



ÚRAD VLÁDY
SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY



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Hybrid threats & strategic communication in Slovakia



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Hybrid threats

- **Hybrid CoE in Helsinki**
 - an action conducted by state or non-state actors, whose goal is to undermine or harm a target by influencing its decision-making at the local, regional, state or institutional level.
- **NATO's response to hybrid threats**
 - Primary responsibility lies with the target country
 - Since 2016: hybrid activities can lead to triggering of Article 5
 - counter-hybrid support teams
 - Coordination
 - Analysis and situational awareness
 - Strategic communication





Slovakia and hybrid threats

- Where we are
 - **Vulnerability Index** - measures vulnerability towards malign foreign influence in 5 dimensions:
 - Public attitudes
 - Political landscape
 - Public administration
 - Information landscape
 - Civic and academic space
- Slovakia started to react to hybrid threats relatively late
 - Strategic documents
 - Concept for Slovakia's fight against HT 2018 – very basic
 - Slovakia's Security and Defence strategies 2021
 - Action Plan for Coordination of Fight Against HT 2022
 - Difficult political situation which threatens adoption of key docs





Slovakia and hybrid threats: practical steps

- Until 2022
 - **10 experts**
 - MFA, Gov Office, MoD, NSA
- Since 2022
 - Thanks to project funded by European funds: new departments
 - MoD, MFA, Gov Office, Mol
 - Closer cooperation
 - Better situational awareness
 - First attempts at strategic communications

= soft security structures established





Situational Center Office of the Security Council Government Office of the Slovak Republic

- 6 experts
- Main activities
 - Monitoring of security situation
 - incl. hybrid threats
 - Digital information environment
 - Materials / Advice to the Office of the Prime Minister
 - Drafting strategic documents and legislation
 - Reaction system to information operations – TBD
 - Security report (annual)
 - Situational assessment ahead of each Security Council meeting
 - Cooperation with partners abroad
 - POC for Hybrid Fusion Cell in Helsinki
 - RAS





Strategic Communications Department Office of the Security Council Government Office of the Slovak Republic

- founded on 15.6.2022
- Gradually hired 8 experts
- Main activities
 - Informal coordination of strategic communications across state institutions
 - Materials / Advice to the Office of the Prime Minister
 - Social media FB / IG for Slovakia's Government Office
 - Drafting strategic documents and legislation - Strategic Communications Concept
 - Internal strategic communications
 - Workshops
 - Discussions
 - Cooperation with partners abroad (NATO Stratcom CoE, GCSI)





Communication activities

- Online and offline
 - Media literacy workshops
 - Discussions
 - FB and IG
- Strategic Communication
 - Is not political marketing
 - Builds institutional brand
 - Trust
 - Highlights expert voices
 - Cooperates closely with civil society, academia and media
 - Is data-based and data-driven





Issues

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Challenges

- Cooperation among state actors
- Administrative burdens
- Buy-in from decision-makers
- Online impact – tone of voice
- Measuring impact
- Funding

