

11 Zagreb Security Forum 2026

Quo Vadis Europe in 21st Century

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY,
PROTECTING FREEDOM AND SOCIETY

PROGRAM

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Hybrid
Warfare
Research
Institute



DR. FRANJO TUĐMAN
DEFENSE AND SECURITY
UNIVERSITY

8-11 October, 2026

Hotel Westin, Zagreb, Croatia

**Co-organizer of the
11th Zagreb Security Forum:**



Konrad Adenauer
Foundation – Office
Croatia and Slovenia

Zagreb Security Forum partners:



Europa Institute,
Bar-Ilan University,
Ramat-Gan, Israel



International Intelligence History
Association, Germany

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Hybrid Warfare Research

Institute is nonprofit, non-partisan and non-governmental organization with aim to encourage, assist, develop and promote research in the field of personal, corporate, national and international security, just as fighting against malicious consequences of disinformation to society. HWRI is a member of EU-Hybnnet and official fact-checker in Croatia in the fields of defense and security from mid 2024.





From September 2022,
Hybrid Warfare Research
Institute is EU-HYBNET
Network Member.



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**PROGRAM OF THE 11TH ZAGREB SECURITY FORUM –
REGULARLY UPDATED**



Introduction by Assoc. Prof. Gordan Akrap

Dear colleagues, Dear friends,

We are aware of the speed at which modern, especially digital, technologies are evolving and affecting our everyday lives. Children still in diapers are already playing with the first smart phones, elementary school students are using artificial intelligence. Every day we are witnessing new possibilities of its application. We need to ask important ethical questions about the relationship between humans and AI, which are in line with Pope Leo XIV's recent encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas* (The Magnificent Humanity). The Pope made a timely diagnosis and offered a series of questions to which we must quickly offer effective answers: what will the indiscriminate and non-humanistic application of AI do to man and society, both in the short and long term, and in what way does it already affect the ways in which we wage conflicts and wars in different domains of our lives? The more decisions we leave to algorithms about the use of force, the more the relationship between man, technology, responsibility and ethics changes.

Technology is changing. The way of warfare is changing. The means of attack are changing at an incredible speed. However, the basic logic of the conflict has not changed: imposing one's own will on the attacked target, using the means that the attacker holds that they can best meet his expectations at that moment. And here I would go back almost forty years, to the Croatian Homeland War.

Croatian experiences and strategies

When we organised our defence during Croatian Homeland war for independence, the war that was imposed to us almost four decades ago, we had neither technological, informational, organizational, material nor numerical equality, let alone superiority. However, we had

the will, we had the strength of spirit, we had unity, we had a strong leadership that represented authorities for itself: both in Dr. Franjo Tuđman as the directly elected President of the Republic by the people and in the spiritual head, Cardinal Franjo Kuharić. Franjo Tuđman then determined the strategic determinants that were crucial in laying the foundations of our overall victory. By analyzing modern conflicts and wars, we see and recognize their liveliness as well as their strategic importance even today.

The first was **constant communication with all relevant factors**. The goal of communication was not the communication itself, but the process and consequences that had to be produced: an effort to change the relations between different factors on the national and international scene positively in our favour, to reduce the level of their opposition to our fundamental interests towards giving support to them, and to increase the space (in terms of content, duration and positive consequences) for our mutual cooperation.

The second was **the reduction of the adversary's ability to gather, organize and connect its own capacities to support the war effort**. In other words, the isolation of the adversary from its partners, friends and allies, both in the financial, political, social, military, security, and social sense. Influencing internal divisions and the inability to plan and conduct conflicts and wars, and turning to internal problems that inevitably arise from the intensification of war activities, the increase in human, material, organizational and institutional casualties. Conflicts are never limited only to the directly conflicting parties. They include numerous other factors, from private individuals, nations, companies, corporations, states and international organizations. These factors need to be recognized, their roles determined and work to change their relations for their own benefit and against the interests of the adversary. By doing so, we accept the fact that conflicts take

place both in space and in time, they have their cause-and-effect context, their dynamics and rules.

The third was **prioritization**. Crises, like conflicts and wars, are not one-dimensional. They are multi-level and multi-faceted. At the same time, we can have military, political, economic, informational, digital and social pressure. We had neither enough people, nor time, nor resources, nor knowledge, nor organizational prerequisites, nor external support to solve every crisis at the same time. Therefore, we had to be able to ask a few clear questions: what and who threatens us, what are our priorities, what is the priority of all priorities, what resources (already limited) will we allocate to eliminate the primary cause of the key problems? We dealt with causes, not consequences, because we wanted to win not only individual battles, but to emerge victorious, with the least possible losses and destruction, from the entire war. Because if we constantly deal with the consequences, and do not act on the causes, we spend our own capacities and allow the opponent to determine the intensity and direction of our actions. That is, we leave an area for manoeuvre to the opponent in which he manages this area as he wants, without us being aware of it. This is the basic postulate of every attacker in modern hybrid conflicts.

Croatia won the defensive war because we better managed our already limited resources, internal and international relations, communication channels, information content, priorities, with strong willpower, spirit and unity, as well as clearly defined goals and tasks at the strategic level. We worked hard to increase the absorption capacities of volunteers and society to new conditions, processes and threats. For a long time, we could only rely on our internal capacities as well as on the capacities of Croatian, primarily economic, emigration. It was not until the end of October 1990 that we began to receive more concrete help from individual stakeholders of the international community. In every conflict and war, there are two parallel tasks: to increase our own

ability to absorb shocks, and disturbances, and at the same time to reduce the ability of the adversary to absorb our defensive and offensive actions. This is perhaps the simplest definition of resilience in the conditions of modern conflict. We have succeeded in this. I am convinced that Ukraine and Europe will succeed in this. We have no choice but to win.

Challenges related to the development of AI

I will return to the challenge of AI. We need to prepare future leaders to learn, live and work with AI. Quality, efficient, sustainable, safe, reliable. Will AI surpass our ability? It already has. Therefore, future generations need to be taught the responsible use of AI. We can already say that AI has become a human "cognitive partner". AI is becoming a separate cognitive infrastructure that significantly affects the final learning outcomes and competencies of our students. But also, people in general. Therefore, AI should become a component of almost all courses during university education, i.e. a horizontal link of almost the entire study program. This, in turn, leads us to an important determinant of future studies: they must become more humanistic. Namely, the more information and knowledge we receive from AI, the more we will have to work on the development of human cognitive ability.

1. The UI performs tasks
2. The GUI handles a wide range of tasks
3. SI surpasses humans in almost all cognitive comprehension and problem-solving abilities
4. Autonomous Intelligence has the ability to independently plan, evaluate and act according to set goals
5. HI understands situations and processes, shapes strategies, connects facts (or what it holds to be facts), makes decisions, and acts in a complex environment.

Too much dependence on AI can lead to a decline in the cognitive abilities of our students, to their cognitive atrophy because they do not use their brains to think and check, but only to map the picture of reality that AI offers them. That is why future students must be able to understand and judge. We need to teach them to take responsibility for their decisions. In order to succeed in this, in the first learning phase, students need to learn without the right to use AI. Only when they understand how the world worked before AI, which led to positive changes through independent human thinking and teamwork, and when they understand the importance of thinking and asking the right research questions, they can use AI in their work. In this case, the knowledge offered by AI builds on the existing cognitive foundation. The better this foundation, the better the upgrade will be. A student must know their subject area, they must understand it, they must know when they made a mistake and why. Only then can the use of AI give the desired results. AI should dare to want and know how to use it, but decisions should still be made by a human.

Artificial intelligence changes the way conflicts and wars are fought, but it does not change the reasons why conflicts and wars are initiated. If the goal of war is to influence the behaviour of the opponent, his decisions, reduce his ability to recognize bad decisions, then the impact on human decision-making is as strategically important as the physical destruction of his abilities. This is where we come to a new dimension of warfare: cognitive.

On cognitive sovereignty

What if the adversary no longer needs to destroy our physical ability to manage crises? What if it can influence us so that we make a decision (or more of them) that will render this ability useless? And that is why I have been talking for a long time about the existence of four strongly interconnected domains of living and acting: physical, informational, digital and cognitive. In physical space, we live, work, protect or

destroy values, knowledge, abilities. In the information space, we collect data, produce, control and distribute information. The digital space allows us to do this faster, more precisely and on an incomparably larger scale. However, the final effect often occurs in the cognitive space – in the human being. A space where a person makes decisions that have certain effects in all domains, both directly and indirectly. Especially in human perception, assessment, decision, behaviour, action, acceptance of consequences. Whoever manages to influence this process can achieve a strategic effect, victory in the war, without firing a shot. This is the wisdom that we can harness since Sun Tzu.

That is why it is no coincidence that in modern conflicts, enormous resources are invested in information and cognitive operations of influence. If we compare the cost of investing in the development of a single unit of military technology that has the goal of destroying an opponent's physical capability with the cost of influencing the decisions of the people who use that ability, we will see a completely different economy of conflict.

A modern combat system can cost tens or hundreds of millions of euros. Let's take the example of the Russian SU 57 (Felon) fighter, whose export price (according to estimates) is about 100 million euros. Let's compare it with the average salary of a journalist in, for example, Serbia (because Serbia has a very high absorption capacity for accepting Russian propaganda narratives and politics), which is about 1000 euros. How long can Russia maintain its activities in the information space of Serbia (but also of states, societies and media that frequently and uncritically transmit information from that space, bring it into their own information space; one because of political interests, others because of the increase in clicking)? For decades, with a large number of journalists (or those who call themselves as such) on their payroll. This shows that with small financial

expenditures/investment (compared to investments in military assets) in shaping the information space, Russia achieves the ability to operate effectively in multiple information and cognitive spaces for a long time. Why physically destroy an adversary's ability when you can influence their people who decide whether to use it? Why spend enormous resources on physical deterrence, i.e. occasional offensive actions with a single fighter jet, when relatively cheaper actions can reduce the political will of the target audience to act together? This is one of the reasons why we need to seriously understand contemporary Russian information influence operations in Europe. RT, Sputnik and various media networks of influence are only one part of this broader ecosystem from the spectrum of hybrid threats. The Russian approach does not necessarily create its own factors. It is enough to identify existing social cracks, discontent and networks of influence and connect them to narratives that correspond to their own strategic interests. The most successful influence operation is not the one in which the attacked person says what the attacker tells him, but the one in which the attacked person begins to say what he has concluded, based on the actions of the attacker, believing that this opinion and the consequent decision is entirely his. We can justifiably ask the question: what is the price of defending our informational and cognitive sovereignty? Perhaps an even better question is: do we have informational and cognitive sovereignty?

If you can get your opponent to: give up the will to defend their own family and identity, not make decisions or make wrong ones without being aware of it, to doubt their partners and allies, to lose trust in the institutions of their state and community, to refuse to support key national interests, then your/our opponent does not have to use physical force at all. It is unnecessary for him. War and conflict can be won by destroying the opponent's physical and weapon capabilities. But it can also be won by convincing the opponent that these same defensive as well as offensive capabilities should not be used.

This is the true strength and goal of cognitive influence operations: man is at the same time the most important target and the most important resource of any defence and security system. We at the Dr. Franjo Tuđman Defence and Security University are particularly aware of this.

Critical infrastructure

The protection of critical infrastructures is essential for the functioning of society today. I am of the opinion that there are only four real key critical infrastructures on which our lives depend, four systems fundamental for the survival of a community of people:

- Production and distribution of water necessary for physical survival
- Production and distribution of food necessary for physical survival and economy
- Production and distribution of energy and energy sources necessary for functional survival
- Identity as a necessary prerequisite for the social and political survival of the community.

It is this last infrastructure that is the gravitational centre of all modern attacks of a hybrid nature: identity and cognitive processes associated with it. If we connect all of the above, we can talk about the cognitive infrastructure of society that makes that society more resilient, stronger, which can repel the attacker from the will to attack it. Cognitive infrastructure would include and imply mutual trust of society in institutions and vice versa, the associated social community, a constructive and to a significant extent a common understanding of reality, a common identity, the ability to recognize information operations of influence, autonomy and sovereignty in decision-making and monitoring their implementation or realization. It is this cognitive infrastructure that we must protect today more than ever before. And

this has been the motto of this forum since our first day: Strengthening Democracy, Protecting Freedom and Society.

What can we do? We must increase our own, primarily cognitive, absorption capacities. We must be able to accept the first strike consequences, disruptions, information content manipulation, cyberattacks, political pressures or social crisis as such, without losing the ability to make sovereign decisions. At the same time, we must reduce the ability of the adversary to absorb our offensive actions, which is one of the fundamental logics of any conflict: to increase our own resilience and reduce the opponent's.

An important advantage in future conflict will be on the side of those who manage to develop the ability to respond quickly and effectively based on an early understanding of what is really happening, the ability to recognize upcoming threats early, recognize and understand processes and factors, their intentions, there and our weaknesses and vulnerabilities, and the grand strategy behind the perceived threats. Given that no one is able to win future conflicts and wars if they are left alone, the necessity of cooperation and constructive dialogue on national and international level imposes itself.

This is where artificial intelligence can be both a great opportunity and a great danger. It can help analyse huge amounts of data and information, quickly recognize patterns that we either don't see or will see after a significant passage of time. However, let's not forget that the adversary also uses AI, perhaps better, and has its own models. What's worse, we may be using AI models that are directly or indirectly owned and controlled by the attacker so that the attacker knows what we know, or think we know, what we are planning. By doing so, we give the adversary, without being aware of it, the ability to gain cognitive sovereignty over us.

Proposal

What to do in that case? Return to human side of our life. AI already knows much more than we do, it analyzes much, much faster; analyzes much, much larger amounts of information; sees deeper than us, but, for now, it offers only partial context. A human needs to understand the context, understand the intentions of another human, know how to ask the right questions in the right place at the right time, take responsibility for making decisions and accept the fact of learning from their consequences. In present, and especially in future conflicts, it will be essential who better understands how AI changes humans, society, decision-making and the very nature of conflict. In past wars, we tried to surpass the opponent in speed of movement and firepower. In future conflicts, we will also have to surpass him in the speed of understanding, adapting and making useful decisions. One of the key institutional determinants important for understanding new conflicts and wars are the special study programs that we, University are developing, and the intelligence community: we for the education of future leaders, and the intelligence community for their timely and reliable familiarization with the necessary facts about what is happening and why so that they can act before the consequences become strategic.

In future conflicts and wars, the winner will not be the one who has the most and best AI and technology, but the one who will best understand how to use them, manage all cognitive domains, achieve information and technological superiority, integrate them into a meaningful unity, and at the same time preserve the ability of one's own human to understand the world, evaluate information and make responsible decisions sovereignly. Man is a modern battlefield. That is why we need to educate, educate and educate him/her. But also protect him/her. Preventively, not afterwards. Precisely because AI is developing strongly, we need to develop human capabilities.

Technology has truly changed the way warfare is done; but the quality of the human who makes the decision still decides whether technology will be a means of security or a means of one's own destruction.

Therefore, we should do our best to **Strengthen Democracy,
Protect Freedom and Society**

Assoc. Prof. Gordan Akrap

Dr. Franjo Tuđman Defense and Security University

Vice Rector

**PROGRAM OF THE 11TH ZAGREB SECURITY FORUM –
REGULARLY UPDATED**



Words of Welcome by Prof. Dr. Ivica Lučić, rector of Dr. "Franjo Tuđman" Defense and Security University

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

I greet you on behalf of the "Dr. Franjo Tuđman" Defence and Security University. This year, for the fourth time, we are co-organizers of the Zagreb Security Forum, which offers us high-quality lectures and what is even more important in today's world, excellent networking possibilities. That is very important for quite high number of young researchers. The task of every educational institution, especially ones as our University, is to prepare society and the state for the numerous security risks and threats to which we may be exposed in future.

For years, this Forum has shown the importance of connecting information and knowledge and networking experts in order to combat the numerous and various challenges that we face or will face. The exchange of students and teaching staff, as well as connecting and working on joint projects, is a necessity that every serious academic institution must encourage and develop. We also believe that it is important to harmonize educational and specialist programs in some respects, and this is again possible through the exchange of knowledge and experience at all levels, including at forums such as ours today.

Our University is making strong efforts to connect with various civil and military institutions, at the national and international levels, in accordance with common interests and values. The security situation in the world, as well as the socio-political processes taking place in our immediate environment, lead us to the conclusion that the education and training of the entire society (and not only future members of the armed forces) for the defense of the state is essential for our security. Education is necessary for the preservation of our identity, tradition

and the values we inherit. We believe that we share this conviction with our allies and partners within the European Union and NATO.

We will strive through our study and specialist programs to strengthen the foundations of successful interoperability of all stakeholders in homeland security and to strengthen the concept that our defense and security are based on the integration of knowledge, capabilities and skills of the armed forces, the public and private sectors, the academic community, responsible parts of the media and civil society. This is the concept that in some countries is called integrated or total defense, and it is especially important for countries with a small population and a small national territory.

Colleagues, dear friends,

I wish you successful work at the 11th Zagreb Security Forum.

Prof. Dr. Ivica Lučić

Dr. Franjo Tuđman Defense and Security University
Rector

Foreword by Dr. Norbert Eschborn

We live in an age of growing uncertainty. Across the globe, established assumptions about peace, stability, and international cooperation are being tested by profound geopolitical shifts. Armed conflicts, strategic rivalry between major powers, hybrid threats, cyberattacks, disinformation campaigns, economic disruptions, migration pressures, and technological transformation have combined to create an increasingly volatile security environment. The pace of change often exceeds our ability to predict its consequences, while new risks emerge in areas that only a few years ago seemed peripheral to traditional security thinking.

In this environment, security can no longer be understood exclusively through the lens of military capabilities or state institutions. Security has become a deeply personal matter. Citizens are concerned not only about wars and geopolitical crises, but also about the protection of critical infrastructure, the reliability of information, the resilience of democratic institutions, the safety of digital spaces, and the preservation of social cohesion. The line between public security and personal security has become increasingly blurred. What happens in distant regions can affect societies and individuals thousands of kilometers away through economic impact, energy supply disruptions, cyber operations, or coordinated influence campaigns.

Europe finds itself at the center of many of these developments. As a continent whose prosperity has been built upon cooperation, openness, and the rule of law, Europe must now navigate a world characterized by strategic competition and growing unpredictability. This requires not only strong institutions and effective policies, but also informed debate, intellectual openness, and sustained international cooperation. Security challenges have become too interconnected and

too complex to be addressed by any single nation, institution, or discipline alone.

For this reason, forums that bring together experts, policymakers, academics, security professionals, business leaders, and civil society representatives have never been more important. Meaningful dialogue is an indispensable element of resilience. It enables us to exchange experiences, challenge assumptions, identify emerging risks, and develop innovative responses to shared challenges. Equally important, it strengthens the networks of trust that are essential when crises arise.

The Zagreb Security Forum has become precisely such a platform. Over the past decade, it has developed into a respected meeting place for serious international discussion on security and resilience in an increasingly complex world. Through its commitment to professional excellence, intellectual independence, and international cooperation, the Forum has established a reputation that extends far beyond Croatia and the wider region. It has provided an important space where diverse perspectives can meet, where difficult questions can be addressed openly, and where ideas can be transformed into practical recommendations and lasting partnerships.

The year 2026 therefore represents more than another edition of the Forum. It marks a significant milestone: ten years of dedication to fostering informed debate on some of the most pressing security challenges of our time. Such success is never accidental. It is the result of vision, persistence, professionalism, and the tireless commitment of many individuals working often behind the scenes.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and admiration to the entire Zagreb Security Forum team. Over the last decade, they have

built an institution that has earned international recognition and respect. Their work has brought together distinguished experts from around the world, strengthened international cooperation, and established Zagreb as an important venue for strategic dialogue on security issues. What began as an ambitious idea has become a firmly established and valued contribution to the international security community.

At a time when uncertainty seems to be the defining characteristic of global affairs, the mission of the Zagreb Security Forum remains as important as ever. Understanding emerging challenges, strengthening resilience, and fostering cooperation are not optional endeavors. They are essential requirements for safeguarding both our societies and our citizens.

May this Forum continue to inspire thoughtful discussion, encourage new partnerships, and contribute to a safer, more resilient, and more secure future for Europe and beyond.

Dr. Norbert Eschborn

Director

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Croatia and Slovenia Office

Quo Vadis Europe in 21st Century

8-11 October, 2026, Hotel Westin, Zagreb, Croatia



PROGRAM

Day 0: Thursday, October 8, 2026

19:00 - 22:00 – Introduction to the Forum with
Dinner (invitation only)

Day 1: Friday, October 9th, 2026

09:00 – 09:30 **Arrival and Registration**

09:30 – 10:00 **Opening Ceremony**

- **Assoc.Prof. Gordan Akrap**, Hybrid Warfare Research Institute, and **Dr. Franjo Tuđman Defense and Security University**, Zagreb
- **Dr. Norbert Eschborn**, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Office for Croatia and Slovenia
- **Prof.Dr. Shlomo Shpiro**, Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan
- **Prof.Dr. Ivo Lučić**, rector of **Dr. Franjo Tuđman Defense and Security University**, Zagreb

10:00 – 11:00 Introduction to Forum - Guests of Honor

- **Major General Friedrich Schrötter**, commander of National Defence Academy, Vienna, Austria
- **mr. Ivan Jušić**, special envoy of the Vicepresident and Minister of Defence
- **mrs Marijana Petir**, member of Croatian Parliament, special envoy of the president of Croatian Parliament

11:00-11:20 Coffee Break

11:20-13:00 STRATEGICAL CHALLENGES

Chair: Assist. Prof. Daria Vilkova, Taras Schevchenko National University of Kyiv, Kyiv, Ukraine

1. **Prof.Dr. Iulian Chifu**, National Defence University, Romania: **Great Powers, Middle Powers consortiums, Minor Powers. A Geopolitical Pragmatic Realism**
2. **Prof. Dr. Ulrich Blum**, Institute for Economics and Technologies of Lithium, Germany: **Innovative Defence against Hybrid Attacks – Can West do Better?**
3. **Dr. Agata Kleczkowska**, Institute of Law Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences: **The International Order at a Crossroads: Is It Time for International Law 2.0?**
4. **RA (ret.) Eyal Pinko**, PhD, Bar-Ilan University, Israel: **The Maritime Front of Europe's Hybrid War**
5. **Maja Pokrovac**, M.Sc., MBA, RES Croatia: **Weaponisations of Energy - Challenges and Opportunities**

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch (one non-alcoholic beverage included)

14:00 – 15:50 DEVELOPMENTS IN HYBRID WAFARE

**Chair: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vira Ratsiborynska, Free University
Bruxelles, Belgium**

1. **Prof. Dr. Kristijan Kotarski**, University of Zagreb, Croatia, and **Prof. Dr. Ashok Vaseashta**, Institute for National Strategic Studies, USA: **The Architecture of Power: China's Regulatory Weaponization and Technological Denial in the Global Rare Earth Supply Chain**
2. **Prof. Dr. Driss Larafi**, University Ibn Tofail, College of Legal and political sciences, Kenitra, Morocco: **"Donroe Doctrine" and NATO Europe**
3. **Prof. Dr. Shlomo Shpiro**, **Dr. Barak Bouks**, School of communication & Department of Political Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Bar Ilan University, Israel: **Hybrid Warfare and Military Operations in Gaza and Iran Wars: Lessons for European Security (online)**
4. **Dr. Anders Strindberg**, Swedish Defence Research Agency-FOI, Sweden: **The Shifting Sands of Jihadism: European Counterterrorism in a Changing Strategic Landscape**
5. **BG Ephraim Lapid, PhD**, Bar Ilan University: **Intelligence Lessons from Israel's Recent Wars (online)**
6. **Prof. Dr. Rastislav Kazansky**, Matej Bel University (Slovakia) and South Bohemian University (Czech Republik): **Anti-Americanism, Russophilia and the Erosion of Democratic Resilience: Challenges for NATO–EU Strategic Cohesion in the 21st Century**

15:50 – 16:10 Coffee Break

16:10 – 18:00 IMPROVING NATIONAL RESILIENCE

Chair: Assoc. Prof. Gordan Akrap, Dr. Franjo Tuđman Defense and Security University, Zagreb, Croatia

1. **Assoc. Prof. Viacheslav Semenenko**, PhD., Military Academy, Ukraine: **Ukraine's National Resilience in War: Lessons for Post-Conflict Governance**
2. **Dr. Sofia Menezes**, Portuguese Military Academy, Portugal: **Engaging Generation Z in European Defence: Strategic Communication Challenges and Policy Responses (online)**
3. **Dr. Michał Marek**, NASK (Disinformation Analysis Centre), Poland: **Russian Psychological Operations: A Real Threat to the Security and Stability of European Countries**
4. **Prof.Dr. Omar Oscar Ashour**, Doha Institute, Doha, Qatar and University of Exeter, UK: **Ukraine's Hybrid Defence: Multi-Domain Lessons for Small(er) States**
5. **Dr. Ahmed El-Sayed Gabr Habaieb**, PhD, NATO Defense College Alumnus, Rome: **The Enemy Among Us: The Prevalence of Extremism in Military, Veteran and Law Enforcement Communities**
6. **Assist. Prof. Ivan Burazin**, Dr. Franjo Tuđman Defense and Security University, Zagreb: **With Guns and Drums: Terrorism, Movements and Antimovements**

20:00 - Networking dinner for all Forum participants, (two non-alcoholic beverages included) – Hotel Westin

Day 3: Saturday, October 10th, 2026

WORKSHOP ROOM A

10:00 – 11:45 WESTERN BALKAN - CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Chair: Assoc. Prof. Ivan Pepić, Dr. Franjo Tuđman Defense and Security University, Zagreb

1. **Dr. Jurica Botić**, Dr. Franjo Tuđman Defense and Security University, Zagreb: **The European Path of the Western Balkans: Identity as a Challenge to Loyalty**
2. **Angela Kukushev**, PhD student, and **Prof. Dr. Vasko Naumovski**, “Iustinianus Primus Faculty of Law”, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, N. Macedonia: **Hybrid Threats and Security Sector Vulnerabilities in the Western Balkans: Russian Interference Below the Threshold of Conflict**
3. **Prof. Dr. Bojana Lakičević Đuranović**, University of Montenegro: **International Humanitarian Law and Russian Aggression on Ukraine – Influencing Information Environment**
4. **Dr. Eleni Kapsokoli**, Adjunct Lecturer, International and European Studies, Paneion University, Greece: **The Role of AI in Electoral Interferences: Challenges for the EU’s Societal Resilience (online)**
5. **Dr. Andrew N. Liaropoulos**, University of Piraeus, Greece: **Hybrid Challenges in NATO’s Southern Neighbourhood (online)**

11:45 – 12:00 Coffee Break

12:00 – 13:45 FIMI ACTIVITIES

Chair: Assoc. Prof. Aleksandra Gasztold, NASK / University of Warsaw, Poland

1. **Prof. Dr. Darko Trifunović**, Institute for National and International Security, Belgrade, Serbia: **Russian Proxy Operations Against Europe**
2. **Assoc. Prof. Dr.sc Vesna Poposka, Assoc. Prof. Dr.sc Aleksandar Grzizhev, Assist. Prof. Dr.sc Ljupcho Shosholovski**, Military Academy „General Mihailo Apostolski“-Skopje, N. Macedonia: **Scenario-Based Pathways for Democratic Resilience and Euro-Atlantic Cohesion under Hybrid Pressure (online)**
3. **Dr. Przemysław Gasztold**, IPN and War Studies University, Warsaw, Poland: **Manufacturing contestation: Russian Disinformation, Populist Mobilization, and Polish-Ukrainian Relations**
4. **Megi Benia**, Founder and Director of Strategic Security Initiative, Georgia: **Deterrence through Resilience: Strengthening European Security in the Age of Hybrid Threats (online)**
5. **Danylo Naumenko-Dyakiv**, advisor to the Head of the Centre for Countering Disinformation, Kyiv, Ukraine: **Russia's Cultural Intervention: Soft Power as a Domain of Cognitive Warfare (online)**

13:45 – 14:45 Lunch (one non-alcoholic beverage included)

14:45 – 16:30 RESILIENCE AND HYBRIDITY OF THREATS

Chair: Iulia Tsyfra, PhD, Taras Schevchenko National University of Kyiv, Kyiv, Ukraine

1. **Dr. Roman Domović, PhD**, Hybrid Warfare Research Institute, Zagreb: **Disinformation and Information Environment: Case of Croatia – Results of ATENA project**
2. **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gintaras Labutis**, General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania: **Refined Fuel Production Dynamics in Europe: How it will Affect Resilient Energy Supply (online)**
3. **Kie Jacobson**, KAS, Germany-Canada: **Fragmentation Across Both Arenas: Croatia's Strategic Role in EU-NATO Security and the Western Balkans**
4. **Jungseob Scott Kim**, Staff (Lead) Cyber Defense Analyst – Threat Intelligence, USA: **Cyber-Enabled Data Leaks as Cognitive Warfare: Implications for EU–NATO Coordination (online)**

WORKSHOP ROOM A

16:30 – 16:40 Conclusions of the 11th ZSF: Future Challenges, Joint Responses

Co-chairs: Assoc. Prof. Gordan Akrap, Prof. Dr. Shlomo Shpiro

The aim of this session is to integrate the lessons learned from the individual presentations of the previous two days, both in terms of threat analysis and of networked responses.

Furthermore, this session will facilitate a wider discussion on the needs for joint capacity building, intensive inter-operability, and mutual multi-level crisis assistance.

WORKSHOP ROOM B

10:00 – 11:45 NEW GEOPOLITICS

Chair: Assist. Prof. Dr. Csongor B. Veress, Ludovika University of Public Service, Budapest, Hungary:

1. **Yordan Katsarov and Simeon Arnaudov**, Bulgarian Air Force Academy “Georgi Benkovski”: **Energy Resilience in Hybrid-Threat Environments: The Role of Small Modular Reactors**
2. **Genny Dimitrakopoulou**, Center for Security Studies, Atena, Greece: **Digital Interdependence and Strategic Risk: Hybrid Threats in the Energy Sector**
3. **Assist. Prof. Tomislav Sunko**, Dr. Franjo Tudjman Defense and Security University, **Toni Miskovic**, OIV, **Lovro Strnad and Roko Brečić**, cadets at Dr. Franjo Tudjman Defense and Security University: **New Geopolitical challenges to the Maritime Security of the Republic of Croatia**
4. **Jan Schmucker**, German Armed Forces: **The Baltic–Adriatic Axis: An Emerging Strategic Space in Europe’s Security Architecture**

11:45 – 12:00 Coffee Break

12:00 – 13:45 HYBRIDITY OF RESILIENCE

Chair: **Jakov Blagojević**, PhD student, Dr. Franjo Tudjman
Defense and Security University

1. **Assist. Prof. Dr. Csongor B. Veress**, Ludovika University of Public Service, Budapest, Hungary: **Adapting to a Changing Security Environment: Romania's and Moldova's New Defence Paradigms**
2. **Sergiu Mitrescu**, New Strategy Center (Associate Expert), Romania: **Unintended Consequences of Responses to Hybrid threats**
3. **Aleksandre Buzaladze**, University of Tartu, Estonia: **Cybersecurity Governance in Small European States: A Comparative Analysis of Georgia and Croatia**

13:45 – 14:45 Lunch (one non-alcoholic beverage included)

WORKSHOP ROOM A

16:30 – 16:40 Conclusions of the 11th ZSF: Future Challenges, Joint Responses

Co-chairs: **Assoc. Prof. Gordan Akrap**, **Prof. Dr. Shlomo Shpiro**

The aim of this session is to integrate the lessons learned from the individual presentations of the previous two days, both in terms of threat analysis and of networked responses.

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**PROGRAM OF THE 11TH
ZAGREB SECURITY FORUM –
REGULARLY UPDATED**

Important information:

1. Forum is organised according to pandemic situation in a hybrid way – “in situ” and online
2. Forum organisers are reserving the right to change the Program according to the necessities.



About the University

Dr. Franjo Tuđman Defense and Security University (SOIS FT) is a public university in the Republic of Croatia, with campuses in Zagreb and Split. It is the leading higher education and scientific-research institution serving the national defense and homeland security system of the Republic of Croatia. The University delivers high-quality study programmes in the fields of military-defense and security-intelligence sciences and practices, thereby directly contributing to the development and strengthening of homeland security and defense institutions. In line with its mission, vision, and objectives, the University's motto is: *Sapere Aude et Agere* (Latin), meaning "Dare to think and act".

The University is focused on training personnel to operate within the homeland security and defense system, striving for excellence and global recognition through top-tier teaching processes and cooperation with international partners. Through such international cooperation, the University further enhances

the capabilities of the homeland security and defense system, ensuring its readiness for the dynamic challenges of the 21st century. It actively fosters and develops its scientific-research capacities, particularly through the work of the *Institute for Security and Defense Studies*, where research projects support strategic and defense planning. The University was formally established in April 2021. It was founded by the Republic of Croatia, with the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Croatia assuming the associated rights and responsibilities. A candidate enrolled in a military study programme at the *Dr. Franjo Tuđman Defense and Security University* becomes both a student of the University and a cadet within the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia.

Mission

The mission of the *Dr. Franjo Tuđman Defense and Security University* is to develop and implement high-quality study programmes in the fields of security and defense sciences, contributing to the advancement and strengthening of institutions and organisations within the homeland security and defense system of the Republic of Croatia. The University sets the highest standards in education, applies modern technologies, and continuously enhances its research capacities while actively expanding international cooperation with relevant universities, research centres, institutions, and organisations in the Republic of Croatia, the European Union, NATO, and globally.

Vision

The University is a unique and fully capable higher education institution providing essential educational and research services to the homeland security and defense system. High-quality study programmes are developed at undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate levels. In addition to university and professional programmes tailored for homeland security needs, lifelong learning programmes are also developed. Scientific research for homeland security is carried out through projects in cooperation with Croatian and international scientific institutions, ensuring effective knowledge transfer into components of the security and defense system. In implementing study programmes and research activities, the University relies on partners within NATO, the European Union, and the broader international community. All academic and non-academic organisational units are fully developed and effectively carry out their functions.

Objectives

The University's short-term objectives focus on establishing a functional and modern educational system capable of delivering appropriate and high-quality training, education, and development of professional and highly qualified young personnel, ready to actively contribute to the homeland security and defense system of the Republic of Croatia and to strengthening the defensive shield of NATO and the European Union as a whole. Long-term objectives are oriented towards establishing, developing, and advancing a modern homeland

security and defense system that is well-equipped and adaptable to address all future challenges and threats to national security and the collective security of the European Union and NATO.

Core Values of the University

- **Patriotism** – Emotional attachment and sense of belonging to one's nation and/or state, rooted in its history, language, culture, politics, and tradition.
- **Excellence** – Achieving the highest standards in education and scientific research.
- **Responsibility** – Fulfilling all job-related and externally assigned tasks while taking accountability for one's decisions.
- **Teamwork** – Collaborating with professionals from diverse fields to achieve common goals.
- **Innovation** – Transforming creative ideas into products, services, or processes of higher quality.

University Emblem

The University emblem features a stylised depiction of the Nehaj Fortress from the 16th century, symbolising defense. It also includes the first letter of the Glagolitic script and a traditional Croatian interlace, representing Croatian cultural and literary heritage. In the background, a Croatian coat of arms is depicted in the form of an open book, behind which lies a Carolingian, or "Old Croatian", sword from the 9th century. The emblem as a whole clearly reflects Croatian identity and history



Freedom, justice and solidarity are the basic principles underlying the work of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS). The KAS is a political foundation, closely associated with the Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU). As co-founder of the CDU and the first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Konrad Adenauer (1876-1967) united Christian-social, conservative and liberal traditions. His name is synonymous with the democratic reconstruction of Germany, the firm alignment of foreign policy with the trans-Atlantic community of values, the vision of a unified Europe and an orientation towards the social market economy. His intellectual heritage continues to serve both as our aim as well as our obligation today.

In our European and international cooperation efforts we work for people to be able to live self-determined lives in freedom and dignity. We make a contribution underpinned by values to helping Germany meet its growing responsibilities throughout the world. We encourage people to lend a hand in shaping the future along these lines. With more than 70 offices abroad and projects in over 120 countries, we make a unique contribution

to the promotion of democracy, the rule of law and a social market economy. To foster peace and freedom we encourage a continuous dialog at the national and international levels as well as the exchange between cultures and religions.

Human beings in their distinctive dignity and with their rights and responsibilities are at the heart of our work. We are guided by the conviction that human beings are the starting point in the effort to bring about social justice and democratic freedom.

We cooperate with governmental institutions, political parties, civil society organizations and handpicked elites, building strong partnerships along the way. In particular we seek to intensify political cooperation in the area of development cooperation at the national and international levels on the foundations of our objectives and values. Together with our partners we make a contribution to the creation of an international order that enables every country to develop in freedom and under its own responsibility while promoting sustainable economic activity. By bringing people together who embrace their responsibilities in society, we develop active networks in the political and economic spheres as well as in society itself. The guidance we provide on the basis of our political know-how and knowledge helps to shape the globalization process along more socially equitable, ecologically sustainable and economically efficient lines.



Croatian Post today is a modern company with great potential that, through a combination of business resources, provides universal postal service to all citizens of the Republic of Croatia. It is also the largest provider of postal services in Croatia and the sole provider of universal service according to the provisions of the Postal Services Act, covering almost 90% of the market. Additionally, Croatian Post enhances and strengthens its market position through further development of logistics and parcel services with a customer-focused approach, increases the competitiveness of its business, and contributes to the economy of the Republic of Croatia. It is a leading logistics company in the market and a digitally innovative company that connects users, businesses, economies, and countries through its services and operations.

Croatian Post is classified among the leaders of digital transformation in the country and has directed its efforts towards making a tangible contribution to:

- Sustainable development
- Digital and green transition
- Main strategic goals of the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Croatia until 2030 and the Digital Croatia Strategy until 2032.

To achieve the set objectives, a new Corporate Strategy Pošta2025(30) has been adopted, upon which Croatian Post will base its medium-term and long-term development, focusing on strategic directions such as:

- Innovative business solutions
- Transformation and people
- Infrastructure and technology.

The achievement of the defined goals would not have been possible without the prerequisites that have been established so far in terms of infrastructure, modern technologies, and developed digital competencies of employees. Croatian Post is now oriented towards the future, and everything it does in the present is carried out in accordance with the highest corporate standards and sustainable green policies.

KONČAR

KONČAR is a leading Croatian technology company and a regional leader in power engineering, urban mobility and digital solutions. With a tradition spanning more than a century, the Group develops, manufactures and delivers advanced products, systems and services that support the energy transition and sustainable development worldwide.

Headquartered in Zagreb, Croatia, KONČAR has built a strong international presence with references in more than 140 markets across Europe, Asia, Africa, North America and Australia. As one of Croatia's largest exporters, the company combines extensive engineering expertise, advanced manufacturing capabilities and continuous investment in research and development to deliver reliable and innovative solutions for customers around the world.

The KONČAR Group consists of 16 subsidiaries and one associate company, a joint venture with Siemens Energy. Its activities are organised across four business segments: power generation, power transmission and distribution, urban mobility and infrastructure, and digital solutions and platforms. Through these segments, KONČAR provides a broad range of

technologies and services that support the development, modernisation and digitalisation of critical infrastructure.

The company's expertise covers the entire project lifecycle, from research and development, engineering and design to manufacturing, testing, construction, modernisation, maintenance and customer support. Thanks to its strong in-house competencies, specialised laboratories and certified testing facilities, KONČAR delivers both individual products and integrated turnkey solutions tailored to the needs of utilities, industry and transport operators. KONČAR is particularly recognised for its solutions supporting the transformation of power systems and the integration of renewable energy sources. The company develops and manufactures equipment and systems essential for reliable power generation, transmission and distribution, with transformers among its most prominent and widely exported products.

At the same time, KONČAR continuously advances technologies in the fields of hydro, wind and solar energy, helping customers improve efficiency, increase reliability and reduce environmental impact.

In the area of urban mobility, KONČAR is one of the leading manufacturers of rail vehicles in the region, providing modern and sustainable transport solutions that contribute to more efficient and environmentally friendly public transport systems. Through its growing portfolio of digital solutions and platforms, the company also supports the digital transformation of the energy and transport sectors, enabling smarter asset management, monitoring and operational optimisation.

Innovation has been at the core of KONČAR's development for more than 100 years.

Continuous investments in new technologies, production capacities, digitalisation and knowledge development have further strengthened the company's position in international markets. Since 2020, KONČAR has undergone a significant business transformation, achieving strong growth while expanding its capabilities and reinforcing its role as a trusted technology partner in key infrastructure projects.

Today, the KONČAR Group employs more than 6,500 people, with engineers, researchers, technologists, skilled manufacturing professionals and other experts forming the foundation of its success. Their knowledge, experience and commitment enable the company to develop high-value products and solutions that contribute to a more sustainable, efficient and resilient energy future.

By combining technological expertise, a strong manufacturing base and a long-standing commitment to innovation, KONČAR continues to play an active role in the green energy transition and the decarbonisation of the power sector, creating lasting value for customers, partners and communities both in Croatia and around the world.



The company Hrvatska elektroprivreda, which was established in 1990 under this name, is a successor of electric power organizations that have been dealing with electricity generation, transmission and distribution in Croatia for more than one century. In 2002 it was transformed into HEP Group, i.e. a group of associated organizations owned solely by the state. In the last several decades the company has been engaged in heat energy supply to customers, gas distribution and supply as well as in projects of energy efficiency.

Hrvatska elektroprivreda d.d. (HEP d.d.) is a parent company of 32 HEP Group with headquarters in Zagreb. HEP d.d., the founder and the sole owner of the majority of HEP Group's companies, performs corporate functions and directs, coordinates and monitors generation and network activities as well as other activities in dependent companies, in order to optimize business processes. HEP Group does business in all Croatia, and apart from that on the markets of Serbia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary and Kosovo by means of daughter companies and HEP-Trade. In Bosnia and Herzegovina there is the pumping station Buško blato, a daughter company of HEPGeneration. HEP is a co-owner of the Nuclear power plant Krško in Slovenia, an associated company outside HEP Group, where it shares ownership with the company Gen Energija. HEP Group has around 10 thousand employees; it generates the annual revenue of around 14 billion

kunas and has more than 2 million buyers, which makes it one of the biggest companies in Croatia and the biggest company owned by the state. By revenue, number of employees and contribution to national GDP, HEP is one of the largest and most important companies in Croatia. Therefore, HEP Group's business is of strategic importance for the Republic of Croatia.

HEP Group's mission, a secure and high-quality energy supply of buyers, along with a high level of social responsibility is based on a century-long history. However, achieved business trends imply the fulfilment of company's vision, which is a Croatian energy leader with an increasing share on the regional market of electricity generation, supply and trade, offering a secure and high-quality service based on the principles of ecologically acceptable generation, energy efficiency and sustainable business.

akd



AKD d.o.o. is a company of special interest to the Republic of Croatia that provides qualified certificate issuance services. It is also an authorized legal entity for issuing qualified certificates to Croatian citizens on electronic identity cards.

AKD produces identity cards, passports, visas, driver's licenses, and other secure documents; develops advanced IT solutions in the fields of identity and security; creates complex traceability systems; and provides services to the banking sector and the fintech industry. Our products and services are delivered to 17 international markets.

AKD also develops and delivers advanced services in the transport sector, focusing on business process transformation, workflow simplification, and the implementation of end-to-end automated systems that create greater value for clients, improve optimization, and enhance operational efficiency. Continuous adoption and effective application of advanced technologies are achieved through cooperation with scientific institutions, industry, and wider society.

Our solutions ensure the highest levels of security, functionality, and data protection, while simultaneously enabling efficient management of public services, administrative processes, and cybersecurity. AKD has affirmed its role as a leader in the field of identity and security, building a strong foundation for further development of products and services of strategic importance to the Republic of Croatia.

Our core objective is to maintain the quality, security, and availability of our products and to provide solutions in the area of identity. In the transport and mobility sector, our objective is to develop a dynamic service provider organization that uses a digital platform for data collection, management, and protection, while ensuring interoperability as required by the European Commission.

AKD's products and services are continuously tested by accredited bodies and laboratories to ensure their security, quality, and compliance with regulations and international standards. This approach creates additional value for our customers, as they receive greater value than the cost alone would suggest.

We believe that AKD's success and sustainable development stem from the organization's ability to recognize the challenges of modern society and drive meaningful progress through long-term planning, while paying equal attention to the needs and expectations of all stakeholders - employees, users, customers, suppliers, owners, partners, and the wider community.



The economic-interest association The Renewable Energy Sources of Croatia (RES Croatia) gathers producers of electric power from renewable sources. In the last 15 years investments in renewable energy sources in Croatia were almost exclusively implemented by the private sector.

THE GOALS OF THE ASSOCIATION: TRANSPERENCY IN RENEWABLE SOURCES

The primary goal of the Association of Renewable Energy Sources of Croatia is to encourage a general social agreement that the future of Croatia is in renewable energy sources, that Croatia must not repeat the errors it made in other economic sectors: suppress production from domestic sources. We are advocating the transparent presentation of the role and impact of all renewable energy sources on citizens and the industry.

On our website we will post the activities we engage in, as well as present other news from the field of renewable energy sources. Our aim is to inform, educate and actively participate in the creation of processes relevant for the further development of the renewable sources sector.

INNOVATIVE BUSINESS MODELS IN THE ENERGY INDUSTRY

The Association advocates new business models in the energy industry which have a huge potential for the introduction of innovations. We wish to advance the synergy between industry and energy, entrepreneurs and citizens and energy entrepreneurship through public-private models of financing, including the development of energy entrepreneurship zones. We will likewise advocate for the introduction of models that would offer, through direct contracting between the industry and entrepreneurship, lower prices of electric power.

CITIZENS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

Renewable energy sources projects offer the possibility of more qualitative financial partnerships and regional development through investments of citizens and entrepreneurs in projects by way of group financing. Through concrete initiatives and activities, we wish to become a qualitative and constructive partner of the executive authorities. We strongly uphold the introduction of a system of electric power production at the sites of consumption. We particularly uphold the decentralized development of small solar power plants in family homes, tourist facilities and production plants.

<https://oie.hr/en/about-us/>



NEK has been generating electricity continuously, regardless of weather conditions, since 1983. According to NEK data, its annual output meets approximately 20% of Slovenia's and 16% of Croatia's electricity needs.

The contract for the construction of NEK was concluded with the American company Westinghouse in 1974. The initial electrical capacity was around 632 MW. Following extensive modernization efforts, including the replacement of steam generators in 2000, the capacity was increased to the current 696 MW (net).

Numerous safety and technological upgrades have been implemented over more than four decades of operation. In 2025, the IAEA conducted a SALTO (Safety Aspects of Long-Term Operation) mission, focusing on the safety aspects of long-term operation.

Through constant development of work processes and knowledge of employees as well as introduction of modifications we persevere on our way to excellence. We are aware of the strategic importance of our activities for the stable and reliable operation of the plant and for the supply of electrical energy to consumers, regardless of the weather or other circumstances [24](#)

hours a day. Technological resilience of the plant is fundamental to safe and reliable operation. Its high reliability is ensured through:

- systematic monitoring of critical equipment during manufacture, installation, and operation,
- compliance with high work standards and procedures,
- personnel qualifications,
- proper predictive and preventive equipment maintenance, and
- timely planning of equipment replacement.

Nuclear energy enables socially, economically, environmentally, **and spatially viable transformation of energy for the achievement of climate neutrality and sustainable development targets.**

Long-term use of nuclear power is governed by the sustainable development principles in the following areas:

- power plant operation and modification planning,
- employee development and work process design,
- safety provision and habitat conservation,
- action as regards change and challenges in the society and the environment, and
- carrying out our responsibilities to the future generations.

Long-term operation for sustainable development lived at NEK and in nuclear energetics overall produces positive effects on the welfare of the society.

NEK serves several strategic functions:

- energy security, as it provides a large, stable, and predictable source of electricity;
- reduction of dependence on fossil fuels;
- power system stability: the plant is connected to the 400 kV grid and constitutes a key node in the Croatian and Slovenian power systems;
- strategic value for Croatia: NEK's output covers approximately one-sixth of Croatia's electricity needs;
- long-term energy stability: extending operations until 2043 ensures Croatia has predictable access to nuclear-generated electricity for decades to come.



Tehnouzavod d.o.o. was founded in 1964. under the name „Institute for Technical Culture“. Since the early 1960s, the organization has been dealing with various areas of technical security, safety and audio-video systems for business purposes. Since then, to date, the company has been highly regarded in the technical protection market with more than 19,000 installed systems at a variety of facilities. In the working life of a company, project managers and technical service providers are faced with a variety of challenges to overcome 38 specific, sometimes unique, solutions. Consequently, company has been given a slogan – “From Idea to Solution”, which best describes the commitment, integrity and innovation of employees when developing end-user solutions. Tehnozavod has been growing steadily over the last few years, showing its tradition of keeping up with the times. This has been achieved with the constant updating of hardware and software equipment and the development of novelties in the world of technology.

Operations at Tehnozavod are focused on three main areas: Security, safety and audio-visual systems. Often, though, clients require more – a bigger picture fulfilling their business needs or a situation characteristic of a concrete example.

A highly qualified team of project engineers with many years of experience assists in the realization of ideas and fulfilling client

needs in a professional manner. One of the starting points of project drafting is defining the intended purpose of the system, the level of requirement and risk of a given object. The next stage involves management of specific details in the requirements gathering and proposed solution phase for every individual object, ensuring the final product satisfies all customer needs and expectations, as well as utilizing the optimal amount of resources (technology, time and funds) resulting in an ideal return on investment.

Our project engineers are backed by a service department which provides 24/7 customer care from installation to installation to the maintenance and monitoring phases.

Tehnozavod holds unconditional client satisfaction, earned through knowledge, experience and responsibility, in the highest regard. Throughout its lengthy history, Tehnozavod d.o.o. has been paying special attention to business professionalism, as well as equipment quality and reliability in designing, installing and servicing systems. With a team of professional and competent engineers – project managers and technicians, a job done professionally is guaranteed with the main purpose being greater customer security, safety and satisfaction.



JADRANSKI NAFTOVOD, dioničko društvo (JANAF Plc.), with its registered office in Zagreb, Republic of Croatia, manages an oil pipeline and storage system as a modern, efficacious and cost-efficient system of crude oil transportation and the storage of crude oil and petroleum products. By constructing and putting into operation the oil pipeline and storage system (1979) JANAF has become a strategically significant factor of supply security of the refineries in six countries of South Eastern and Central Europe, and today, is recognized as the EU strategic oil pipeline. Besides crude oil transportation, JANAF's core 44 business includes storage of crude oil and petroleum products.

Mission

To continuously improve security and efficiency of crude oil transportation and storage of crude oil and petroleum products by applying the world's highest technological standards while preserving and protecting the environment alongside with taking care of the safety and human potential development.

Vision

To implement new projects related to transportation and storage of crude oil and petroleum products, as well as non-oil activities that will ensure the Company's further growth and successful

performance, enhancement of energy supply security of the Republic of Croatia, the EU Member States and South Eastern Europe, economic development of local communities and the Republic of Croatia and implementation of development strategies of low-carbon economy and energy.

The pipeline designed capacity amounts to 34 million tons of crude oil transported annually (MTA), while the installed capacity is 24 MTA. The system was built for the needs of the refineries in Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (24 MTA), as well as for the users in Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia (10 MTG).

The total capacity of its storage tank farm amounts today to 2 100 000 m³ for crude oil and 242 000 m³ for petroleum products.

The system consists of the following:

- **crude oil handling terminal at Omišalj**
- **crude oil handling terminals at Sisak, Virje and Slavonski Brod**
- **Žitnjak Terminal in Zagreb**

JANAF in numbers:

631 km pipeline length

34 MTG designed capacity

24 MTG Installed capacity

265 mil. tons of transpored oil

3.500 accepted tankers

2,1 mil. m³ raw oil capacity

242.000 m³ oil derivatives capacity



Assoc. Prof. Gordan Akrap, Dr. Franjo Tuđman Defense and Security University, Zagreb, Croatia, born 1966, graduated at Zagreb Faculty of electronics and computing in 1994. In 2011 he received a PhD at the University of Zagreb, in the field of Information and Communication sciences. The title of his PhD was “Informational strategies and operations in public knowledge shaping”. He had an active role in Croatia’s Homeland war. During his career in diplomatic and security structures of Croatia he completed a number of professional courses, including Diplomatic Academy. He is active in research of national and regional security, intelligence and history of Homeland War. He works as part of the international project "Military Aspects of Countering Hybrid War: Experience, Lessons, Best Practices." He published several books, and papers in journals and proceedings. He is editor-in-chief of National Security and the Future journal, and Vice-rector of Dr. Franjo Tuđman Defense and Security University.



Dr. Norbert Eschborn has been head of the Croatia-Slovenia office since 2025. Between 2019 and 2024, he was the founding director of KAS in Canada. Since 1997, he has represented the Foundation as head of its offices in Thailand, Indonesia and East Timor, Korea and Myanmar. From 2006 to 2011, he served as head of the Evaluation Unit in the European and International Cooperation Department,

where he was largely responsible for the advancement of project management. He studied political science, modern history and Romance languages and literature and can look back on almost ten years of freelance journalism. Dr. Eschborn began his professional career as a research assistant in the German Bundestag and as a private secretary to the state chairman of the CDU in Rhineland-Palatinate.

Expertise: North America, Regional Security, Migration



Prof. Dr. Shlomo Shpiro, president of International Intelligence History association, Israel, Head of the Europa Institute at Bar Ilan University and Senior Research Fellow at the BESA Centre for Strategic Studies. Since 2008 he is also Chairman of the International Intelligence History Association (IIHA). He specializes in intelligence, terrorism and security

studies. His research activities concentrate on the role of intelligence services as political mediators in the international arena, the intelligence activities of terror organisations, intelligence ethics and political influence, and on security crisis management and crisis communication



Prof. Dr. Ivica (Ivo) Lučić (Ljubuški, 12 May 1962), is a Croatian historian, intelligence officer and general. During the Homeland War in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He is the Rector of Dr. Franjo Tuđman Defense and Security University.

He was born on 12 May 1962 in Ljubuški, where he completed primary and secondary school. He graduated from the Faculty of Law in Mostar and worked for a short time in a law firm in Ljubuški. In the first democratic elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina held in November 1990, as a representative of the HDZ BiH, he was elected to the Council of Municipalities of the Assembly of BiH, and in early 1991 he began working in the municipal administration in Ljubuški.

He worked as an assistant at the Faculty of Law, University of Mostar. Later, he taught at the Intelligence Academy in Zagreb. In February 2002, he defended his master's thesis on the topic Security and Intelligence Systems in Bosnia and Herzegovina 1980-1992 at the Department of History, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Zagreb. He received his doctorate from the same faculty in December 2005 with the topic Security Policy of the Socialist Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina 1945-1990. He teaches twentieth-century history at the Department of Croatian Studies, University of Zagreb and the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Mostar.

He edited the proceedings of the international scientific conference Hum and Herzegovina through History and has published around thirty scientific and professional papers in several proceedings and journals: Journal of Contemporary History, Zagreb, National Security and the Future, Zagreb, Gaudeamus, Mostar, Motrišta Mostar and Mostar. He participated in scientific conferences and round tables in Zagreb, Berlin, Mostar, Sarajevo, Neum, Gradačac, Veliko Trgovišće...



**Major General Friedrich
SCHRÖTTER**

Major General Schrötter joined the Austrian Armed Forces in 1982. After graduating from the Military Academy in 1986, he served as Platoon and Company Commander with the Armoured Infantry.

From 1991 until 1994, he attended the Austrian General Staff Officers Course. In 1995, he served as G 3 with the 3rd Mechanised Brigade and was transferred in 1996 to the Military Strategy Division where he stayed until 1999.

From 1999 until 2000, he commanded the 25th Infantry Battalion, the Airmobile Battalion of the Austrian Armed Forces. After leaving the battalion, he resumed responsibility for a main section for force planning in the Military Strategy Division. In this period, he also served on senior level in the development of the Helsinki Headline Goal of the EU.

In 2002, he was promoted to Colonel and appointed Chief Liaison Officer to the Bundeswehr Operations Command in Germany, where he stayed until 2005. In summer 2005, he was assigned to lead the Helsinki Headline Goal Task Force, one of the permanent working groups of the European Union Military Committee, during the Austrian Presidency of the EU in the first half of 2006. After hand-over to the Finnish Presidency Team, he was transferred to the Austrian Joint Forces Command.

From November 2006 to February 2007, he served as Chief of Staff, and afterwards, until June 2007, as Deputy Commander of the Multinational Task Force North in Operation ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since June 2008, he served as Director of the Operations

C2 Division within the Federal Ministry of Defence and was promoted to Brigadier General.

In July 2013, he was appointed Director of the Operational Requirements Directorate in the Federal Ministry of Defence. In February 2016, he was promoted to Major General. In March 2016, he was appointed Force Commander of EUFOR ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina by the EU Military Committee. After redeployment in 2017, he resumed the position as Director of the Operational Requirements Directorate.

Since July 2021, MG Schrötter has been serving as Chief of Staff of the Minister of Defence. In December 2025, he was appointed Commandant of the National Defence Academy, the change of command took place on 18 March 2026.

Additional to national training, MG Schrötter participated in various courses on operational art in the USA and the UK. He served with Commander Strike Fleet Atlantic/NATO as DACOS CJ 5 for about one year and attended the NATO Defence College as well as the EU Senior Mission Leader Course.

He has experience from various missions in homeland as well as abroad.



Lieutenant General Tihomir Kundid

Lieutenant General Tihomir Kundid was born on 2 February 1969 in Varaždin, Croatia.

In December 1990, he voluntarily joined the Croatian Armed Forces to defend the Republic of Croatia, and in January 1991, became a member of the Special Police Force of the Ministry of the Interior. From May 1991 to 2007, he served in the 2nd Guards Brigade “Gromovi” (Thunders) at different level posts - from a platoon commander, infantry company commander, reconnaissance company commander, deputy battalion commander, infantry battalion commander, armoured battalion commander to the Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander. From 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2016 he was appointed as the Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander of the Guards Motorised Brigade. In July 2016 he was appointed Commander of the Mechanised Brigade and held the position until 15 March 2020. On 16 March 2020, he was appointed the Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander of the Croatian Army, and on 1 November 2023 became the Commander of the Croatian Army.

He graduated from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, and completed his postgraduate studies at the Faculty of Organization and Informatics of the University of Zagreb.

At the Croatian Defence Academy, Lieutenant General Kundid completed Advanced Officer Course, “Blago Zadro” Command and Staff School, and “Ban Josip Jelačić” War College. He has also

completed the Canadian Forces Language School, and other military courses.

He was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant of the Croatian Armed Forces in 1992, to the rank of Captain in 1992, Major in 1995, Lieutenant Colonel in 1999, Colonel in 2007, to the rank of Brigadier General in 2017, to the rank of Major General in 2020, and Lieutenant General in 2024.

During his career he was awarded by several decorations of the Republic of Croatia - Homeland War Commemorative Decoration, Homeland Gratitude Commemorative Decoration, Order of the Croatian Braid, Order of Croatian Trefoil, Order of Ban Josip Jelačić, Order of Nikola Šubić Zrinski, Medal for Participation in Operation Flash, Medal for Participation in Operation Storm, Medal for Extraordinary Ventures, Croatian Army Gold Medal, and Medal for Assistance to Civil Authority Institutions. He was commended by Commander of the Croatian Army Brigade, Chief of General Staff, Minister of Defence, and President of the Republic of Croatia and the Commander-in-Chief of the Croatian Armed Forces.



Ivan Anušić was born on 13 October, 1973, in Osijek. He is married and the father of four children. He graduated from the Faculty of Kinesiology in Zagreb. Mr. Anušić was the prefect of Osijek-Baranja County from 2017 to 2023. From 2016 to 2017,

he was a member of the Croatian Parliament for the ninth term, the chairman of the War Veterans Committee, and a member of the Defence Committee. He served as a member of the Croatian Parliament for the eighth term from 2015 to 2016, vice president of the National Council for Monitoring the Implementation of the Anti-Corruption Strategy, and a member of the Agriculture Committee and the Committee for Regional Development and EU Funds. From 2005 to 2017, he was the mayor of the Antunovac Municipality, and from 2002 to 2005, he was the president and coach of the Antunovac Kick Boxing Club.

He volunteered for the Homeland War and began defending his country in 1991. He was a member of the Military Police, the Eagle Special Police, and the 106th and 130th brigades of the National Guard Corps. He retired from the 3rd Guards Brigade in 2001

In 2011, he became a member of the Croatian Democratic Union and was elected president of the HDZ county organisation of Osijek-Baranja County in March 2014. Two years later, at the Osijek-Baranja County HDZ County Board regular election assembly, he was unanimously elected to the same post. He was elected Vice President of the Croatian Democratic Union in 2020.

