

Bucharest, November 17, 2015, National Military Center

“The Hybrid War: Information War Threat”

**– Debate organized by New Strategy Center–
Partner: Center on Public Diplomacy**

In recent years and especially in 2015, the conventional warfare has no longer been the main form of confrontation between two opponents. The hybrid war, characterized by a wide range of actions and manifestations, tends to stand for the new security threat. Cyber attacks and information warfare have increasingly become reasons for concern of the world leaders and require diversifying methods of response to threats. The Islamic State emergence and its aggressive branding, as well as the crisis following the annexation of Crimea put to the test the Euro-Atlantic security system, exerting pressure over Romania also. The hybrid nature of the new confrontation is determined by the combination of traditional security threats (like the revisionist and aggressive behavior of a state) and both conventional and unconventional resources, military and non-military means that are specific to information age. One of the key components of this new type of interstate confrontation is the **information war**, new war of XXI century, which has become more and more sophisticated.

The debate entitled "The Hybrid War: Information War Threat" is organized under the aegis of the **Forum for Public Diplomacy** held by the Center on Public Diplomacy, now in its fourth edition. The today debate is also continuing the series of events on the hybrid war launched by the **New Strategy Center** aiming to provide its invitees with the experience and the institutional expertise of distinguished personalities from Romania and from abroad regarding the features of the new type of confrontation and the ways to withstand it.

The current international security environment is characterized by increasing instability, unpredictability and asymmetric threats. Financing terrorist organizations, political parties or mass-media agencies, creating biased blogs and websites, manipulating people's emotions through social networks, using agents of influence, supporting subversive corruption in fragile states are only some of the methods used by propaganda apparatus to spread uncertainties, disagreements and misinformation in the targeted groups.

Through the debates that New Strategy Center has initiated, it aims to provide a platform for dialogue between the institutions with responsibilities in the security area, communication companies, mass-media representatives, non-governmental organisations and experts from the academic environment, as well as to answer a series of questions about the features of the information war, efficient means of preventing and combating this type of warfare, ways of communication with the civil society, Romania's capabilities and measures to be implemented.