of Houston (United States of America)

SUMMARY: This proposal outlines the development of a NATO-approved software application designed to combat disinformation from foreign governments regarding human rights violations. The app will empower marginalized communities by providing essential information about their rights, as many individuals are unaware of the protections available to them.

Key features include real-time cultural reminders and language assistance for government officials, ensuring respectful treatment of foreign citizens. Ongoing training modules will educate officials on human rights standards and cultural competence.

The application will also integrate AI-driven analytics to monitor user interactions and report data on countries' adherence to human rights standards. By equipping individuals with knowledge and tools to advocate for their rights, and holding governments accountable for their practices, this initiative aims to foster an inclusive environment and effectively counter disinformation across NATO member nations, aligning with NATO's mission to uphold human rights globally.

TEAM NAME: Team 12

AUTHOR NAMES:Solaris Ahmetjan, Beatrice Rabbiosi D'Alessandro, Berrak Kırbaç, Zampia Pantzelioudaki

AFFILIATIONS: American University (United States of America), University of Macedonia (Greece), University of Verona (Italy), and Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium)

SUMMARY: This initiative aims to counter disinformation through a NATO–backed website that offers fact-checked information, focusing on collective defence against disinformation. This platform would integrate a media verification system that filters content and news based on various reliable sources like think tanks and government agencies, potentially utilising AI to aid such verification. It will initially be launched within NATO regions, expanding incrementally to other regions and partner organisations such as ASEAN and Africa, to broaden its impact. Targeting "hot areas" such as Ukraine, and the youth, the platform would work through educational resources to fill knowledge gaps in human rights awareness. Additionally, there will be interactive questions and activities about different human rights topics to help understand and retain the information presented. By analysing and categorising this data, it will help users recognise disinformation and gain an understanding of human rights issues that they may not have previously known about.

INDIA STREAM: Human Rights

TEAM NAME: Miss Information

AUTHOR NAMES: Max Bonnet, Edoardo Santi, Caitlin Lamfers

AFFILIATIONS: University of Warsaw (Poland)

SUMMARY: A Two way education establishment should be created to enhance communication between NATO allies and those at risk. NATO should create an intense educational course, done in the native dialects of those who are being reached out to. Additionally, a radio channel should be created with the purpose of sharing information and fighting disinformation. Short wave radio communication with stations being cheap to build.

TEAM NAME: The Ospreys 2

AUTHOR NAMES: Camile Benoit, Austin Eckert, Alexander Mendoza, Alicja Schleyer

AFFILIATIONS: Stockton University (United States of America)

SUMMARY: Aware of the negative rhetoric but the potential positives of using AI to stop the spread and volume of misinformation regarding human rights, this proposal reconciles the need for education coupled with tangible options to reduce the actors of misinformation. This two-pronged approach uses education as a primer to increase participation and digital literacy amongst member states will allow for the adoption of a transparency framework referred to as EchoGuard. EchoGuard implements AI & algorithm technology similar to that of Stock Exchange Markets that will flag and slow down the dissemination of potential misinformation that can negatively impact the security efforts of NATO countries. EchoGuard framework will revolutionize the effectiveness of NATO if social media platforms are acting in accordance with it. To incentivize participation NATO will annually publish a good and bad actors list that specifically informs the public of which social media platforms are acting per the framework.

JULIETT STREAM: Human Rights
TEAM NAME: Bias Breakers

AUTHOR NAMES: Fatima Giaedi, Anastassiya Yarotskova, Yasemin Zeynep Zaim

AFFILIATIONS: Yeditepe University (Türkiye)

SUMMARY: In today's digital age, media is weaponized to promote human rights abuses through modes of disinformation and hate speech. These tactics manipulate public opinion, endanger freedoms of vulnerable groups, and threaten state stability. Given these risks, NATO faces a critical challenge; to combat digital disinformation that destabilize unity and erode public trust. We propose NATO create a specialized open-source intelligence (OSINT) system powered by artificial intelligence. A diverse team of experts will educate the system to monitor keywords and detect inflammatory rhetoric in real-time across various news sources and languages. The system will be highlighting disinformation trends, cross-reference flagged content, and provide accurate, budget-friendly analysis. Therefore, publicly hiring experts from diverse backgrounds would ensure transparency and foster public trust in NATO's mission to protect digital integrity and counter threats to social and political stability.

TEAM NAME: META FPIRS #1

AUTHOR NAMES: Deren Ertan, Mehmet Enes Deligöz, Emir Alp Şanlıer, Eylül Seneger

AFFILIATIONS: Middle East Technical University (Türkiye)

SUMMARY: To counter foreign disinformation on human rights, NATO could develop a comprehensive fact-checking ecosystem with continuous intra-alliance information sharing. Integrating artificial intelligence to detect and classify keywords related to human rights would support early identification of disinformation. A dedicated NATO website and a verified Instagram account would act as accessible platforms, complemented by fast, engaging video content to effectively debunk false information. Partnerships with international media and fact-checking organizations, such as Reuters Fact Check and EUvsDisinfo, would enhance reach and credibility. Collaborating with NGOs, like Amnesty International and Freedom House, would boost transparency, with NGO representatives possibly included as observers in NATO operations, supported by robust security protocols. Additionally, NATO Human Rights Status Reports, published alongside NATO Human Security Reports on the official website, would deliver consistent, verified information on human rights across member states, strengthening NATO's commitment to transparency and the protection of human rights.

TEAM NAME: Sirius

AUTHOR NAMES: Lola Aglé, Selin Eroglu, Clémence Larbi-Cherif Delabre

AFFILIATIONS: Université de Lorraine (France)

SUMMARY: Our idea is to use art to reach people's awareness about disinformation and manipulation of facts. The aim is to make a short movie about how effective an image can be in our mind without knowing about a whole situation. Our film would have the following scenario:

We see two soldiers from different camps through a phone video, one who is exhausted on the ground, and being pointed at by another soldier's gun. There is someone filming them, screaming very dramatically that he is going to shoot him. Then the person filming stops the recording, and the camera zooms away. The soldier on the ground reaches the gun with his hand and uses it to stand up with the help of the other soldier, and they rely on each other. Then, the person filming turns toward the camera, we recognize a celebrity, saying to us that not all images can be trusted. Finally, the celebrity presents the importance of reliable documents and how NATO's website can be a fact checking source.

TEAM NAME: TruthGuardians

AUTHOR NAMES: Kadir Birsen, Fuat Deniz Han, Samed Koyunlu

AFFILIATIONS: Marmara University (Türkiye)

SUMMARY: Project aims to establish a network dedicated to combating human rights violations by monitoring actions, sharing information, and countering disinformation. This network will bring together representatives from NGOs, community volunteers, and the public through a user-friendly and simple website, allowing individuals to report violations, access accurate information, and review documented cases. NATO will compile these reports into a database, contributing to more effective solutions in this area.

Key outcomes of the project include increased public awareness, enhanced NATO analytical capacity, and the development of human rights-focused policies. The project will use social media and communication channels to promote the network, and by collaborating with volunteers, it focuses on ensuring long-term sustainability at a low cost through the application of technological tools. Ultimately, this project seeks to strengthen NATO's response to human-rights issues, reinforce core values such as democracy and the rule of law, and contribute to international security and stability.

KILO STREAM: Russia-Ukraine War

TEAM NAME: GeoDefence

AUTHOR NAMES: Marie Abdallah, Alejandro Nievas, Daria Smetanko

AFFILIATIONS: College of Europe (Belgium)

SUMMARY: EchoGuard is a NATO-backed browser extension built to counter state-sponsored disinformation, focusing on narratives that threaten public trust and alliance cohesion. Leveraging NATO's expertise, databases, and intelligence, EchoGuard detects disinformation at its source and alerts users to potentially misleading content.

After installation, the extension actively scans content on visited pages, using AI to identify language patterns and verify sources against NATO-verified data. When suspicious content is detected, EchoGuard issues a notification, warning users that "this content may contain disinformation from state-sponsored sources." This empowers readers to question credibility, helping reduce the reach of harmful narratives.

Feasibility & Privacy: EchoGuard is cost-effective, easy to implement, and respects privacy by analyzing only public data. By combining NATO's intelligence resources with real-time detection, EchoGuard offers a sustainable solution to counter disinformation and foster resilience among NATO members and allies, strengthening public trust in shared, reliable information.

TEAM NAME: Russian-Ukrainian War

AUTHOR NAMES: Angelina

AFFILIATIONS: National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (Ukraine)

SUMMARY: In countering disinformation effectively, we focus on delivering debunking content across NATO member states with Russian-speaking populations and people susceptible to Russian influence. This can be delivered in both the countries' native language and Russian depending on the specific needs. By broadcasting across social media and traditional media, it maximizes accessibility and impact among key audiences. We can expand this to different platforms using these podcasts in the listeners' native languages. This can be extended to have Russian language accessibility depending on the country's needs.

Additionally, VPN companies are encouraged to collaborate with governments to monitor and mitigate the misuse of their services by bad actors. Through this partnership, VPN providers can proactively address misuse, thereby protecting their reputation and reducing potential business risks associated with negative media coverage. This project aligns with privacy laws, as it ensures VPN companies make informed decisions while preserving user privacy.

With performance metrics for reach and engagement, and an adaptable, fiscally responsible approach, the project has strong foundations for both short- and long-term sustainability, offering a cost-effective, innovative solution to counter disinformation and protect public trust in information sources.

TEAM NAME: Team 5

AUTHOR NAMES: Anastasia Hryb, Dumitru Lungu, Mustafa Doğan, Filippo Nikolaos Valasakis

AFFILIATIONS: Ataturk University (Türkiye), American College of Greece (Greece), and Moldova State University (Moldova)

SUMMARY: This presentation introduces the audience to Russian Disinformation by highlighting the Firehose of Falsehood model, used by Russia as a conceptual framework from which hostile actors can perpetrate disinformation. We have also summarized the threats that Ukraine and NATO receive from Russian disinformation tactics such as undermining NATO's resolve to assist Ukraine by targeting NATO member states civilians, confusion and divisions and challenges NATO's credibility to respond to crises. To give a better understanding of Russia's disinformation capabilities, we highlighted three mechanisms of disinformation used by Russia such as I) State-Controlled Media , II) Social Media Bots & Fake Accounts and III) Malware. We then followed this up by introducing our two case studies, being the 2014 Russian Annexation of Crimea and the 2022 Russian Invasion of Ukraine. In both cases, we mention the use of disinformation by Russia to try and legitimize their aggressive actions, such as 'Denazification' and an illegitimate government in Kyiv. Using these case studies as a baseline, we propose our 4 lines of effort in which we aim for the following: I) Implementing a Media Literacy Program, II) Use of digital platforms to actively disseminate information, III) Leverage AI supported analyses, IV) Bridging Knowledge between NATO Intelligence and Ukrainian Agencies.

TEAM NAME: Team 18

AUTHOR NAMES: Simone Chiusa, Mitchell Curtis, Daria Havryshchu, Ketevan Jabishvili, Tatuli Kikvidze

AFFILIATIONS: Catholic University of the Sacred Heart (Italy), Tallinn University (Estonia), and University of Bonn (Germany)

SUMMARY: Disinformation is one of the oldest but most challenging soft power skills to combat; especially in our globally connected age. Challenging and getting out ahead of disinformation is an ongoing battle for political will and support. Our application aims to work with universities across the NATO and global sphere to combat the ongoing global misinformation campaign being conducted by state and non-state actors. We aim to tailor our content to the realities of modern society in order to provide effective information and knowledge to users. Interactive quizzes, short videos, news articles, expert-curated content and more all at the hands of users to provide them with effective and accurate information. Information will be accurate and accessible; for users and adaptable to allow for the realities of the busy modern world. Whether short articles and content or long-form research; we aim to inform and integrate into NATO.

LIMA STREAM: Russia-Ukraine War

TEAM NAME: East-A

AUTHOR NAMES: Analyse Hughes, Maggie Lim, Dominique Seaton

AFFILIATIONS: Norwich University (United States of America)

SUMMARY: We would like to promote the development of a Global Cognitive Security Alliance, and the development of a comprehensive Cognitive Security framework named S.E.C.U.R.E. S.E.C.U.R.E. stands for Sensitivity to Threats, Education and Awareness, Continuous Learning, Unified Approach, Resilience Building, and Empowerment of Individuals. In the case of the Russian Ukraine War men and women of age for conscription and men and women of enlistment age. In continuous learning, there will be semi-monthly modules covering disinformation and misinformation on a professional level. There will also be disinformation and media literacy onboarding for the working class. This distinction will be necessary because different levels of society are exposed to different types of misinformation and disinformation, so it is important that the education they are receiving is applicable to the possible narratives they will be exposed to.

TEAM NAME: The Hawk Bloc

AUTHOR NAMES: Jasmyn Jordan, Breno Sader, Isaac Newquist, Nick Meredith

AFFILIATIONS: University of Iowa (United States of America)

SUMMARY: Russian misinformation on the causes of the invasion of Ukraine have spread like wildfire. Falsely attributing the cause to NATO expansion, or promoting the idea of Ukraine and Russia as one nation. These false ideas have taken root in the minds of many citizens of NATO countries, research specifically finds Eastern and Central European nations being uniquely susceptible. To combat these narratives, NATO media strategy should adopt a hybrid strategy asserting the truth in a way which meets people where they are and is emotionally resonant. Our plan is to develop and maintain a database of where pro-Kremlin sympathies are the highest within our member nations. NATO's response would be to create a targeted social media advertising campaign uniquely tailored to the nation and community, centered around compelling personal stories relating their struggle against the USSR to present day Russian invasion.

TEAM NAME: KERNEL OF TRUTH

AUTHOR NAMES: Ellie Clardy, Anastasia Mwenemkamba, Liam Tucknott

AFFILIATIONS: University of Iowa (United States of America)

SUMMARY: Our proposal is the NATO Student Ambassador Program. A yearly application-based digital advocacy campaign run by undergraduate and graduate students coordinating social media post humanizing the efforts of NATO, the ongoing war in Ukraine, and highlighting the direct impact the Russian misinformation campaign has on the daily lives of communities worldwide. This program would be coordinated by a small group of media experts who disseminate weekly posts to student ambassadors at universities across the globe. Beyond the coordinated weekly posts, creators have autonomy to create lighthearted, uplifting content to humanize NATO and the war in Ukraine, shifting the focus from war to the people it affects. This will improve engagement by creating a more positive and authentic framing and broaden the target audience through regional focus. Metrics for success will be based on engagement, measured monthly growth of followers, and weekly interactions with each post as likes, comments, and reposts.

TEAM NAME: Northern Hounds

AUTHOR NAMES: Sarina Johnson, Sean Larson, Alexy Prokharchyk

AFFILIATIONS: University of Connecticut (United States of America)

SUMMARY: NATO Disinformation Counter-Strategy
1. Real-Time Monitoring and Understanding of the Information Environment
Algorithmic Real-Time Monitoring Systems with Private-Sector Collaboration: Collaborate with private tech companies to leverage existing algorithmic systems capable of analyzing volumes of data across social media to provide NATO with the identification of disinformation trends. Dynamic Truth Score: Implement a Truth Score to rate content. Through partnerships with social media platforms, the Truth Score can become a measure of information authenticity across channels. Develop user-friendly dashboards illustrating disinformation levels.

2. Counter-Disinformation and Strategic Messaging
Real-Time Response Team: Form a NATO response team that uses insights from private-sector tools to deploy counter-messages. Collaborations with social media companies allow this team to gain platform insights.

Truth-Based Messaging: Establish an agency Counter-Disinformation Unit equipped with data from private tech companies. These units conduct "truth-based" campaigns targeting autocratic regimes' propaganda.

TEAM NAME: Team William & Mary

AUTHOR NAMES: Katia Fencl, Sarahelena Marrapodi

AFFILIATIONS: William & Mary (United States of America)

SUMMARY: Our policy proposal aims to educate the public on the true causes of the Ukraine War through collaboration with educators and updating the Protect the Future Campaign of NATO. We will educate the youth on media literacy and history of Russia through interactive modules. We suggest that NATO restructures its Protect the Future Campaign site to place podcast episodes at the top of the page and add a tab addressing Russia-Ukraine. Within said tab, a section that includes tracking analysis on Russian news on the war, specifically addressing spikes of the term "Nazism" will demonstrate the falsehoods of the causes of the war. Lastly, the NCIA must reach out to social media and browsing sites to discuss instituting new account and website icons that are clearly visible and easily identifiable. This will act as an alarm for the information consumer to question whether the account or website is fake.

MIKE STREAM: Russia-Ukraine War

TEAM NAME: ATASEN

AUTHOR NAMES: Lamia Gülfem Kırış, Ata Kökçü, Serdar Sener

AFFILIATIONS: Bilkent University and Çukurova University (Türkiye)

SUMMARY: Two years have passed since Russia's war began, and public opinion is showing war fatigue. This situation causes people to not follow this crime against humanity sufficiently. However, we should not forget that Russia's efforts to justify the war may pave the way for similar attacks in the future. Our campaign was designed with the principles of Emotional Response Theory to emphasize that this war is not a "new normal" but an attack on human rights. We will reveal the impact of war on humanity through short stories about the experiences of Ukrainians. We aim to announce our message at major events such as the World Cup and on platforms such as the Oscars and Eurovision. We aim to reach large audiences with low budget through small, frequent advertisements. Additionally, our campaign fully complies with privacy laws as it does not involve the collection or processing of personal data; A humanitarian message is conveyed only through public platforms.

TEAM NAME: TruthTrackers

AUTHOR NAMES: Mustafa Kerem Efe Mutlu, Eftelya Şimşek

AFFILIATIONS: Middle East Technical University (Türkiye)

SUMMARY: Conflicts are now primarily followed through social media outlets, with traditional press losing influence among younger generations. According to Deloitte's survey, 65% of 18– to 24–year-olds (Gen Z) and 61% of 25– to 34–year-olds (millennials) list one or more social media as their preferred news source*. This shift gives more power to independent journalists and digital creators. Although it amplifies voices and enhances freedom of speech, it also facilitates the spread of disinformation, as individuals are less inclined to thoroughly verify sources. Russia leverages this visibility through the "Firehose of Falsehoods" model.

We propose the Young Content Ambassadors program. This initiative aims to equip a new generation of content creators with tools to counter Russian disinformation by educating them on the role of civil society in sharing stories, fostering understanding of conflicts, and building global consensus. The program also creates an environment for peer networking with counterparts across NATO alliances.

TEAM NAME: Utobbia

AUTHOR NAMES: İnan Emiralioğlu, Mehmet İlhan Kadıoğlu

AFFILIATIONS: TOBB University of Economics and Technology (Türkiye)

SUMMARY: By teaching the public, the nature of disinformation, we aim to increase the immunity of the people against disinformation. As such, this contagious virus will not be able to further spread. On the specific of NATO, we aim to make people understand what the principles, objectives, values are and also the history, what the alliance has or has not done, by doing so we aim to disallow the spread of disinformation against the alliance. Also, we aim to introduce NATO to every age group of the society living in our target countries, in every region of that country. We aim to do this with the events we will organize. Because we believe that you cannot be manipulated from something you know well enough. If NATO can present itself well enough, then all the disinformation efforts by the Russians and others will be in vain. Our method of achieving this is public diplomacy which is further discussed in the presentation. With this approach, we will ensure the long-term fight against disinformation as we educate the generations to come about the dangers of disinformation.

TEAM NAME: Unpaid Interns

AUTHOR NAMES: Tomé Figueira, Guilherme Martelo, Afonso Torres

AFFILIATIONS: Charles University (Czechia), Universidade NOVA de Lisboa (Portugal), and University of Coimbra (Portugal)

SUMMARY: In our view, NATO is in dire need of a new, modern and engaging online containment network that has the capability to push-back Russian sponsored disinformation warriors. Thus our goal is not to convince pro-Russian actors or those influenced by them, but to promote resilience amongst NATO-aligned countries. Our "Local Agents" approach would strive to organize influencers and social media personnel into a cohesive and organized yet informal network. This network would comprise of national internet figures who are accessible, close and familiar to us and our realities, and would, in a way that is informational yet informal, keep us up to date about international developments that are essential to our national and collective security. Our project is, at the same time, easy, cost-effective and accessible to all, and would serve as the foundation upon which NATO will build a defensive line against foreign information campaigns.

NOVEMBER STREAM: Russia-Ukraine War

TEAM NAME: Able Archers

AUTHOR NAMES: Marcin Szudrowicz, Rita Wiśniewska, Julia Zakowska

AFFILIATIONS: Maastricht University (The Netherlands)

SUMMARY: To battle the issue of disinformation that has risen upon Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, multilevel effective solutions are available.

The Russian disinformation ought to be identified; it aims to reach vulnerable groups in the society, victims of digital divide with poor media literacy. Allies shall grant every citizen conventional-type equal access to media and declare mandatory Finnish–style education on media literacy in their curriculum.

Alliance-wide steps shall ensure collaboration between States and NATO institutions to identify the sources of disinformation and opening criminal procedures against Russian instigators. Current NATO attempts clarifying disinformation online shall be expanded to other platforms and devices to decrease the digital divide. Its structure shall reach the most vulnerable groups, translation into Russian done by linguistically specialized AI could be utilized. NATO's dedication to humanitarian values and ban on use of propaganda will promote NATO as a force of peace.

TEAM NAME: Lynxes of the Eastern Flank

AUTHOR NAMES: Stanisław Józef Kondera, Seweryn Nowak, Maja Torbus, Kamil Wojciechowski

AFFILIATIONS: University of Silesia in Katowice (Poland)

SUMMARY: The project seeks to combat Russian disinformation through a comprehensive strategy with both short-term and long-term solutions. It emphasizes educating the younger generation by providing tools to identify misinformation and promoting information verification through reliable sources. Drawing from Poland's education system, it proposes incorporating multi-sensory components, like computer games, into NATO countries' education. Although NATO does not specifically address youth education, it can utilize financial resources for tailored solutions. Advanced AI search engines and language models will identify trending disinformation topics and support social media campaigns that debunk myths and expose manipulation tactics. Collaboration with social media companies is vital for identifying disinformation agents and mitigating the "echo chamber" effect. Furthermore, the project promotes transparency in AI-generated content to help consumers recognize synthetic information, ultimately aiming to foster a more informed public resilient to disinformation.

TEAM NAME: Third Way

AUTHOR NAMES: Helena Karniewska, Oliwia Kobylińska, Mikołaj Ozdobiński

AFFILIATIONS: University of Warsaw (Poland)

SUMMARY: The "TruthGuard" project aims to combat disinformation related to the Russian-Ukrainian war through a browser extension. By using advanced AI technology, the extension will analyze content in real-time, flagging misleading information and providing instant alerts to users. It will also offer educational articles about highlighted subject. The project is designed for global reach and impact. It aims to strengthen NATO's resilience against disinformation campaigns and uphold democratic values among member states. By fostering a collaborative community, "TruthGuard" not only protects users but also contributes to a more informed public discourse. Ultimately, this initiative represents a proactive approach to safeguarding information integrity in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

OSCAR STREAM: Russia-Ukraine War

TEAM NAME: Central Poland Law Brotherhood

AUTHOR NAMES: Varvara Konstiantynova, Sofiia Reva, Ostap Semenikhin, Solomiia Tymoshenko, Olha Yarynich

AFFILIATIONS: University of Łódź (Poland)

SUMMARY To effectively counter Kremlin misinformation, NATO should adopt offensive, AI-driven strategies targeting Russia's information space using current NATO channels in Russia. Current reactive approaches does not work anymore, so NATO must focus on informing the Russian public about the true causes of the conflict, while respecting international law. By using AI to create artificial influencers, NATO could present factual narratives and debunk Kremlin myths, reaching both Russians abroad and minority groups within Russia. These influencers would address topics like sanctions and conscription, challenging Kremlins claims of "Ukrainian fascists" or "genocide in Donbas."

While NATO aims to provide understanding in Russian society of the current war real costs and real causes of the Russian invasion on Ukraine. Challenges may include maintaining security, limited demographic reach, and environmental costs of AI. This operation seeks to shift the information struggle into Russia, clarifying the conflict's origins for those misinformed by Kremlin propaganda.

TEAM NAME: Irrationalists

AFFILIATIONS: I. K. Karpenko-Karyi Kyiv National University of Theatre, Cinema and Television (Ukraine), Karazin Kharkiv National University (Ukraine), KU Leuven (Belgium), National University of Bioresources and Nature Management (Ukraine), and Yale University (United States of America)

SUMMARY: An initiative we have entitled TRACER-Targeted Response Against Coordinated Enemy Rhetoric-proposes a collaborative strategy involving NATO, global fact-checking organizations, and social media platforms like Meta. The initiative aims to establish a real-time, centralized database that tracks disinformation themes and counter-narratives. This database will enhance real-time detection capabilities, allowing social media, media organizations and AI companies to analyze and respond to disinformation effectively. By providing verified, fact-checked content to users at critical moments, via integration into social media algorithms and other online content, TRACER seeks to curb the spread of misleading narratives. Its automated approach will enable swift action and improved accuracy in countering disinformation.

TEAM NAME: NATO Truth Department

AUTHOR NAMES: Konstantinos Metaxotos, Georgios Varsamis, Nikolaos Xenidis

AFFILIATIONS: Democritus University of Thrace (Greece)

SUMMARY: In order to counter Russian propaganda , NATO should expand its social media presence by collaborating with influencers that will educate the public about the Alliance's history, goals and its values while also informing it about Ukraine's history, politics, culture and the aggressive Russian expansionism. Also, NATO should create individual social media accounts for its campaigns to counter disinformation, for example a "Protect the Future" account. Furthermore, NATO should collaborate closer with social media companies in order to deal with bot accounts that spread fake narratives. Users who interacted with said accounts should be notified about the fact that the post they interacted with is labeled as misinformation.

TEAM NAME: Peacemakers

AUTHOR NAMES: Amir Hadzhyiev, Zhuak Mohammad, Kirill Naida

AFFILIATIONS: National University "Odesa Law Academy" (Ukraine)

SUMMARY: P4AI Concept is an AI checker that analyzes digital content to ensure accuracy, reliability, and transparency. Using machine learning, P4AI can detect potential bias, misinformation, and credibility issues within media content by analyzing language, cross-referencing facts, and identifying affiliations of media sources. This helps users understand any underlying agendas or ownership influences that may affect the content. Additionally, P4AI compares stories across different sources to present diverse perspectives, promoting balanced and informed media consumption. This tool is valuable for readers seeking trustworthy information and is part of a growing trend of AI-powered platforms enhancing transparency in digital media.

PAPA STREAM: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

TEAM NAME: Cal Maritime CyberCorps

AUTHOR NAMES: Cameron Alby, Tabitha Lee Chon, Liam Pogue-Hartwig

AFFILIATIONS: California State University Maritime Academy (United States of America)

SUMMARY: Our team has identified the need for creating a Task Force focused on detecting and aiding in countering AI based threats, along deepening the understanding of AI and its tools. The Task Force would be composed of experts from primarily NATO Member Countries, as well as private businesses involved in technology, Artificial-Intelligence, and information creation world such as Microsoft, Google, Panasonic, and other relevant businesses. The cooperation allows for broader understanding and countering of these issues. Along with this, the task force will help with the creation and evolution of such technologies to act as an incentive for private companies. The force will be given a secondary objective of assisting NATO members in countering such issues. With this the task force will also provide the ability for NATO to better understand the tech world and work with private industries for future situations with the evolving technologies of the modern world.

TEAM NAME: MRU Law & Global Security

AUTHOR NAMES: Andrii, Karina, Kiril, Martyna

AFFILIATIONS: Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania)

SUMMARY: Identify, counteract, limit. In addition, barriers once in place limiting their production have been decreasing especially so if we take into consideration social media filters. Creating a long-term solution plan for NATO member nations to counter deepfake-driven disinformation requires a multifaceted approach, drawing on existing NATO protocols, international cyber norms, and leveraging the collective expertise of member states. Here's a strategic year-long implementation plan that incorporates legislative, technological, and educational elements. Establish a framework that empowers NATO members to effectively identify, counteract, and limit the spread of deepfake-driven disinformation across member states. By pursuing these steps, NATO members can create a robust and sustainable framework to counteract deepfake disinformation while upholding transparency, data privacy, and international cooperation. Possible issues: • Platform resistance: incentivise cooperation emphasizing the need for security in open information sharing. • Legislative support: collaboration between national governments to standardise legal definitions and penalties associated with malicious deepfake use.

TEAM NAME: Team 9

AUTHOR NAMES: Yasemin Erciyas, Ata Ulas Guler, Gabriel Gurbowicz, Leandro Saiacua, Dmytro Zarezin

AFFILIATIONS: Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University (Türkiye), Purdue University (United States of America), Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (Ukraine), TED University (Türkiye), and University of Silesia in Katowice (Poland)

SUMMARY: Fighting disinformation is a tough challenge and nobody should be left alone with it. NATO, using its broad strategic resources, such as AI web monitoring, should establish a fusion cell or a set of procedures that would help each member country and organisation flag and monitor disinformation in cooperation with NATO, in order to develop strategy to fight AI threats. In "Phase I", member countries could contribute by submitting and flagging the most important disinformation happening in their own public space, while NATO would gather that data and use it to help them. Phase II would expand by implementing some resource-saving technology, such us bots that could monitor and flag disinformation on their own and report back to NATO. Phase III of the idea is creating ultimate tool based on ANN capability that would flag and report deepfakes and disinformation as soon as they enter the internet space.

TEAM NAME: Bevo's Council

AUTHOR NAMES: Sereen Qawasmi, Emma Fisk, Caden Towlson

AFFILIATIONS: University of Texas at Austin (United States of America)

SUMMARY: We plan to challenge the spread of disinformation via artificial intelligence with a two-pronged approach: first by enhancing the credibility of real information and, second, by taking proactive measures to combat the spread of disinformation. We will accomplish this through implementation of a NATO-awarded credibility score as an incentive for social media company compliance and second, through enhancement of digital literacy among vulnerable populations. A NATO-based credibility score will rank social media companies in terms of veracity based on application of various authenticity technologies. Our people-facing approach will include increasing awareness of the ever-changing threat landscape through educational training modules and advertisement campaigns. A digital media literacy approach will include curriculums designed for use in schools and among vulnerable populations such as the elderly and geographically isolated. Advertising campaigns and myth-busting panels will also be utilized to promote awareness of artificial intelligence and its use in the spread of disinformation.

TEAM NAME: NOTA

AUTHOR NAMES: Furkan Akkoyun, Mert Efe Kayan, Volkan Kılıçkaya, Salih Öngör, Emre Tartarv

AFFILIATIONS: Middle East Technical University (Türkiye)

SUMMARY: A group trained by NATO employs advanced computer systems to identify and monitor videos circulating on social media platforms. This initiative focuses on detecting harmful or misleading content, particularly related to disinformation campaigns and extremist propaganda. Once a video is identified, the system also tracks copies and related content, ensuring comprehensive monitoring. The detection process is bolstered by a network of volunteers and subject matter experts who report problematic videos. Their insights enhance the accuracy of the identification process, enabling quicker responses. Upon verification, the flagged videos are swiftly removed from platforms, minimizing their impact and reducing the spread of misinformation. This proactive approach not only helps safeguard public discourse but also strengthens NATO's capabilities in countering information warfare. By fostering collaboration between technology and community engagement, NATO aims to create a more resilient information environment, protecting democratic values and promoting stability in the face of evolving threats. The cost around $22500+$15000+$10000=$47500..

TEAM NAME: Problem Breakers

AUTHOR NAMES: Ahmet Emre Aslan, Emhran Çelik, Erdem Önal, Andrew Thrimble

AFFILIATIONS: Boğaziçi University (Türkiye) and Mälardalen University (Sweden)

SUMMARY: As Team Problem Breakers, we are focusing on the disinformation caused by deepfakes across social media platforms. We intend to develop a browser extension to ensure the tool's ease of use and access to the general audience.

We have decided to use the Factor API, which offers effective, real-time detection capabilities via a simple, REST-based interface. This API makes it possible to quickly analyze deepfakes in photos and videos, which is compatible with the extension's objective of providing reliable, quick detection.

Besides detecting harmful deepfake content, the tool will also highlight content with credible sources. We intend to utilize a uniform approach across multiple social media platforms by utilizing integrated protocols such as OAuth 2.0, which will contribute to its appeal. Moreover, the tool will be developed by an independent company that would benefit from grants, such as DIANA, to ensure its standing as an impartial development.

TEAM NAME: Team Longhorns

AUTHOR NAMES: Rebecca Huang, Andrew Paumen

AFFILIATIONS: University of Texas at Austin (United States of America)

SUMMARY: NATO members are struggling to counter disinformation campaigns, particularly those involving deepfakes from authoritarian adversaries. Consequently, skepticism about NATO and its core values has grown. Rather than focus on automated detection, we propose to focus on increasing awareness as it is the most powerful defense against malign influence. Our strategy includes educating the general population about deep fake campaigns, creating awareness around identifying multi-domain media disinformation and ultimately, ensuring that the values and readiness of NATO are maintained. Specifically, we aim to identify and target vulnerable populations that are at high risk and utilize public-private partnerships to support fact-checking organizations to bring more training towards media literacy. This will be implemented under NATO's Public Diplomacy Division and effectiveness will be measured by periodic polling. For concerns on privacy, the interaction with the public will be conducted voluntarily through public channels.