



Adapt Institute

designing a secure future

Dear Reader,

We are delighted to introduce the 2022/2023 Adapt Annual Bulletin. As we navigate an increasingly intricate geopolitical landscape marked by war and emerging threats, our commitment to delivering cutting-edge research and analysis on security and defence matters remains unwavering.

In an era of ever-changing global security dynamics, the demand for informed decision-making and proactive strategies has escalated. Our think-tank aims to establish itself as an educational centre and hub convening both seasoned and emerging analysts, policy experts, and government officials to shed light on urgent security matters, emerging trends, and innovative solutions.

The Annual Bulletin provides a comprehensive overview of Adapt Institute's inaugural year. Within this bulletin, you will discover links to articles and in-depth reports that are the fruits of our projects. Adapt's analytical team has delved into a range of subjects, including the Russian war in Ukraine, counterterrorism, intelligence, regional conflicts, military technology, procurement, harmful social media narratives, and many more.

We take pride in spotlighting the achievements of our researchers, whose exceptional work has contributed original analyses and policy recommendations to the ongoing discussion on security and defence. Their diligent work serves as a key resource for government, both international and domestic organizations, and the broader public seeking clarity in a progressively convoluted world.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to all contributors, sponsors, partners, and readers who have backed our think-tank's mission throughout its inaugural year. Together, we can design a more secure future.

Sincerely,

Matej Kandrik

Director of Adapt Institute

The Adapt Institute

The Adapt Institute is a non-governmental, non-partisan, non-profit, analytical think-tank that works on defence and security policy, with a specific focus on strategic adaptations and changes in the security environment. The Adapt Institute aims to strengthen the Slovak security community through education, expert network development and stimulating expert dialogue at national and international level, and to improve public debate and give space to young experts.

History

The Adapt Institute, established in 2022, fully follows the tradition of its two predecessors — the Strategic Policy Institute (Stratpol) and the Slovak Security Policy Institute (SSPI). Adapt capitalizes on the experience of its predecessors and draws on the experience of implementing a number of projects in areas such as hybrid threats, armed conflicts, social resilience, Euro-Atlantic relations and foreign influence.

Our team has been behind successful conferences, public and non-public presentations and briefings for policymakers and government officials. We have authored research reports, policy recommendations, as well as commentaries and media appearances.



Origin of an idea:

A growing need for a different mindset to overcome future security and defence challenges on a global level.

Our solution:

Creation of network-centric organization. A platform for well-connected professionals with a focus on in-depth analysis, research-based solutions and advocacy.

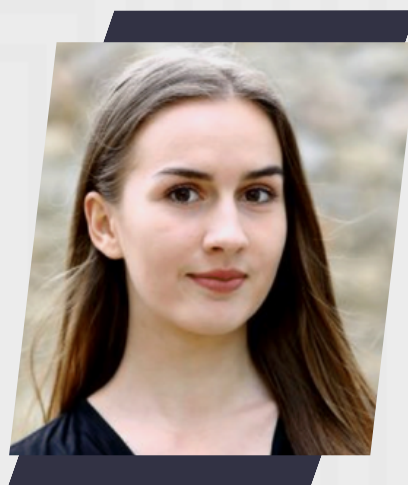
Our mission:

Cultivate the Slovak security community through education, expert network and engaging dialogue at a national and international level.

The Team



**MATEJ
KANDRÍK**
Chief Executive Director



**KAMILA
KONÍKOVÁ**
Deputy Director



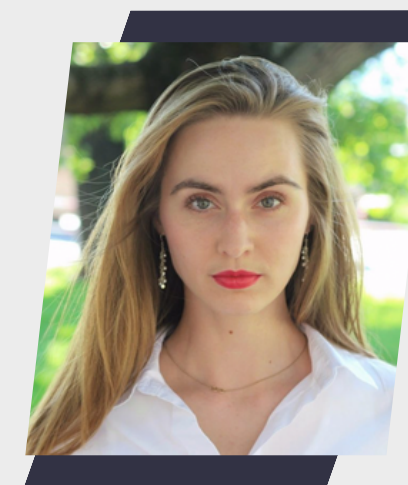
**MATÚŠ
JEVČÁK**
Editor-In-Chief
of Adapt publications



**PETER
DUBÓCZI**
Editor-in-Chief
of Infosecurity.sk



**MICHAELA
RUŽIČKOVÁ**
Deputy Editor-in-Chief
of Infosecurity.sk



**JANA
KLEŠČOVÁ**
Communications Manager

Our core projects and activities

...The implementation of the Adapt Institute's priorities takes the form of in-house research activities, intensive expert dialogue, education as well as popularization of security topics ...

Security Academy

The Security Academy is a semester-long educational program designed for students, recent graduates and graduates with an active interest in security and defence policy. Program participants have a unique opportunity to get to know leading Slovak and foreign security experts in online as well as offline formats and to get acquainted with the practical workings of state security institutions.

The academy's program consists of professional lectures, discussions, mentoring program and study tours. In addition to a series of twenty educational webinars with representatives of the institutions, the program also includes a personal mentoring program led by experienced professionals, occasional informal meetings and involvement in the activities of the follow-up alumni group.

- Academic year 2021/2022
- Academic year 2022/2023



During the second year of the Security Academy the students have experienced:

- seventeen lectures and discussions with Slovak and foreign experts in respective fields;
- three-day study visit in Bratislava, full of networking, discussions and meetings, including meeting at Ministry of Defence of the SR, National Council of the SR or German Embassy in Bratislava;
- study trip to Dubnica nad Váhom visiting DMD Group factories and discussing the Slovak defence industry while visiting production line of howitzers Zuzana 2;
- mentoring program under the supervision of experts resulting in the collection of essays;
- closing diploma ceremony.

Euro-Atlantic

The ambition of the Adapt Euro-Atlantic is to spark and drive a wide expert discussion focused on security and defence policies. The target audience consists not only of experts and government officials, but Adapt Institute is working towards raising awareness of current security trends and challenges also within the general public.

The core of the project is a regular publication of policy papers focused on relevant current topics, which are followed by expert webinars and discussions. In the long term, Adapt Euro-Atlantic aspires to contribute to fact-based opinions and attitudes shaping the field of security and defence, while emphasizing the importance of Slovak membership in the European Union and North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

- **Research and Analysis: Adapt Long Reads**
- **Youtube: Webinars and Discussions Adapt Euro-Atlantic**

... For the general public, Adapt publishes Adapt Briefs, the analytical commentaries on defence and security issues and current international events by our junior fellows ...

- **Adapt Briefs**

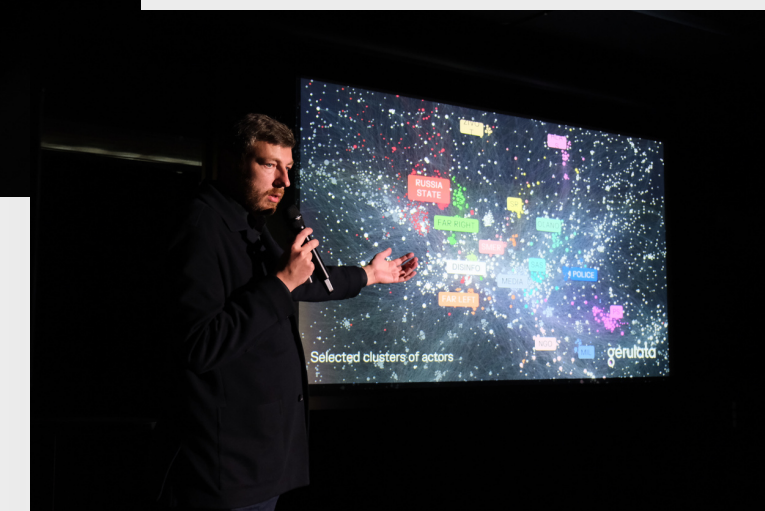
- EU's Strategic Compass and its Implications: What is the Future of European Strategic Sovereignty?
- As the War in Ukraine Continues, Food Insecurity Exacerbates in the Middle East and North Africa Region
- NATO, the EU and the Growing Instability in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Challenges and Risks
- The NATO 2022 Strategic Concept Implications for the Baltics: Correcting the course, but still missing the point
- Transatlantic peace comes from within
- Implications of climate change on the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA): Current pressures and future challenges
- Role of Nuclear Energy Vis-à-Vis Green Transition in Central Europe
- The Importance of (Counter)Intelligence: Is the EU Ready to Play the Big Game?
- Non-nuclear Strategic Deterrence and pre-emptive approaches of Strategy. Poland and the Future of Deterrence by Denial. New A2/AD?
- Defence Procurement: When Political Will Needs Pairing With Legislative Changes
- 2023 Turkish Elections: What Is at Stake, and What Are the Possible Scenarios Following the Elections?
- Will the Switch to Renewable Energy Provide Fewer Instances For States to Use It as a Tool of Geopolitical Influence

Disinformation and Democracy

The first and entirely expert-based conference focusing on the societal fight against disinformation and the exchange of experience in the field of strategic communication in Slovakia. The conference invites experts from the academic community, non-governmental organizations, private companies or the state sector and representatives of uniformed forces to meet and discuss specific ongoing challenges with an aim to share different perspectives and approaches for tackling societal issues.

The second year created a platform and provided a necessary impetus for deepening the connection between the knowledge of behavioural and social sciences together with knowledge of information and modern technologies in the society-wide fight against disinformation.

- Disinformation and Democracy 2022
- Disinformation and Democracy 2022 Program
- Youtube: Disinformation and Democracy



... D&D in numbers:

- 105** Participants
- 5** Panel Discussions
- 4** Briefings
- 22** Speakers ...

Together on Security and Defence

Adapt Institute continues organizing a successfully established conference Together on Security and Defence, which was for the first time introduced back in 2016 by the Slovak Security Policy Institute. The main goal of the two-day working session of the Slovak security and defence community is to hold a discussion about the key topics connected to strengthening the security and defence of the Slovak Republic.

The discussion aims to result and contribute to creating a whole-of-society consensus when it comes to the security and defence priorities of the Slovak Republic. Ever since the first year of the conference, the event enjoys huge interest from government officials as well as from non-governmental organizations, media and even academia. Additionally, this high-profile conference is annually attended by prime ministers, ministers and members of parliament.

- Together on Security and Defence 2022
- Together on Security and Defence 2023



Main topics:

“Armed Forces post 2022”

...devoted to current issues of defense policy, especially in connection with the war in Ukraine.

“Slovakia as a reliable ally”

...reflected on 30 years of defense and security policy, evaluated Slovakia's path to Euro-Atlantic structures.

“What next, Slovakia?”

...where MPs and politicians discussed current issues and the direction of foreign, defense and security policy.



In the field of countering disinformation, the Adapt Institute's organizational unit, Infosecurity.sk, is one of the largest and most popular public multimedia platforms. The portal publishes analytical articles, commentaries and podcasts on topics such as the functioning of social networks, the spread of disinformation and cyber security in Slovak information space.

Infosecurity.sk is a project focused on the control of the information space in opposition to the activities of disinformation actors. The aim is to detect and refute dangerous and false content, to heal the information space and to raise awareness of important societal issues. The aim of the Infosecurity.sk project is to build a small, financially autonomous specialized editorial office and an analytical centre that will communicate complex topics in an understandable language.

... Infosecurity.sk 2022 in numbers:



- 292 Articles
- 1410 Facebook posts
- 50 Episodes of Disinfo Report podcast
- 20 Bi-weekly reports in English
- 52 Newsletters
- 24 Fact-checks within CEDMO framework ...

Research and Analysis in 2022/2023:

- From East with Love: Dissecting Pro-China Bias in Czech and Slovak Alternative Media
- Website: Mapinfluence.eu
- Green Deal and climate change: communication trends in the Slovak information space
- Disinformation and propaganda about the Ukrainian far-right in Slovakia and Ukraine. Mapping actors and narratives on Facebook
- Communicating Defence in Slovakia and the Czech Republic: Mapping Actors and Narratives online
- Major Pro-Kremlin Disinformation Narratives and Their Transmitters in Poland, Czechia, and Slovakia
- Infodemic and Societal Resilience in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Poland
- Mapping the Financial and Organisational Background of Disinformation Websites in Slovakia

Projects with our partners

During Adapt's first year, we have been working on numerous smaller projects in cooperation with our international partners mostly within the Visegrad Group countries.

- **Disinformation Resilience Dialogue: Lessons Learned from Central and Eastern Europe**

The aim of the program was to contribute to greater involvement of young people in democratic life in Europe at various levels, in particular with regard to their political participation and the strengthening of their digital competencies and media literacy.



- **Strengthening the Resilience of Czech, Slovak and Polish Societies Prior to the 2024 European Parliament Elections**

The main objectives include raising awareness of the threat posed by disinformation, propaganda campaigns, and foreign malign influence, strengthening the public's ability to detect such efforts, finding ways to counter them and expanding media coverage of topics related to information threats and European elections.



- **Creativity vs Disinformation**


Participants gain a range of new knowledge and experiences related to the fight against disinformation and debunking fake news. During the practical part, participants prepare an online awareness campaign for their peers focusing on the issue of misinformation.

Adapt 2022/2023 in Numbers

Publishing

- 95 Adapt Briefs
- 12 Adapt Long Reads
- 12 Adapt Euro-Atlantic Discussions
- 4 Adapt Insider Podcasts
- 5 Adapt Newsletter

Social Media

-  605 Facebook followers
- 242 Facebook posts

Education

- 12 Security Academy students
- 16 Creativity vs Disinformation students
- 25 Disinformation Resilience students
- 9 Workshops
- 7 Discussions

-  568 LinkedIn followers
- 140 LinkedIn posts

Advocacy

- 3 Conferences
- 3 Roundtables
- 2 Wargaming sessions

-  97 Twitter followers
- 118 Twitter tweets

Roundtable NATO Multinational Battle Group Slovakia

Roundtable focused on integrating a wide range of actors (army, MoD, MFA, ambassadors, Gov. officials, NGOs, private sector...) to determine the key steps to support the strategic communication of the new NATO Multinational Battlegroup in Slovakia.

Roundtable NATO StratCom Study Presentation

Presenting the research study for the NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence. The study identifies the most successful communicators across the Slovak and Czech information space on defence-related topics while providing a detailed analysis of their communication, focusing on geopolitical sentiment, topics and narratives.

Discussion Protecting Elections in the Era of Disinformation

Our very first public debate explored the urgent issue of disinformation targeting elections and campaign manipulations. Panel of experts examined the scale and impact of disinformation on democratic processes and discussed the strategies for civil society, media, and public administration to safeguard the electoral process, promote transparency, and strengthen our democracies against the threats posed by disinformation.

Roundtable Financial and Organisational Background of Disinformation Websites in Slovakia

The last roundtable, organized by Adapt and Infosecurity.sk, happened in June 2023 and gave us a space to present the newest study in cooperation with the Investigative Center of Jan Kuciak (ICJK) analyzing the financial and organisational network of the Slovak alternative media scene.



Adapt at NATO Public Forum 2023

On 11-12 July 2023, NATO's Heads of State and Government met in Vilnius Lithuania, at the NATO Summit, to address the challenges of the current security environment.

On this occasion, in collaboration with the Eastern Europe Studies Centre, the German Marshall Fund of the United States, the Munich Security Conference, and the Atlantic Council, NATO organized the NATO Public Forum.

The annual Public Forum aims to promote a better public understanding of NATO's policies and goals and the decisions that are adopted at the NATO Summit, through dialogue and engagement with a unique and diverse group of stakeholders, from Heads of State and Government and Ministers to international security experts, opinion formers, academics, journalists and young people, in a series of panel discussions, debates, and interactive sessions on various topics on NATO's agenda.

It is with great pleasure to mention, that Adapt Institute was offered an exclusive institutional partnership within Slovakia for this year's Public Forum. Our director Matej Kandrik had a chance to visit the Public Forum in person and bring back the first-hand experience and views on the outcomes of the NATO Summit. We are grateful for such a privilege and opportunity from NATO Public Diplomacy Division.

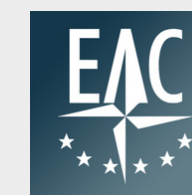


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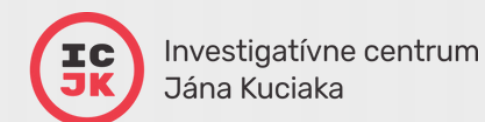
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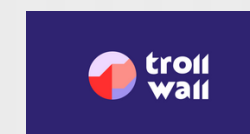
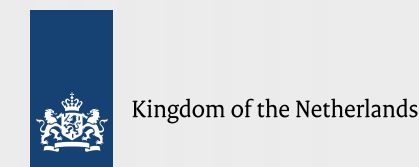
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