



INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN AND
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PRESENTS

GEOFOR - GEOPOLITICAL FORUM



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INSTITUTE FOR
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Think Tank



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ZAGREB, SEPTEMBER 24, 2021
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Geofor was conceived at the Institute for European and Globalization Studies (www.inegs.com) as a part of the Global Risk Society and New Social Paradigm project. The focus of the Forum was on rethinking the global risk society.

The global risk society has its foundation in the theory of reflexive modernization by the German sociologist Ulrich Beck.

The world we inhabit has become an insecure place in the age of the Second Modernity, as a work of the Second Modernization. The Second Modernization has produced risks that transcend the frameworks of nation-states. Risks occur at the local level. An example of this is the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in Wuhan.

Eventually, the local phenomenon became global in the form of the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, one can speak of risk globalization in a global risk society.

The global risk society, because of the Second Modernization of the world requires risk reflection, awareness and warning of the consequences.

In relation to risks, there is a need for risk management in the wake of national and global risk management.

Introductory part – Forum Prologue



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The Covid-19 pandemic demonstrated the weakness of the global management of the Covid-19 pandemic, as a type of global risk society.
The pandemic has strengthened the influence of nation states in managing pandemic risks. Authoritarian tendencies of states have been strengthened. A pandemic as a type of risk has produced a need for emphasized security and restriction of freedoms.
The Forum drew attention to the typology of global risks in the 21st century.
In the future, we will face global climate change, which has already begun, climate migration and migrants, risks related to food, water, energy, resource wars, different types of religious fundamentalism and populism, as the wrong side of midnight of the Second Modernity.
The global type of risk is also recognized in the geopolitical conflict of the ideologies of Atlanticism (West), New Eurasianism (Russia) and New Ottomanism (Turkey). This type of conflict on the ground generates risks that jeopardize peace and stability in Europe and the Balkans.
The first panel was preceded by welcoming speeches given by prof. Anđelko Milardović, PhD, prof. Damir Boras, PhD and brigadier Marijan Paljević.

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The first panel Challenges of unbalanced multipolarity and geopolitical risks started with the introductory lecture by the French general Jean-Paul Perruche, consultant and researcher, on the topic of European defense. He answered the question: What are the needs to be met for a more effective European defense? and how to satisfy them? and proposed 5 actions. First action is to clarify (and update regularly) the role sharing between the 3 levels of defense (national, NATO, EU) in front of the potential types of threats and risks. Second action is to reduce the European dependency in operational and technological domains to increase its strategic autonomy. The third action concerns setting up a credible and responsible European political and operational leadership. The fourth action involves creation of effective EU operational capabilities („European Army“) and the fifth aims to develop a European common operational culture. General's introductory lecture was followed by a lecture on systemic risks and security of the Croatian territory given by Sanja Vujačić, PhD, French researcher and consultant. She welcomed the speech of her predecessor and presented her research work, which shows that the key risk to the security of Croatia is the "balkanization" of the European Union - of which Croatia is a member today.

First panel
– Challenges of Unbalanced
Multipolarity and
Geopolitical Risks
Moderator of the first panel:
Davor Dijanović, MSc



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The risk of “balkanization” means that the EU, after enlargement and ethnic diversification, may find itself in a situation in which none of the small, weak and rival EU Member States can effectively defend itself against external threats, as each country remains trapped in a dense network of diplomatic and economic ties, which are often opposed - but always linked with major powers: America, China, and Russia. She concluded that the best possible response to that threat is the development of a common European strategic culture. If not, united Europeans will, instead of marking history, quietly come out of it. Professor Daria Karasalihović Sedlar PhD (Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering – Zagreb) spoke on the current situation of the Nord Stream 2 and other energy related topics. Asst. Prof. Jadranka Polović (Faculty of International Relations and Diplomacy – Libertas Zagreb) talked about AUKUS and the idea of the European military forces, while Jure Vujić (Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs) gave a talk on the geopolitics of the multipolar world and the characteristics of the post-Covid world. Tomislav Kardum (journalist and analyst), continuing on what had been said, elaborated upon the differences between a unipolar, bipolar and multipolar world.

First panel
– Challenges of Unbalanced
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The topic of the second panel of the geopolitical forum GEOFOR was From geopolitics to geo-Internet: digital borders, technological identities, securitization of national virtual spaces and geopolitical risks, with MSc Davor Dijanović (expert in the field of geopolitics, journalist of HKV Portal and columnist of Direktno portal), Biljana Cerin (CEO, Ostendo Consulting, Vice President of the IT Association, President of the Cyber Security Affiliation) and Assoc. Prof. Sandro Gerić PhD (professor at the Faculty of Organization and Informatics, Varaždin, expert in cybersecurity) being the speakers. The issues were discussed from a twofold approach, geopolitics, and information security. From a geopolitical perspective, MSc Dijanović talked about the role of social media in the current geopolitical events as a power projection tool based on specific ideologies. On the other hand, the question of information security was approached as a burning issue deeply connected with geopolitics. Biljana Cerin and professor Gerić addressed the issues of the ever-growing number of hacker attacks that represent a risk both for the general population and the critical infrastructure. They also spoke about matters related to AI and privacy protection.

**Second panel -
From Geopolitics to Geo-
internet; Digital Borders,
Technological Identities,
Securitization of National
Virtual Spaces and Geopolitical
Risks**
**Moderator of the second panel:
Mislav Vušković**



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The third panel, entitled The Future of European Security in a Global Risk Society, addressed global security challenges and their potential impacts on European security. The European security architecture as a potential response to increasing global threats is not fully formed and is out of step. Other important issues are the balance of national security mechanisms of strong EU members defined by their own geopolitical interests, efforts to define a common European foreign policy, security and defense, and redefining relations within North Atlantic Alliance organizations after Brexit. At the third panel, introductory speeches were given by Jean-Christian Cady (France, security expert, member of the IFRI think tank and Executive Board of the Association Française des Nations Unies, former UN Assistant Secretary-General), and Claudine Korall PhD (France, founder and president of the IDII Institute as well as the Intercultural Intelligence Training Institute). Jean-Christian Cady held a presentation entitled How can Europe respond to today's security challenges? He emphasized the importance of the pillars of European security, which also have their military component, and emphasized the importance of addressing the four sets of challenges facing Europe - terrorism, organized crime, cybercrime and migration flows. Claudine Korall PhD, spoke about the importance of intercultural communication for understanding,

Third panel
The Future of European Security
in a Global Risk Society
Moderator of the third panel:
Assoc. Prof. Marta Zorko, PhD



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pointing out its importance in the field of action in the security sector in her presentation entitled How does intercultural intelligence contribute to European defense?. She stressed the importance of a common EU strategic culture of defense. In that spirit, the event received the French La Fabrique Defense label. The moderated panel discussion was attended by Assoc. Prof. Marta Zorko PhD (moderator, University of Zagreb), Tonči Prodan PhD (University of Split), Lina Aburous (Euraffex group), prof. Darko Trifunović PhD (Serbia, director of the Institute for National and International Security) and Antun Krševan Dujmović MSc (Institute for Development and International Relations, Zagreb). The panelists' discussion was oriented around three central themes; (dis) the balance and links between transformed traditional and contemporary security challenges; geographically oriented security challenges of the European neighborhood, and the EU's global positioning in a global risk society with regard to new security realities and geopolitical processes.

Zagreb, October 4, 2021

Third panel
The Future of European Security
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Moderator of the third panel:
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Mislav Vušković, analyst for Italian, Serbian and Hungarian geopolitics

Assoc.Prof. Marta Zorko, PhD, Head of the Department of International Relations and Security Studies at the Faculty for Political
Science of the University of Zagreb.

Note

The document was redacted and translated into English by Mislav Vušković, analyst for Italian, Serbian and Hungarian geopolitics.

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