

ATHOLICA

18.50 h







Programm

European and international cooperation

Roundtable on Values

Thursday, December 4th, 2025 Hotel Westin Zagreb, 17th Floor

04th December 2025

17.45 h **Participant registration**

18.15 h "Ode to Joy", the anthem of the European Union, and "Lijepa Naša", the

national anthem of the Republic of Croatia."

18.25 h **Welcome Speech:**

Srećko Prusina

Chairman of the Board of the Croatian Statehood Foundation

Prof. Gordan Akrap, Ph. D.

Vice Rector of the Dr. Franjo Tudjman Defense and Security University

Dr. Norbert Eschborn

Resident Representative, Konrad Adenauer Foundation

18.35 h Opening speech: Foundations of Hope: The Values that Uphold Europe's **Democratic Dignity**

> In a world seeking direction and meaning, Europe must rediscover its roots, faith, truth, justice, and solidarity. This keynote invites reflection on these foundational values as the path toward a society that nurtures trust, dialogue, human dignity, and a shared moral

compass

Prof. Željko Tanjić Ph.D.

Rector of the Croatian Catholic University, Zagreb

Keynote speeches: Democracy in the Mirror of Disinformation: The Role of Expertise as a Safeguard Against Manipulation and the Erosion of Values in the

Struggle for Democratic Reason Under the Pressure of Perception - Lessons

from ATENA project

In an age where perception often outweighs truth, disinformation has become a powerful tool for undermining democratic values. This keynote explores how political and professional expertise can act as a safeguard against cognitive hybrid threats, preserving trust, integrity, and reason in democratic discourse. It calls for a renewed sense of responsibility within the political profession to defend not just institutions, but the very

mental space in which democracy lives Prof. Gordan Akrap, Ph. D.

Vice Rector of the Dr. Franjo Tudjman Defense and Security University









HRVATSKO KATOLIČKO SVEUČILIŠTE ZAGREB UNIVERSITAS STUDIORUM CATHOLICA CROATICA ZAGRABIA

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19.05 h

Educational panel: From Disinformation to Destabilization - The Role of Expertise in Defending the Fabric of Democracy - Building cognitive resilience through education, knowledge, ethics, and values.¹

Disinformation is no longer a peripheral challenge, it is a strategic instrument that corrodes trust, polarizes societies, and weakens the moral fabric of democracy. This address examines the crucial role of professional communities and political actors in countering these threats through ethical leadership, transparent communication, and value-based decision-making. It emphasizes that safeguarding democracy today means understanding and protecting the cognitive dimension of public life.

Panel discussion:

Prof. Julian Chifu Ph.D.
National Intelligence Academy, Romania
Prof. Marco Lobardi, Ph.D.,
Catholic University Milano
Dr. Roman Domović
Hybrid Warfare Research Institute
Davor Ivo Stier (tbc)
Zastupnik u Europskom parlamentu

Moderation: N.N

19.45 h Closing Remarks

Norbert Eschborn Ph.D.

Designated Head KAS Croatia-Slovenia

19.50 h Festive Reception

Die Veranstaltung wird fotografisch begleitet. Die Teilnehmenden erklären mit der Anmeldung ihr Einverständnis, dass die Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V. das vor, während oder nach der Veranstaltung entstandene Fotomaterial für Zwecke der Presse- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit nutzt.

¹ Panel supported by ATENA project as part of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) measure Establishment of a media fact-checking system (reference number: NPRP C1.1.1. R6-I2) and is fully funded by the European Union - Next GenerationEU. Panel is part of Educational activities of ATENA project.





