



Embassy
of the Republic of Poland
in Helsinki



POLISH PRESIDENCY
2025-2026



Financed by the PZU Foundation

Baltic Resilience Initiative seminar

Frontline operationalization: B5+ countries as the Northeast corridor of democratic resilience in the Baltic Sea region

Organized by the Casimir Pulaski Foundation
in cooperation with the PZU Foundation
and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Helsinki,
under the patronage
of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States.

March 27, 2026

Aalton Huippu, meeting room Töölönlahti A, Alvar Aallon katu 5,
Helsinki

9:00 - 9:30 - Registration

9:30 - 09:45 - Opening

- **Wojciech Dzięgiel** - Member of the Board, Casimir Pulaski Foundation (confirmed)
- **H. E. Tomasz Chłoń** - Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Helsinki (confirmed)
- **Maia Mazurkiewicz** - President, PZU Foundation (confirmed)

09:45 - 10:00 - Keynote

- **Markus Helavuori** - Deputy Director General, Council of the Baltic Sea States

10:00 - 11:00 **Panel I: Looking for more active model of deterrence within the European Democratic Shield - the B5+ as the "operational engine"**

Examining the EU's institutional initiatives and the development of the European Democratic Shield (EDS). Reframing the B5+ countries



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as the "operational engine" for the EDS actions under four key pillars:
1. a new European Centre for Democratic Resilience; 2. safeguarding the integrity of the information space; 3. strengthening our institutions, fair and free elections, and free and independent media; 4. boosting societal resilience and citizens' engagement.

Intervention:

- Dana Spinant - Director-General, Directorate-General for Communication, European Commission

Moderated discussion:

- Dana Spinant - Director-General, Directorate-General for Communication, European Commission
- Solvita Denisa-Liepniece - Head of Strategic Communication and Coordination Department, State Chancellery Government Office of Latvia (confirmed)
- Marilyn Neven - Head of EU Liaison, IDEA International (confirmed)
- Martha Turnbull - COI Director Hybrid Influence, Hybrid CoE (confirmed)

Moderator: Wojciech Dziągiel - Member of the Board, Casimir Pulaski Foundation

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 - 12:30 Panel II - Regional response - From monitoring to proactive civil society - strengthening the whole-of society approach

Strengthening B5+ cooperation with particular focus on civil society as "information first responders.". This panel explores how regional identity and shared democratic values serve not only as a shield against foreign interference but also as a civil society active defense initiative.



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Presentations:

- *The Istanbul Convention and European Values: A Civil Society Response to the Politics of Disinformation* - Pauls Raudseps - Chairman of the Board, The Baltic Center for Investigative Journalism Re:Baltica, Latvia (confirmed)
- *Examples of Civil Society's Role in Estonia's Whole-of-Society Approach* - Marek Kohv - Head of Security and Resilience Programme The International Centre for Defence and Security (ICDS), Estonia (confirmed)
- *The four fronts of information security* - Joonas Pörsti - Editor-in-chief, Faktabaari, Finland (confirmed)

Moderated discussion:

- Prof. Auksė Balčytienė - Head, DIGIRES (Baltic Research Foundation for Digital Resilience), Lithuania (confirmed)
- Markus Helavuori - Deputy Director General, Council of the Baltic Sea States
- Jānis Sārts - Director, NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence
- Olevs Nikers - President, Baltic Security Foundation

Moderator: Eto Buziashvili - Research Fellow, Atlantic Council

12:30 - 13:30 **Panel III - Bridge the gap - frontline implementation in navigating high-intensity strategic communication challenges**

Deep-dive into Polish and Ukrainian case studies, focusing on public institutions' and civil society's role in defending the information space and identifying effective methodologies for countering disinformation.

Presentations:



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- *Hybrid threats and Russian activities in the Polish infosphere* - Magdalena Wilczyńska - Director of the Cyberspace Information Protection Division, NASK, Poland (confirmed)
- *The role of popular digital media in fighting Russian narratives and defending informational space in Ukraine (case of YouTube)* - Olha Tkachenko - Institute of Slavic Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences, Ukraine (confirmed)

Moderated discussion:

- Maia Mazurkiewicz - President, PZU Foundation (confirmed)
- Magdalena Wilczyńska - Director of the Cyberspace Information Protection Division, NASK, Poland (confirmed)
- Olha Tkachenko - Institute of Slavic Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences, Ukraine
- Tomasz Chłoń - Plenipotentiary for countering international disinformation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland (confirmed)
- Mikko Salo - Founder, Faaktabari

Moderator: Kamil Basaj - President, InfoOps Foundation

13:30 - 13:45 Summary

13:45 - 14:30 Lunch