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# G-LENS

## The Role of Education in Countering Gender-based Disinformation International Conference

19-21 January 2026 | Bucharest, Romania

### SPEAKERS



**Zabya Abo Aljadayel**

Zabya Abo Aljadayel is a Lisbon-based activist and interdisciplinary researcher, currently a PhD researcher at CHAM, FCSH–NOVA University of Lisbon. Her work uses artistic and cultural practices to engage with narratives of power, belonging, and social justice across different contexts. She advocates for climate justice, gender and human equality, and diversity through performance, research, and public dialogue. Working in multilingual and intercultural environments, Zabya contributes a reflective, experience-based perspective on how narratives shape public perception and participation, and how cultural expression can be used to question harmful or exclusionary discourses.



**Bąkowicz Katarzyna**

Bąkowicz Katarzyna is an information security expert at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland and an associate professor at SWPS University. She co-founded the Central European Digital Media Observatory, served as vice-chair of the Media Studies Committee of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, acted as an assessor for the European Fact-Checking Standards Network, and served on the Program Board of the Advertising Council. She is also a United Nations expert and the author of the Standard for Ethical and Responsible Business Communication. Her research focuses on disinformation in business and the social impact of disinformation. She is the author of scholarly publications and a producer of programs in the fields of business and communication.

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**Bobić Lana**

Lana Bobić is a theologian, feminist and activist from Croatia recognized as an independent expert in the field of gender-based violence and gender equality. She is engaged in research and activism and the focus of her research is gender equality, gender-based violence, cultural and structural violence, the relationship of dominance and subordination, and anti-gender movements. She is also an educator on the topics of gender-based violence, gender equality and anti-gender movements, author and a media personality.



**Daphne Demetriou**

Daphne Demetriou is a researcher and project coordinator at the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS), where she works across social research, project management, training, and advocacy, focusing on gender equality and violence against women. She is a research collaborator at the University of Cyprus at the Masculinities Research Hub. She holds a BA from the University of Hamburg, Germany, and an MA from the University of Vienna, Austria, both in Cultural Anthropology. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Sociology at the University of Cyprus, examining reproductive decision-making in pronatalist societies.



**Gruenpeter Natalia**

Disinformation Analysis Centre, Research and Academic Computer Network (NASK, Poland), Natalia Gruenpeter, Senior Specialist in the Narrative Trend Analysis & Fact-checking Team at the Disinformation Analysis Center of NASK in Poland. Her daily work focuses on topics related to science and health misinformation. In 2025, she also monitored gender-based disinformation narratives.

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**Abdi Hassan**

Abdi Hassan, a seasoned leader with over 15 years of international experience across six countries and three continents. Currently serving as the British Council's Country Director in Romania & Bulgaria, based in Bucharest. Abdi brings a wealth of expertise in education and cultural relations. Abdi held leadership roles in Iraq, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, and Nigeria. Abdi is passionate about driving societal change through education and arts and culture.



**Irina Ilisei**

Irina Ilisei, PhD, is a researcher, activist, and trainer with over 15 years of experience in gender equality, social inclusion, and civic participation. She holds a PhD in Political Science from the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration – Romania (NUPSPA) and is a graduate of the Gender and Minority Policy Master's program at the same university. She has coordinated and implemented initiatives in the fields of women's rights and created guides and educational materials for teachers and education professionals. Currently, she serves as a Project Coordinator at the ANAIS Association, where she implements G-LENS, an innovative European project on gender-based disinformation.



**Małgorzata Kopka-Piątek**

Małgorzata Kopka-Piątek is member of the Board and senior analyst at the Institute of Public Affairs. For many years in various functions in European and international policy projects. Researcher of women's social and political activism and feminist foreign policy for several years. Co-founder and president of the FemGlobal. Women in international politics association.

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**Edward Lister**

Edward Lister is the Head of Internal Politics, Justice and Home Affairs team in British Embassy Bucharest. He was previously posted to Kosovo between 2019 and 2023 where his work focussed on addressing post-conflict legacy issues, societal resilience, human rights and foreign policy.

**Paula-Charlotte Matlach**

Paula Matlach is Analyst at the Institute for Strategic Dialogue Germany. She investigates the spread of far-right extremism, online gender-based violence and hate speech within German- and English-speaking countries. Prior to her work at ISD, she worked as a researcher at the NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence, where she published articles on digital policy and foreign influence, among other topics. Her most recent publications include the ISD reports “The ‘cost of doing politics’? Gendered abuse and digital platforms’ role in undermining democracy.



**Tudorina Mihai**

Tudorina Mihai is a political scientist, a feminist, and a social justice activist. Since 2023, she has been working as a Program Coordinator at the Friedrich Ebert Foundation Romania, where she contributes to projects focused on the civic and political participation of young people and women, gender equality, labor and social dialogue, economic and social justice, and the ecological transition. She holds a PhD in Political Science from the National University of Political and Administrative Studies (SNSPA) in Bucharest.

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**Andra Mureșan**

Andra Mureșan is a young journalist from Romania, with three years of experience covering mostly social issues. Her work focuses on domestic violence, gender-based violence and online violence against women. She has published a series of investigations on the abuse that people face at work or universities. In 2024 she won first prize, in the Debut category, for her article "Women who kill for their lives" at the Super Scrieri Gala and in 2025 she dedicated most of her work on writing about online violence, when she received another prize for her work about non-consensual intimate image abuse done with the help of deep fake and AI.



**Diana Neaga**

Diana Elena Neaga, personal advisor within the Cabinet of the State Secretary at the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men, researches and advocates for the interests of girls and women in Romania to be recognized and integrated into public policy decisions.

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**Carmen Nemeș**

Carmen Nemeș – Founder & President, Anais Association (Romania). Carmen Nemeș is a Romanian lawyer, human rights activist, and the founder of Anais Association – a civil society organization established in 2011 and dedicated to supporting survivors of gender-based violence through integrated legal, psychological, and social services. With 28 years of experience in civil, family, and anti-discrimination law, she is a practicing lawyer and a member of the Bucharest Bar. She is a leading voice for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence in Romania. Her international work includes contributions to Romania's GREVIO shadow report and participation as a speaker at the UN's CSW68 and CSW69, where she addressed the powerful role of media in preventing gender-based violence and the devastating impact of armed conflict on refugee and migrant women. She is also the author of "Rights won, rights under threat", a policy piece published by the WAVE Network, highlighting institutional gaps in Romania's response to domestic violence.



**Pepa Peneva Veleva**

Pepa Peneva is an expert with over 20 years of experience in the NGO sector, dedicated to the development of civil society and the empowerment of youth and communities. By training, she is a psychologist specializing in "Developmental Psychology" – an academic background that provides her with a deep understanding of the social processes and behavioral patterns underlying phenomena such as disinformation and social exclusion. As the co-founder of the Open Space Foundation, Pepa leads initiatives focused on digital culture, critical thinking, and the empowerment of vulnerable groups. She combines her expertise in project management with a psychological approach to create sustainable models for social change.

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**Laura Popa**

Laura Popa is a political science graduate with a background in print and radio journalism. She found her place at PressOne, where she writes about issues such as gender-based violence, patients neglected by the healthcare system, and prosumers defrauded by companies entrusted with hundreds of thousands of euros in public funds.



**Ivan Radev**

Ivan Radev is CEO and Vice-President of the Association of European Journalists-Bulgaria. He has over 15 years of journalistic experience. In the Association, he is responsible for various activities: coordinating the public positions with which the Association comes out, managing processes and projects. Among the areas of activity in which he works are advocacy, media literacy, providing assistance to journalists, combating strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs) and more. Ivan is editor at Factcheck.bg. Ivan has graduated Balkan Studies at Sofia University and closely follows the development of societies in Southeastern Europe. He speaks Romanian and for five years was a correspondent for Bulgaria of the Romanian National News Agency – Agerpres.



**Xhenis Shehu**

Xhenis Shehu (PhD) is a political theorist and researcher with expertise in feminist political theory, capabilityism, feminist epistemology, gender studies and deliberative democracy. Experienced in teaching and research, with strong methodological skills in qualitative analysis.

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**Mihaela Sirițanu**

Mihaela Sirițanu is a public policy expert at Watchdog Moldova, where she works on democratic governance, European integration, and electoral processes. Her work focuses on countering disinformation and strengthening democratic resilience. With over eight years of experience in European policy and international development, Mihaela brings an analytical perspective on how disinformation affects civic participation and democracy.



**Emilia Slavova**

Emilia Slavova, PhD is a senior assistant professor at Sofia University (Bulgaria), teaching Language and Globalization, Intercultural Communication, and (as of 2026) Digital Literacy.



**Anna Tsiarta**

Anna Tsiarta holds a B.A. in Philosophy, Psychology, and Pedagogy from the University of Athens, a B.A. in Cinema from Columbia College Hollywood, and an M.A. in Philosophy and Religion from the California Institute of Integral Studies under a Fulbright scholarship. She has worked as a language and literature teacher in secondary education and has produced over 19 fiction and documentary films. She currently works in the Educational Technology Department of the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, where she produces educational media and designs year-round programs in digital education and media literacy, including teacher and student training.

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